

Letter From The President

by Carla Johnson



WRNC's 17th annual symposium has been deemed "the best ever" by several attendees who turned in their critiques. This year's symposium was attended by 172 attendees, 14 exhibitors (the most ever), 20 instructors & 19 students for a total of 225 people. There were several new classes and presenters and we also had a different caterer this year. People attended from as far away as FL, MO and CA. Congratulations to all who planned and assisted during the 17th annual symposium. A big thank you to our NCSU-CVM sponsor, Dr. Greg Lewbart and our NCSU-CVM Vet student liaisons!!

At the general membership meeting, held during the symposium banquet, WRNC elected three new board members: Cindy Bailey, Paige Person and Melisse Hopping. See page 2 for a little bit about each one and their pictures.

Baby season has already started in some parts of the state. If you find that you need help in your rehabilitation efforts and don't know who/where to turn, please don't hesitate to contact me at wildlifeed2@aol.com. I'm confident that I can put you in touch with someone that can assist you.

Table of Contents

New Board Members	p.2	Rabid Bear	p.18
Basket Cases	p.3	Symposium Notes	p.20
True Cost of Rehabilitation	p.4	Chimney Swift Towers	p.21
Veterinary Student Liaisons	p.6	Training Opportunities	p.22
Symposium Icebreaker	p.7	Ancient Barred Owl	p.22
Raffle Donors	p.8	Symposium Speakers	p.23
Raffle Winners	p.12	Symposium Photographer	p.24
Banquet Keynote Speaker	p.13	Newsletter Schedule	p.24
"Gator Country"	p.14	Cage Grants	p.24
Chipmunks Rule	p.17		

Board Members:

Carla Johnson - President

Linda Bergman-Althouse - Vice President

Cindy Bailey - Secretary

Jean Chamberlain - Outgoing Treasurer

Elizabeth Chandler - Incoming Treasurer

Mathias Engelmann

Amanda Falk

Melisse Hopping

Amber McNamara, DVM

Toni O'Neil

Paige Person

Ann Rogers

Hall of Fame Inductees:

Mary & Ed Weiss

Vet Student Liaisons:

Brandi Clark

Hayley Stratton

NCSU Symposium Advisor:

Greg Lewbart, DVM

Letter From The President (continued)



Cindy Bailey – Raised and educated in Durham, NC, animals have always been important to Cindy. She graduated from NC State with a degree in Animal Husbandry and began working as the Executive director of the Animal Protection Society in 1990. Later, she transferred over and became the Animal Control Director for Durham, NC. Retiring in 2010, she has been rehabbing for over 30 years, first starting out with songbirds and fawns, then raccoons and now squirrels. She is a member of Wildlife Welfare. She lives with her husband, 6 rescue dogs, 3 domestic turkeys, 8 Guinea hens, 8 ducks and 27 hens on a 45-acre farm in Oxford, NC. Rehabbing to her brings her an inner peace as she watches her rehab animals grow and learn how to become squirrels so they can be released back into the wild.



Melisse Hopping – Former board member and past president of Wildlife Rehab, Inc. in Winston-Salem, NC, Melisse has been a permitted wildlife rehabilitator for 14 years. She has been a teacher for several classes that Wildlife Rehab teaches through Forsyth Technical Community college's

Wildlife Rehabilitation class and recently presented several classes for WRNC at a weekend

wildlife seminar in Charlotte that was sponsored by Carolina Waterfowl. She lives in Pfafftown, NC with her husband, Jerry (also a licensed rehabilitator), their two dogs, a cat and a flock of chickens.



Paige Person – Born and raised in Richmond, VA, Paige moved to Raleigh in 1978 to complete her BS in Conservation at NCSU. She is one of the original founders of the Heartwood Montessori School in Cary, NC. Paige spent most of her life involved with her horses but in the last 5 years has become a licensed small mammal rehabilitator. She now spends most of her non-working hours nurturing our native wild-

Letter From The President (continued)

life through Wildlife Welfare where she also helps train/mentor new rehabilitators. She lives in the Swift Creek area of Raleigh with her husband and enjoys being involved with other like-minded animal lovers and making a difference.

