DONORS:
Ken Sterner, Terry Draut, Marty Lewandowski, Steve VanZandt, Bob Collins, Kirk and Sandy Williams, Great Lakes Falconers’ Association

First President of the Great Lakes Falconers’ Association

George D. Woehrl 1926-2002

George D. Woehrl was one of the founding members and first president of the Great Lakes Falconers’ Association. He died October 15, 2002 at the age of 76. An avid falconer, George loved trapping peregrines along Lake Michigan and provided falcons to many of his friends. He would charge a nominal fee for the loaning of falcons but any birds not promptly picked up at the end of the day were immediately released. Raised in Chicagoland, at sixteen he lied about his age and enlisted in the Marine Corps during WWII. He saw heavy combat in Saipan, Guadalcanal and Okinawa and was awarded the Bronze Star for gallantry and bravery—saving the life of a fellow marine who was hit by fire from the Japanese. After the war, George and his brother Frank went up to Alaska to blow off steam for a while but both returned to Chicago where George studied painting and drawing at the Art Institute of Chicago. His work may be seen at the Art Institute and in private collections. He was talented in the field of art restoration and was commissioned to work at the Guggenheim Museum in New York City. George not only painted; he would color old falconry lithographs with unique attention to detail. He was an intelligent and thoughtful man, had a remarkable sense of humor and was an outstanding artist. In order to improve his vocabulary, he read the dictionary from cover to cover. George was generous with his equipment-making talents, falconry book collection and skill as a falconer. He mentored many young falconers in the care and handling of their birds. His strong personality and perfectionism has had a lasting influence on GLFA.