



Message from the WRNC President

Greetings WRNC Members and Friends,

The baby seasons are upon us, and as rehabilitators we often find ourselves working long hours in stressful situations. Please make the time to take a break and spend some quality time with your family and friends. Taking care of yourself is essential so that you may continue to care for your wildlife patients.

Remember to set limitations so that you are not overextended. There is nothing wrong with just letting the phone calls go to voicemail. Don't try and work to all hours of the night - pick a closing time and stick with it. People can call you and bring you patients in the morning. Your sleep is important to help you be alert and refreshed as you tackle the new day.

Utilize the networking system and call upon your fellow WRNC rehabilitators. Refer calls to others that may be closer, or to those who specialize in different species. It just makes good sense to take advantage of their expertise.

Let the summer be a time of sun, fun, and relaxation for you. Enjoy those babies coming in, and take delight in watching them grow and develop. Don't let the stress of caring for them rob you of the joy of watching them go on to be released.

If we can help you in any way or make the task of rehabilitation be easier for you somehow, please contact your Board of Directors. We've "been there and done that" and are happy to assist in any way possible.

Sincerely,

Toni O'Neil

Toni O'Neil
WRNC President



This is a quarterly newsletter produced by Wildlife Rehabilitators of North Carolina (WRNC). WRNC was organized in 1999 with a mission to share information and knowledge about wildlife rehabilitation. The opinions, techniques, and recommendations expressed in the articles of this newsletter are those of the authors and do not imply endorsement by WRNC. All material in the newsletter is copyrighted and should not be used or reproduced without permission from the author.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>From the President</i>	1
<i>Imprinting, Part 3</i>	2
<i>Coyote Hunting</i>	4
<i>Beginner Basics</i>	6
<i>Members in the News</i>	7
<i>Call of the Wild</i>	7
<i>Tales from the Field</i>	8
<i>Wildlife Map</i>	8
<i>Creature Feature</i>	9
<i>Committee Updates</i>	10
<i>Upcoming Events</i>	11
<i>Announcements</i>	11

BOARD MEMBERS

Toni O'Neil (President)
Carla Johnson (Vice President)
Linda Woodruff (Treasurer)
Kathy Lillard (Secretary)
Linda Bergman
Halley Buckanoff
Jean Chamberlain
Nicki Dardinger
Laurel Degernes, DVM
Christina Hildreth
Leslie Martin, DVM
Ann Rogers
David Scott, DVM
Savannah Trantham
Mary Weiss
Veterinary Student Liaisons:
Adrienne Breau
Amanda Malueg



Imprinting - Part 3

by Jean Chamberlain

In the first two articles in this series we looked at imprinting in flocking birds and raptors. Now we ask: Are there other animals that imprint?

The answer is yes! Hoofed mammals also imprint. Young animals that live in herds quickly imprint on their mother shortly after birth. Within a few hours, they must be capable of running with the herd and locating their mother amid many other adults. Zebra are a dramatic example. It is thought that a young zebra imprints on the stripes of its mother and can recognize her striped pattern mixed in among the herd.

Much of our knowledge of imprinting of herding animals comes from breeding horses. Horses imprint on their parents. Some breeders have imprinted foals on humans in an attempt to make them easier to handle as adults. They maintain that human imprinting is beneficial when it is done correctly. Others maintain that imprinted foals are usually aggressive. As with falconers many horse breeders prefer to raise young foals with a mother that is tame rather than imprinting the young to avoid this aggression.



Zebras
Creative Commons License

We often hear that fawns tame easily. Young fawns may also imprint on people. Fawn rehabilitators build pens to prevent young fawns from having any contact with humans. Fawns are fed from bottles through or behind a barrier so they will not associate food with humans. The same is true in areas where moose are rehabilitated. Moose raised in captivity are kept in screened pens to prevent contact with humans. A moose imprinted on humans would be very dangerous. They are even bigger and stronger than deer.



