

## Wildlife Rehabilitators of North Carolina

## Wildlife Volunteer of the Year

Governor's Conservation Achievement Awards  
a program of the North Carolina Wildlife Federation

Jennifer Gordon, Director of Carolina Waterfowl Rescue (CWR), was named WILDLIFE VOLUNTEER of the Year, one of the 2009 Governor Conservation Achievement Awards, by the North Carolina Wildlife Federation (NCWF).

Governor's Conservation Achievement Awards were first presented in 1958. With the approval of the Governor of North Carolina, this annual program was designated as the Governor's Conservation Achievement Awards Program, and is now in its forty-seventh year. These prestigious awards honor those individuals, governmental bodies, associations, and others who have exhibited an unwavering commitment to conservation in North Carolina. These are the highest honors given in the state. By recognizing, publicizing, and honoring these conservation leaders - young and old, professional and volunteer - the North Carolina Wildlife Federation hopes to inspire all North Carolinians to take a more active role in protecting the natural resources of our state.

Nominations are submitted by individuals, local conservation clubs, private organizations, and by the agencies and departments of government. Nominees, which may be either professionals or non-professionals, must be justly deserving of recognition for outstanding accomplishments, and in the case of professionals, such effort must be that given above and beyond their regularly assigned duties. An Awards Committee, composed of qualified conservationists, judges all nominations and selects state winners.



Jennifer Gordon's Carolina Waterfowl Rescue group provided care to approximately 1,500 injured birds in 2009 alone. Since its founding in 2003, the group has rescued nearly 10,000 birds, and works with organizations such as the N.C. Museum of Natural Sciences and with law enforcement agencies. CWR's mission is to rescue injured and abandoned waterfowl (ducks, geese, herons, swans, etc.), rehabilitate them, and release them back to the wild, or to safe homes. With the help of local veterinarian Dr. Lauren Powers, very severe injuries can be treated.

With a core of about 20 dedicated volunteers working at the Rescue each week, and hundreds more volunteers who pitch in to help with Rescues, Transports, and Work Days, CWR works hard to ensure injured birds are quickly rescued and treated. These birds feel pain just like humans do so quick rescue and treatment is very important. CWR is an all-volunteer organization, located in Indian Trail, NC.

"We moved to this location in August of last year and have spent hundreds of hours designing and building a safe home for our patients," said Ms. Gordon. When asked about the biggest needs, Ms. Gordon responded "donations – and volunteers who can work weekly shifts. We also long for a permanent location on property we own, with a pond plus a barn so that we can continue to improve care and treat as many birds as possible."

Carolina Waterfowl Rescue is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization. Their website is

[www.carolinawaterfowlrescue.com](http://www.carolinawaterfowlrescue.com) where information about the group can be found. There are also links for donations and a place to sign up to volunteer, adopt, or get group updates.

Jennifer has served on the Board of Directors for WRNC and has been a member for several years.