**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 or Volunteer Coordinator to ask if they would be interested in being trained to work with the birds of prey. 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 be able to handle the birds first under supervision by staff. 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, 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 opportunity can be revoked by staff. This process has to happen so the species of concern are handled in a safe and secure way with minimal stress to the animal, as well as to make sure that everyone interested in doing animal handling has been through proper training.

Minimum Commitment of:

\*Must be an established volunteer for 3 months. During this time, the volunteer must have worked with the birds by feeding, cleaning or training at least once a month.

\*Must commit to at least three outreach programs or events a year.

\*If 3 months pass without handling birds, privilege will be revoked and process will start from beginning.

\*Must be trained on proper handling by current curator.

Thank you for understanding.

Questions? Ask! –Jamie Ziegler: tanglewoodcurator@outlook.com 2020