Not all imprinting is on visual stimuli. Some animals imprint on odors. Young shrews imprint on the odor of the female who suckles them. The critical period is between the 5th and 12th day. Shrews are known for holding on to the tail of their mother or siblings. The family travels this way caravan style.



Rehabilitators are most concerned with the imprinting of young on adults of their species. However, there are other types of imprinting that rehabilitators less frequently encounter. For instance, natal homing involves the use of chemical cues and geomagnetic imprinting – imprinting on the earth's magnetic field at the site of their birth/hatching.

Some fish imprint in this way. Atlantic salmon born in fresh water migrate to the ocean where they grow into adults and return to the original stream to lay eggs. There are several hypotheses regarding how they are able to return to the stream in which they were hatched to lay eggs – including geomagnetic imprinting, recognition of the smell associated with the stream, and the salmon's release of pheromones during migration that they can then follow upon their return.

Migrating salmon
Creative Commons License

Imprinting Part 3, continued



Loggerhead Turtle
Photo Courtesy U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Turtles also use natal homing. Young loggerheads are carried out to sea by tides and currents. The turtles return to feeding grounds near their birth place, and mature female loggerheads return to their natal beach to lay eggs. It is thought that sea turtles use geomagnetic imprinting to return to their natal beach, although sometimes they do stray, perhaps due to shifts in the intensity of the earth's magnetic field.

Blue-fin tuna are another example of an animal that exhibits natal homing. Blue-fins spawn on both the east and west shores of the Atlantic Ocean. It is thought that they imprint on the water's chemical properties. Tuna from both shores live together in the Atlantic. They each return to their own natal region to spawn. Using electronic tagging it has been shown that about 96% of young tagged in the Mediterranean returned there to spawn. In the Gulf of Mexico the results were over 99%.

Imprinting is learning that occurs early in life and is crucial for survival. The type that is of particular concern to wildlife rehabilitators is the imprinting of the young on their parents that occurs in flocking birds, raptors, and herding mammals. In flocking birds such as geese, imprinting insures that that young learn to recognize a parent so that they will be able to follow the parent soon after hatching. Likewise in herding mammals such as horses, the young learn to recognize their parent among the many members of the herd. Imprinting in raptors ensures that the young stay with the parent to learn hunting skills. In all species that imprint, imprinting insures that the young are raised by one of its own kind and learn appropriate behaviors for the species.

In cases where individuals are imprinted on humans, it has been found that these individuals exhibit behavioral problems throughout their lives. It is crucial for wildlife to be raised by their own kind during the critical period, preferably by their parents, so that they will identify with their own species and learn the skills and behaviors for survival in the wild. For these species, wildlife rehabilitators must make every effort to take in only young that are truly orphaned and must ensure that those that are rehabilitated are raised with adult fosters to serve as models to the young.

References:

Christiansen, Scott. 2010. Got policy? A year later, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game has a policy for handling orphan moose calves. Anchorage Press.

Hasler, A.D. and A.T. Scholz. 1988. Olfactory Imprinting and Homing in Salmon. New York: Springer-Verlag Berlin Heidelberg.

Miller, Robert. 1991. Imprint Training of the Newborn Foal, 2nd Edition. Western Horseman Publishing.

Probst, Sarah. 1999. Can Imprinting Go Too Far? Rural Heritage.

Rooker, Secor, De Metrio, Schloesser, Block, & Neilson. 2008. Natal Homing and Connectivity in Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Populations. *Science* 5902(322) 742-744.



Night Time Hunting of Coyotes

by Nicki Dardinger

Night Time Hunting of Coyotes: Will This Impact North Carolina's Red Wolves?

Potential changes to the rules governing coyote hunting in North Carolina are under way. Under current law, it is legal to hunt coyotes in North Carolina during day light hours, any day of the year, without a permit. However, the NC Wildlife Resources Commission has proposed a new rule that would allow for night time hunting of coyotes anywhere that hunting is legal. This rule also allows for hunters to use both electronic calls and artificial lights.