WRNC welcomes these three new board members!

WRNC would also like to welcome our new Veterinary Student Liaisons, Hayley Stratton and Brandi Clark. See picture of all four VSL's on page 6.

Nationwide Basket Recall!

Have you been to a WRNC symposium raffle? Then you know how important baskets of all shapes and sizes are. So we ask you to help recycle baskets. If you won one (or more) this year and don't really need them, bring them back next year so we can use them again. Or if you just happen to have some that you don't need, send them our way.

Thank You!



Above: One of many lucky winners



Left: Amanda Faulk preparing baskets for the raffle

Photographs by John Althouse

Wildlife Rehabilitation: The True Cost of Doing Business

by Alison Castillo, President, Possumwood Acres Wildlife Sanctuary

While it's always nice to receive comments about the selflessness of wildlife rehabilitators who dedicate their lives (and wallets) to wildlife rehabilitation, the fact of the matter is, the endless pressure to cover expenses is turning many rehabbers prematurely grey. Food, formula, medical supplies, salaries, bookkeeping, and administration, just to name a few, take a heavy toll. The ongoing search for donors, volunteers, and in-kind donations is mentally and physically exhausting.

While many rehabilitators can set a broken wing with their eyes closed, they can be quick to dismiss the need to understand the true cost of operations. It's easy to ignore metrics while enduring another record-breaking baby-season, but the rewards for taking time to set up tools for measuring performance pays dividends at the end of the year. A great tool for establishing the true cost of operations is a Cost Allocation Plan or CAP. A CAP applied to income and expense accounting exposes all the indirect costs of operations, and when paired with patient outcomes data, can provide a game-changing narrative.

So what is a Cost Allocation Plan or CAP? As a nonprofit organization, wildlife rehabilitation facilities are subject to some very specific accounting requirements. Expenses must be reported according to their purpose. This is called "functional expense allocation". Expenses are grouped into one of two "functional categories". (1) Program or (2) Supporting Services. Supporting services is subsequently divided into three subcategories; (1) Management (2) Administrative (3) Fundraising.

In understanding just where the money goes, it's the indirect costs of performing wildlife rehabilitation that can provide unpleasant surprises. While direct costs are easily identified and placed in the appropriate column, indirect costs are expenses incurred for common or joint objectives and therefore cannot specifically be paired with a project or activity. This is where the CAP comes in.

By creating a proportional ratio of how indirect expenses might be allocated, a procedure can be developed that tells a much more detailed story.

Wildwinds Case Study:

Imagine that Wildwinds Wildlife Rehabilitation has both a wildlife rehab program and an ambassador outreach program. The two part-time employees provide rehabilitative care, animal husbandry, record keeping, and perform educational outreach. The organization rents a property where the office, rehab, and outreach occurs.

Wildwinds Wildlife Rehabilitation: Expenses for March.

2 Part-time employees	\$2,000
Grain	\$200
Rent	\$1,000
Electricity	\$150
Feeder Mice/Chicks	\$50
Number of Wildlife Intakes	40
Number of Ambassadors	10

True Cost (*continued*)

Create a ratio that reflects how resources are divided among rehab/outreach/and administration. Perhaps you have to split food expenses between patients in rehab care and animal ambassadors in your education program. Perhaps employees perform tasks related to rehabilitation at a much higher rate than those associated with outreach. Identify what the ratios are and assign them to the line items.

A simple CAP for Wildwinds might look something like this.

