



Making A Difference

Inspiration can sometimes be found in the most unlikely places, at the most unlikely of times. I discovered this for myself on Memorial Day, 2003, in the form of a baby deer not more than two weeks old. This fawn was spotted by my staff early Monday morning lying motionless beneath a tree between the third and fourth holes. My first instinct was to just leave it alone, let nature take care of itself. Maybe Mama would return to claim her young prize.

***K.A.R.E.
(Kane Area
Rehabilitation
and Education)
for Wildlife is
state- and federally-
licensed to care
for orphaned and
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mammals and
birds. Vicki Trost
(630-377-1895)
is in charge of
K.A.R.E.; visit
its Web site at
www.Kareforwildlife.org.***

After continuing our morning routine, preparing the golf course for a busy day of play, approximately two hours later I returned to the fawn's location. It was still there, still curled in a ball but a little colder now, motionless, too young to realize its fight for life was waning. With golfers in sight, a decision had to be made: leave it and it would surely perish, pick it up and all I would have to do is find it a home. Of the two options, I thought the latter was the logical choice. I quickly learned, though, that finding Bambi a home was not as easy of a proposition as I anticipated.

After a multitude of phone calls made by me, my wife and my secretary to area petting zoos, nature centers and veterinarians, we finally succeeded in placing the fawn. We came up with a name of a person and organization that is state- and federally-licensed to care for orphaned and injured native mammals and birds. To our Association members, I ask that if you get nothing else out of this message, please write down this name and number. The organization is called K.A.R.E. (Kane Area Rehabilitation and Education) for Wildlife. The person in charge of this volunteer organization is Vicki Trost; Web site is www.Kareforwildlife.org and the phone number is 630-377-1895. K.A.R.E. is located on the outskirts of northeastern St. Charles, IL. Vicki is one of six rehabilitators located in Kane County.

My initial conversation with Vicki was impressive. Her concern for the fawn was paramount, but removing it from its environment was an alternative only if all other options were exhausted, or if it were injured. Upon examination, I could see a couple of small visible wounds, probably the act of a hungry coyote. After assuring Vicki that reuniting the fawn with its mother was an improbability, she agreed to take it in.

As impressed as I was with Vicki over the phone, my good feelings were only confirmed upon my visit to her humble abode. Nestled quietly on the edge of the Fox River Bluff Forest Preserve, her home featured a heavily wooded yard populated with stacks of cages of various sizes. After a routine examination of the fawn, she was kind enough to reassure me that bringing the animal to her was the correct thing to do. Nursing animals back to health for their eventual return to the wild is what she and her organization are all about.

My visit concluded with a guided tour from Vicki. She showed me the current inventory of animals under her care. The list included 22 baby foxes,

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six raccoons, several squirrels, three red-tailed hawks, a baby crow, a porcupine, a coyote, a deer, a bobcat, a barn owl, a turtle, two wolf pups and another fawn. She explained that business really picks up come spring-time with so many young. These animals will be nurtured and cared for with as little human influence as possible and will be returned to the wild in the fall.

I departed this tranquil setting inspired by Vicki's commitment and dedication and awed even more with her explanation that on her part, there is a financial commitment as well. The K.A.R.E. organization functions only on private donations, which last year meant that Vicki spent \$10,000 of her own money to keep up with costs. Upon hearing that, I explained to her about our Midwest

organization and how we can help each other. The Board has decided to aid in her fundraising bid by sponsoring a betting hole at either the July or August MAGCS event. Your participation and generosity is much appreciated and will be going to a truly just cause, an organization and a person that are going out of their way to make a difference.



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