Ethical feelings about hunting aside, this new rule could result in unintended consequences for another North Carolina predator, the endangered red wolf.

Currently, many states allow for night time hunting of coyotes. Why should North Carolina be different? The state is home to the only wild population of red wolves in the world. And for the average person – most people, actually - coyotes and red wolves are very difficult to distinguish. Red wolves weigh between 55 and 85 pounds, while coyotes are slightly smaller – typically 35 pounds. Wolves stand taller, and have wider snouts. Both canines have brown fur, although red wolves often have a reddish color behind their ears and across their shoulders. Red wolves may sometimes be spotted during the day time hours, but they are most active at night.



Red wolf
Photo Courtesy of
Shari Lambeth



Coyote
Photo Courtesy of
Halley Buckanoff

History of Red Wolves in North Carolina

The historical range of the red wolf included the southeastern and central United States. The combination of intentional and sustained persecution and habitat destruction caused their populations to decline drastically.

Red wolves were reintroduced to North Carolina's Alligator National Wildlife Refuge in 1983. Currently, approximately 100 red wolves, many fitted with radio transmitter collars, inhabit approximately 1.7 million acres spread across farms, bottomland swamps, and woodlands in five counties across the far eastern coastal plain harbor of the state. This is the last place red wolves can be found in the wild.

The IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature) lists the red wolf as *critically endangered*, its last ranking before *extinct in the wild*.

Why is this new rule being proposed?

There are several goals of the new rule. One primary goal is to provide hunters with more opportunities. Additionally, this rule would provide an opportunity for people to manage problem coyotes in their area. However, *problem* means different things to people. While some people may feel threatened by the presence of a coyote near their property, others may witness coyotes preying on their livestock. Unfortunately, while urban residents have made complaints about coyotes taking their pets, this rule would not help them, as hunting is not permitted in residential areas. The state is also instituting this rule to help control the coyote population in the state. However, several research studies have shown that hunting, and the removal of random individuals, is not an effective way to control coyote populations.

Night Time Hunting of Coyotes, continued

What do coyotes have to do with red wolves anyway?

Coyotes themselves pose a serious threat to the red wolf population. As red wolf populations declined, they began to hybridize with coyotes. While scientists do not agree on when the hybridization began, they do agree that if it continues to occur it will be the end of red wolves.

Beginning around 2000, in an effort to reduce the hybridization of red wolves and coyotes, the Fish and Wildlife Service began sterilizing coyotes in the red wolf recovery area (Dare, Hyde, Tyrrell, Washington, and Beaufort counties). The Fish and Wildlife Service is currently monitoring around 40 sterilized coyotes – all fitted with radio transmitter collars. When they first began the sterilization project, biologists saw the wolf population increase. However, many sterilized coyotes and red wolves have been lost to gunshot mortality – causing non-sterilized female coyotes to move into the open territories.

Some believe that the rule change will do further harm to the red wolf population in North Carolina. The thinking behind the sterilized coyote project is that these non-fertile animals continue to defend a home range – preventing fertile coyotes from moving into the area, and decreasing the probability of wolf-coyote hybridization. If gunshot mortalities could be eliminated – or at least decreased – then it may be possible to increase the red wolf population due to a reduction in hybridizations.

The rule change may also threaten red wolves because of the increased threat of accidental shooting. Each year, between six and eight red wolves are shot accidentally by hunters seeking coyotes. Coyote hunters who shoot red wolves are not fined or prosecuted for their actions. Many believe this new rule will result in an increase in accidental – and deliberate – shootings of red wolves. While the impact of accidental shootings on the red wolf population may be small, for such a small population already at risk due to hybridization, it may be larger than anticipated.

What should rehabilitators do?

As wildlife rehabilitators, we have an obligation to educate the public about the natural world and the wildlife and habitats that surround them. Human wildlife interactions happen frequently – they are the reason rehabilitators stay busy! For those of you in the eastern part of the state, provide information about coyotes – why they are important, and why the threat to people is minimal. Also, share with people the story of the red wolf. North Carolina is their last wild home. And encourage people to share with their legislators why wolves – and coyotes – and their habitats are important to them, and why there is a need to continue to protect them.