Expense	Amount	CAP Ratio	Wildlife Rehabilitation	Educational Outreach	Administration
Rent	\$1,000	85 10 5	\$850	\$100	\$50
Grain	\$200	60 40 0	\$120	\$80	\$0
Salaries	\$2,000	80 15 5	\$1,600	\$300	\$100
Electricity	\$150	85 10 5	\$127.50	\$15	\$7.50
Mice/ Chicks	\$50	40 60 0	\$20	\$30	\$0
Total	\$3,400	70 27 3	\$2,717.50	\$525	\$157.50

By adding up the individual ratio columns and dividing them by the number of expense line items, it is possible to calculate how expenses are proportioned across the organization; A very useful tool for budgeting, grant writing, and fundraising.

For example:

Wildlife Rehabilitation (highlighted in yellow): $\frac{85 + 60 + 80 + 85 + 40}{5} = 70\%$

5

Educational Outreach (highlighted in green): $\frac{10 + 40 + 15 + 10 + 60}{5} = 27\%$

5

Administration (highlighted in red): $\frac{5 + 0 + 5 + 5 + 0}{5} = 3\%$

5

True Cost (*continued*)

With this data, we can establish how much expense Wildwinds incurred per patient and education ambassador.

Cost of Wildlife Rehabilitation Program	\$2,717.50	= \$67.94 per individual
Number of Patient Intakes	40	
Cost of Education Program	\$535	= \$52.10 per individual
Number of Animal Ambassadors	10	

When applied to an annual Income and Expenses sheet, a CAP can help predict expense increases, identify funding shortfalls, and craft meaningful narratives for fundraising and community buy-in.

While a CAP requires some investment in time to set up, once a spreadsheet is created with all the ratios identified, algorithms can be entered to complete the calculations automatically. CAPs are a great tool for quarterly reporting and when paired with performance data, can provide predictive statistics to help close funding gaps. CAPs create great dynamic dashboard tools for easily communicating the correlation between operations and cash-flow.

A Big “Thanks” To Our Veterinary Student Liaisons (VSL’s)



Many veterinary students helped out during the recent WRNC symposium at NCSU College of Veterinary Medicine, but four in particular were instrumental:

From Left to Right:

Haley Stratton & Brandi Clark, (new VSL's)

Taylor Gregory and Suzie Jones (outgoing VSL's)

These young ladies assisted in critical areas including registration, troubleshooting audiovisual equipment, and finding exhibit tables when we needed more, just to name a few.

The WRNC board is very grateful for their dedication to wildlife and veterinary medicine.

WRNC Symposium Icebreaker

While the location of the icebreaker this year was not quite ideal, the great food and atmosphere made up for it!



Photographs by
John Althouse

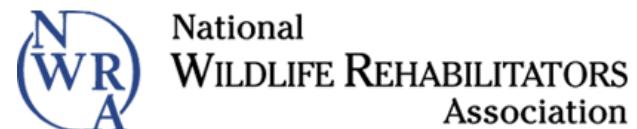
The evening included door prizes and a game for all to participate.

Here's how these five individuals, all of them respected professionals, interpreted the term "Playing Possum". To be clear, there was no alcohol served at the event!



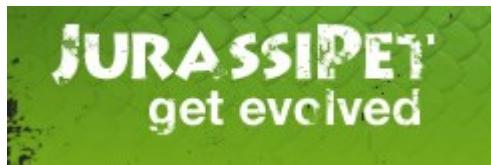
2019 WRNC Raffle Donor List by The Raffle Committee: Amanda Faulk, Kathy Lillard, and Toni O'Neil

