Animals Up Close: North American Birds of Prey April 20

[PITTSFIELD, MA] — Animals Up Close: North American Birds of Prey will be presented on Monday, April 20, at 1 p.m. at Berkshire Museum. Join Julie Anne Collier of Wingmasters to learn about eagles, hawks, and other birds of prey. Tickets are $15 adult, $8 child; Museum members $5 adult, $3 child, children 3 and under free. Includes Museum admission. Tickets are available in advance by calling 413.443.7171 ext. 360.

During Animals Up Close: North American Birds of Prey, visitors will meet five live birds of prey, from an eagle and a hawk to owls and a falcon, with raptor rehabilitator Julie Anne Collier of Wingmasters. Birds of prey are also known as raptors, and they are hunting birds characterized by hooked beaks and powerful grabbing feet armed with sharp talons. Raptors also boast superb eyesight and the sharpest hearing in the animal kingdom. The program explains predation, the birds' place at the top of the food web, their different hunting adaptations, and their status in a rapidly changing world. Because many birds of prey are declining in number, this presentation also features one or more of the endangered raptors, and explains why these species face an uncertain future.

Wingmasters is a partnership of two people dedicated to increasing public understanding and appreciation of North American birds of prey. Julie Anne Collier and Jim Parks are both licensed raptor rehabilitators based in Massachusetts. Together they care for injured birds of prey. Most of the birds they rehabilitate can ultimately be
released back into the wild, but in some cases the birds are left permanently handicapped. Collier and Parks are further licensed to provide a home for these non-releasable raptors, and to use them for educational programs. Since 1994 Wingmasters has presented over 5000 programs at schools, libraries and museums throughout New England. For more information, visit www.wingmasters.net.

About the Berkshire Museum

Located in downtown Pittsfield, Massachusetts, at 39 South St., Berkshire Museum is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday, and noon to 5 p.m. on Sunday. Admission is $13 adult, $6 child, free for members and children 3 and under. For more information, visit www.berkshiremuseum.org or call 413.443.7171.

Berkshire Museum is a Smithsonian Affiliate. In association with the Smithsonian since 2013, Berkshire Museum is part of a select group of museums, cultural, educational, and arts organizations that share the Smithsonian's resources with the nation.

Established by Zenas Crane in 1903, Berkshire Museum integrates art, history, and natural science in a wide range of programs and exhibitions that inspire educational connections between the disciplines. Berkshire Collects is on view through May 11, 2014. Into the Light: Selected Works by Jim Schantz is on view through May 10. If/Then: A Topsy-Truvy World of Creativity is on view through May 3. Objectify: A Look into the Permanent Collection is currently on view. Little Cinema is open year-round. Spark!Lab, Feigenbaum Hall of Innovation, Worlds in Miniature, Aquarium, and other exhibits are ongoing.

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