For more information – visit this editorial: <http://blogs.scientificamerican.com/guest-blog/2012/03/27/night-hunting-coyotes-in-n-c-risky-for-red-wolves/>

And this info from the IUCN: <http://www.iucnredlist.org/apps/redlist/details/3747/0>



Coyotes
Photo Courtesy of
Halley Buckanoff



Beginner Basics

by Jean Chamberlain

Do what's best for the animal!

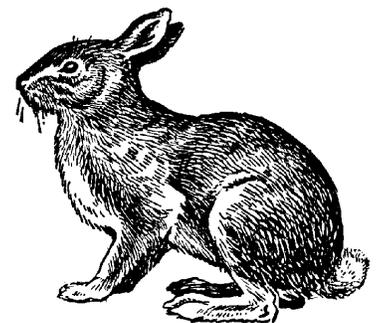
Beginning rehabilitators are very eager to help orphaned babies. Sometimes this enthusiasm can keep them from stopping to consider if it is truly necessary for the babies to be rehabilitated. A good understanding of the natural history of the species is required to make sure the best decision is made.

For instance, you may receive a call about a nest of cottontails. "The mother has not fed them all day," says the caller. You know that mother cottontails don't normally visit their nests throughout the day. In this situation, you could suggest that the caller use the criss-cross string technique that evening to determine if mom is returning to feed her babies. You should only take in the infants if the mom doesn't come.

Another caller might say, "A young squirrel has fallen from a tree in my yard." If the baby isn't injured, then you should have them remove pets from the area and leave the baby alone to give its mother a chance to recover it. If the mother doesn't return after a couple of hours, only then should you take it in.

"I've found a baby opossum under my porch." This is an instance where natural history tell us that the mother opossum won't return looking for her young and you can take in the baby for rehabilitation.

It is hard to say 'no' to a good intentioned person who brings an 'orphan' to you. They want to help the baby so badly and so do you. You must know when it is best that the baby be returned to its parents, and when it is you must insist that it be returned. Remember, always do what's best for the animal.



Members in the News

Congratulations to **Jennifer Gordon** and **Carolina Waterfowl Rescue** on their new facility!

<http://www.wcnc.com/news/neighborhood-news/Carolina-Waterfowl-Rescue-gets-new-11-acre-home-donated-143698106.html>

And lots of press!

<http://www.unioncountyweekly.com/news/2012/03/animal-rescue-group-racing-clock-at-new-home/>

<http://artswildlifetalk.blogspot.com/2012/03/carolina-waterfowl-rescue-get-new-home.html>

Congratulations to **Toni O'Neil** and **Possumwood Acres** on receiving a grant from the North Carolina Veterinary Medical Association!

<http://www.jdnews.com/articles/-101763--.html>

Have you been featured in the news lately? Let Nicki and Halley know – and we'll include a link in the next newsletter!!

Call of the Wild

by **Mary Gold**

How do licensed bird rehabilitators reply to bird calls? Here are some answers from Trilby Thrall, a bird rehabilitator with over 34 years experience.

What do you advise for fallen baby birds? Birds have a poor sense of smell and they don't count heads. The mother bird doesn't care if you touch her baby— she just wants it back in the nest. If possible, put the baby back in its original nest. If the nest is not reachable, make a new one. Put the new nest and bird in a basket. Hang this new home as high as possible near the existing nest. The bird will chirp. When mom hears its peeps, she will feed it even if it is not her own. Birds will care for two nests. Have the caller watch the nest. If mom does not reappear, call a rehabilitator. Tell them to keep the bird warm and in a quiet place until a rehabilitator can be found.

What about a fledgling in the yard? Keep it away from neighborhood cats. Bring dogs indoors. If it will be safer and still near the parent, put it over the fence in a neighbor's yard. If the caller can keep the bird safe, the parents will finish training it. When a fledgling is not safe or has no parents, it can be released into a colony of its own kind, where it will be welcomed. The colony will often finish raising it.

