**Raptor Handling Guideline Requirements**

Raptor Handling is a privilege extended by invitation only – a privilege that may be offered to some volunteers and interns by the Curator. Most volunteers and interns will not be permitted to handle the raptors, which is not a sign of distrust or dislike – we appreciate all of our volunteers and all that they do for us. Very few selected individuals, who have given significant amounts of time to Tanglewood, may be approached by the Curator to be asked if they would be interested in assisting with education programs and being trained to handle the raptors. If the volunteer is interested, they will then be submitted for application to the various permits as a designated agent (in normal words that means a person trained to handle our native species).

When we receive the permit amendment approval, you will then begin our three-part training for handling the raptors. After our comfort level and your confidence with the raptor seems reasonable and safe, we then will allow few selected volunteers or interns handle these birds on your own. We are looking for dedicated, confident, and reliable individuals, and we are looking for volunteers who will help us in our education work with the birds – who can be called upon to teach school groups, do birthday parties, represent Tanglewood at off-site events or do adult education through lectures or programs. We are not looking for volunteers to only socialize the birds. This is an amazing privilege we would like to share with you and should be taken seriously.

Please know that at any time this privilege can be revoked by any staff. Our Raptors are strictly protected through multiple agencies, and the training is to ensure the safety and wellbeing of all. If at any point it becomes a liability to have volunteers working with birds, the option to handle them may be eliminated.

Minimum Commitment of:

\*Must be an established volunteer for 3 months with interest in doing programs

\*Must commit to at least one outreach program per quarter; or four a year

\*Must schedule and attend 2-3 (30-45 minute) training sessions with current curator

\*Must be willing to study bird’s natural history and personal stories

\*If three months pass without handling birds you will need a training before handling birds again, if six months pass without handling birds your privileges will be revoked and the process started over again

Thank you for understanding.

Questions? Ask! –Megan Walters: tanglewoodcurator@gmail.com 2023