What about window strikes? Put the injured bird in a ventilated box. Keep the bird quiet and safe **in the shade** for a couple of hours. Then carefully, open the box away from your face. If the bird does not fly away, it needs to be taken to a rehabilitator.

How about chimney swift calls? When a swift falls down the chimney, pick it up with gloves, reach above the chimney flue and attach the fallen swift to the chimney side. It will crawl back to the colony or the mom will come down and feed it. Some callers dislike the swifts' "chittering" sound. Tell them to stuff a mattress in the fireplace. The birds will be gone in a few weeks. After that, they can cap their chimney. Educate the caller to the wonder of swifts. They can eat 1000 mosquitoes a night! Each spring they fly here from Peru to have their babies and at the end of August begin the migration back to Peru. That is phenomenal.

What about people who want to keep wild birds? First, it is illegal. Birds are safer if they are afraid of people and not imprinted. Wild things are meant to be wild and free. They need to mate, reproduce, and keep the earth alive. To do anything else is to take away their birthright.

References:

Thrall, T. (2012, May 18). Answering Bird Calls. (M. Gold, Interviewer)





Tales from the Field -

by Halley Buckanoff

Ever get one of these calls: “There’s an injured buzzard by the side of the road. It’s been there all day!” You gather up your equipment and prepare yourself for a rescue. An hour’s drive later, you arrive at the scene and there’s a perfectly healthy red-tailed hawk eating a carcass by the side of the road! (While many people refer to North America’s vultures as ‘buzzards,’ it is actually our hawks from the genus *Buteo* (like the red-tailed hawk) that are true buzzards!)

Top 5 Lessons I’ve Learned From My Unnecessary Road-Trip Rescues:

1. Ensure the animal is indeed injured and needs your assistance. Just because it has been in one place for a long time doesn’t mean that it is hurt. There may be a good meal that it doesn’t want to leave.
2. Have the caller maintain a visual on the animal until you arrive; there’s nothing like driving out to help an animal and it’s nowhere to be found.
3. Make sure the caller is also the property owner. It is never good to arrive at a gated, barbed-wired pasture when you don’t have permission or access onto the property. Trespassers beware!
4. Get the exact address and phone number of the caller. When you are lost and driving in circles, it can be helpful to call for directions.
5. Don’t go alone!!! An extra hand to wrangle the animal is definitely helpful, but there is also safety in numbers! Maybe I’ve watched too many horror movies and heard too many stories, but I figure why risk going out to the middle of nowhere, by yourself, to meet a stranger, who claims to have an injured wild animal? Creepy.

North Carolina Rehabilitator and Wildlife Transporter Map

Attention Wildlife Rehabilitators and Transport Volunteers!

In an effort to help our community identify rehabilitators and transport volunteers across the state, WRNC has created a map that shows the location of these individuals and their contact information. This map is not available to the public, but can be accessed by North Carolina rehabilitators who need to determine the closest rehabilitator to an injured wild animal – or to help set up the transport of an animal to a suitable facility. But we need your help! If you are a rehabilitator or a transport volunteer – please submit your contact information to Dr. Dave Scott, dscott@carolinaraptorcenter.org to be included in this map. And remember – your information will not be available to the public.

To see the current map, visit:

<http://www.ncwildliferehab.org/GoogleMap/RehabilitatorMap.html>

Thank you for helping us help wildlife!

Creature Feature -

by Carol Kaczmarek

White-breasted Nuthatch

Sitta Carolinensis

DESCRIPTION: The White-Breasted Nuthatch is a small stout tree climber with a woodpecker type bill and very strong feet. It is a very vocal bird with a variety of calls. It is about 5-6 inches long, with a wingspan of 8-11 inches and a weight of .64-1.6 oz. The male is a slate gray bird with a pale black cap and neck, a white breast and a chestnut color under the tail. The female is similar to the male with a gray cap and neck. The juvenile is similar to the female.

FOOD AND FEEDING: It is known as the upside down bird because it descends a tree head first. This way they can see insects and seeds as they descend. It can also hang upside down from branches to feed. This agility comes from an extra-long hind claw which is nearly twice the size of the front toe claws. It is also able to wedge large insects or seeds into cracks in the tree bark and then hack at it with their strong bills. Its main foods are insects, seeds and nuts. In summer, it eats mainly insects and may store nuts and seeds for the winter. They may eat at birdfeeders and suet feeders when food is not readily available.

DISTRIBUTION AND HABITAT: The White-Breasted Nuthatch is non-migratory. However it may irrupt when food is scarce. It can be found in woodlands across North America. In the southeast it prefers old growth deciduous or mixed forest. It is found throughout most of North Carolina.

BREEDING AND REPRODUCTION: The male and female nuthatch are monogamous. They remain together until one dies or disappears. Their nest is usually made inside an empty cavity high in a tree. The male and female build the nest together lining it with fur, feathers, grass, and shredded tree bark. They usually smear dead insects outside the cavity to reduce a smell that might attract predators.

The pair usually has only one brood a year. The female lays about 5-7 white eggs with brown markings. She incubates them for about 11-12 days while the male feeds her. The chicks are patricidal and stay in the nest for 12-14 days. Both parents feed them. They usually feed them for an additional 8-10 days as fledglings. Once they are independent, the fledglings leave their parents territory. They may establish their own territory, or they will spend some time as a "floater" without a territory of their own. The parents protect their territory for the whole year.

SURVIVAL AND STATUS: Predators of adults include owls and hawks. In addition, eggs and nestlings are eaten by woodpeckers, small squirrels, climbing snakes, and many other animals. The estimated lifespan of this nuthatch is 2 years, but the record is 12 years 9 months.

The White-Breasted Nuthatch is a common species with a large range and an estimated 10 million individuals. Therefore, it is listed as a species of least concern. The most serious problem for these birds is the removal of dead trees since they need tree cavities for nests.

The White-Breasted Nuthatch is protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918 to which the three countries in which it is found (Canada, United States, and Mexico) are all signatories.

References:

Peterson, Roger. 1980. A Field Guide to the Birds. 4TH Edition. Houghton-Mifflin. pp. 212-213.

Potter, Eloise. 2006. Birds of the Carolinas. Second Edition. University of North Carolina Press. pp. 265-266.

Sibley, David. 2000. The Sibley Guide to Birds. National Audubon Society. Knopf. p. 381.

Thompson, Bill, III. 2004. North Carolina Bird Watching. Cold Springs Press. p. 113.

Tekiela, Stan. 2001. Birds of the Carolinas. Adventure Publ. pp. 220-221.

White Breasted Nuthatch. Wikipedia, the Free Encyclopedia. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/white-breasted_Nut_hatch

White Breasted Nuthatch. Life History, All about birds-Cornell Lab of Ornithology. http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/white-breasted_nuthatch/lifehistory/ac



WRNC Committee updates

Your WRNC Board leads multiple committees to accomplish various projects for the organization. These committees are always looking for new members to assist with some of the great work being done for rehabilitators and wildlife across the state. Here are some updates from each committee:

By-Laws Committee (chaired by Linda Bergman and Carla Johnson). This committee regularly review the organization's by-laws and makes recommendations for changes and revisions

Cage Grants Committee (chaired by Toni O'Neil). The WRNC Cage Grant program provides up to two \$300 grants each year to build cages for the rehabilitation of wildlife. Applications are due by May 1st each year. The committee recently awarded one cage grant to Kelley O'Dell (see Announcements section)

Interested in applying? Visit the WRNC website!

<http://www.ncwildliferehab.org/programs/Cage%20Building%20Grant%20Information.pdf>

Chimney Swift Tower Committee (chaired by Linda Bergman). The Chimney Swift Tower Grant program provides up to three \$300 grants each year for the building and maintenance of a chimney swift tower. Applications are due by January 5th each year.

Interested in applying? Visit the WRNC website!

<http://www.ncwildliferehab.org/>

Membership Committee (chaired by Carla Johnson). This committee is currently working on reaching out to previous WRNC members who have not renewed their memberships. If you have any ideas about how to increase our membership and expand our outreach to other rehabilitators and wildlife volunteers in North Carolina – please consider becoming a part of this committee!

Newsletter Committee (chaired by Halley Buckanoff and Nicki Dardinger). This committee oversees WRNC's quarterly newsletter. The committee is always looking for volunteers to help write articles and create a professional, informational newsletter that will provide essential information and knowledge to our members. Please contact Nicki or Halley if you are interested in helping with the newsletter.

Rabies Vector Species Rehabilitation Committee (chaired by Jean Chamberlain). This committee is working on reaching out to the state health department in an effort to allow the rehabilitation of rabies vector species in North Carolina. Currently, the rehabilitation of this group of animals, including raccoons, skunks, fox, coyote, and bats, is not permitted in North Carolina. While all rehabilitators can help with the work of this committee by recording rabies vector species information in the log – this committee would welcome the help of a few dedicated volunteers who can speak with the state wildlife agency and health department regarding this issue.

Symposium Committee (chaired by Jean Chamberlain and Laurie Degernes). Following January's symposium, this committee reviewed the evaluations submitted by participants and discussed key challenges and successes to keep in mind when planning the 2013 Symposium. Later this summer, this committee will dive in and begin the work of developing plans for the next event. The committee will be identifying workshop and hands-on lab topics and presenters. The committee will also work on items such as the raffle, the schedule, the food, the icebreaker, and workshop moderators – among many other things! This committee would love to have some new volunteers help to make the 2013 Symposium the best yet. Please contact Jean or Laurie if you are interested in participating.



Calendar of Events

Submit, questions, comments, and articles to:

Newsletter Co-Editors:

Nicki Dardinger

nicki.dardinger@gmail.com

Halley Buckanoff

halley.buckanoff@nczoo.org

- **Carolina Raptor Center**
Raptor Rehabilitation Seminars
October 20-21, 2012
<http://www.carolinaraptorcenter.org/rehabilitation/rrseminar>
- **Wildlife Center of Virginia**
Call of the Wild Conference
November 10-11, 2012
<http://www.wildlifecenter.org/wp/rehabilitator-training/call-of-the-wild-conference/>
- **International Wildlife Rehabilitation Council**
Symposium
November 14-17, 2012
Appleton, Wisconsin
<http://theiwrc.org/symposium/2012-symposium>
- **International Wildlife Rehabilitation Council**
Continuing Education, Online Courses
<http://theiwrc.org/continuing-education/online-training>

Visit us on the web: www.ncwildliferehab.org

Follow us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/wrnc

Announcements

Rabies Vector Species in North Carolina

What happens to the baby raccoons and fox kits and baby bats that are found by the public in North Carolina? Sadly, they are usually left outside to die without care. Does this seem like the right and most humane thing to do?

We as an organization have an opportunity to change a law that would allow wildlife rehabilitators to help care for and assist the orphaned and injured rabies vector species as was done in the past. However, it will take more than crying, "It's not fair!" What can we do?

Become a part of the solution! Help collect a list of all the raccoon/bat/fox/skunk calls that come in, and record how many times people have called with questions and concerns about them. Record how many times people called with an orphan that needed help being reunited with its mother or raised after the parents were killed. Record your calls on the WRNC web site in the RVS Log section (http://www.ncwildliferehab.org/rvs/call_log.php). You can also contact the WRNC Rabies Vector committee members and let them know that you are interested in helping.

Each one of has the opportunity to help our state's raccoons, fox, bats, and skunks! Will you step up and do your part?

Congratulations to Kelley O'Dell, the recipient of this year's WRNC Cage Grant!



Kelley and Mr. Bridges
(the cage builder!)