- NWRA (National Wildlife Rehabilitators Association) - 2 T-shirts; 1 "Minimum Standards"; 1 "Wildlife Rehabilitator Resources: Squirrels"; 1 each: "Wildlife Rehabilitation" - Volumes 26, 25, 24, 22, & 21; 1 each: "Wildlife Rehabilitation Bulletin" - Volumes 28, 29, 30, & 31; 1 "Quick Reference"; 1 sticker; 1 each: "Wildlife Rehabilitation" - Volumes 10 through 15, 17, & 18;
- Jim Craig - 5 matted pictures (peeking owlets in tree, Yellow Legs reflection, Wood Ducks, Skimmer, Painted Bunting)
- Kevin Geraghty - baby sea turtle puzzle; Nine matted pictures of sea life, sea turtles, peacocks
- Possumwood Acres - books, assorted items, rehab supplies
- Toni O'Neil - baskets, assorted items, socks, books, squirrel ornaments, animal salt/pepper shaker sets, gifts
- Mrs. Alice Sanders - one original painting of Red Bellied Woodpecker and one original painting of Golden Crowned Kinglet
- RodentPro.com, LLC - one gift certificate for \$50.00
- North Carolina Zoological Society - one Free Family Membership
- Nature's Way - three gift certificates for 5000 medium mealworms and free shipping
- Golden Sands Beach Resort - one gift certificate for free 2 night occupancy
- Lafeber Company - one gift certificate for \$100 retail value of Emeraid Intensive Care nutritional products
- Droll Yankees - New Generation Series Sunflower or Mixed Seed Tubular Bird Feeder with lifetime warranty against squirrel damage



2019 WRNC Raffle Donor List (continued)

- JurassiPet - one 250 g JurassiCal Supplement for Reptiles and Amphibians; one 80 g JurassiDiet Aquatic Turtle Formula; one 80 g JurassiDiet Bearded Dragon Formula; one 100 g JurassiDiet Gut Load for Crickets; one 60 g JurassiDiet Hermit Crab Formula; one 60 g JurassiDiet Newt & Aquatic Frog Formula; one 250 ml Jurassi Safe Water Supplement for Reptiles and Amphibians; two 250 ml Jurassi Clean & Reptile Enclosures Deodorizer; three 250 ml Jurassi Mite Flea & Tick Control for Reptiles; two bottles Jurassi Fruit Banana Scented Flavor Enhancer; two bottles Jurassi Fruit Strawberry Scented Flavor Enhancer for Reptiles and Amphibians; three 250 ml Jurassi Cal Supplement for Reptiles and Amphibians
- Carolina Hurricanes Hockey Club - gift voucher for 2 tickets to regular season game
- Fox Valley Animal Nutrition, Inc. - twelve Gift certificates for \$20 off product of choice
- Animal Help Now - 2 T-shirts, 1 tote bag, 100 brochures, 100 window stickers
- NC Aquariums - 2 Complimentary Guest Passes
- Mike Dupuy Hawk Food - 1 gift certificate for \$60 off chicks; 2 gift certificates for \$200 off portable hawk mews; 36 coupons for \$30 off 4 bags off chicks; metal hawk perch
- Ghann's Cricket Farm, Inc. - four \$25 gift certificates
- Urban Wildlife Programs - two "Wild Neighbors" books, 5 "Human Wildlife Conflict Resolution Guides", 5 "Pledge to love your wild neighbors" cards, 2 "Give Wildlife a Brake" bumper stickers, 5 "Got a Wildlife Problem?" magnets, 4 "Wild Neighbors" bookmarks, Two Free Download gift certificates for "Wild Neighbors: The Humane Approach to Living with Wildlife"
- ZooMed Laboratories, Inc. - 2 large boxes of assorted reptile foods, formulas, supplements



2019 WRNC Raffle Donor List (*continued*)

- Friends of the WNC Nature Center - two One-Day Guest Passes, map & guide brochure
- Michelle Ray and Monroe Road Animal Hospital - 2 large boxes of assorted medical and rehab supplies
- Gary & Linda Woodruff - one super deluxe model hardwood squirrel nesting box; one hanging bird feeder
- (Elizabeth) and Calvin Hanrahan - numerous books
- Dr. Brenda Bishop - 1 large Ralph Lauren purse with small bag
- Linda Bergman-Althouse and John Althouse - 4 baskets ("Come Fly With Me", "Peace", "Aroma Therapy", "Time for Tea & Me"), 2 sets of 2 pillows (Owl & Pelican, Orange Kitty & Bird with Flowers, Black Kitty & Dragonfly), 2 signed, matted and framed pictures by John (Juvenile Raccoon, Flock of Cormorants)
- Ed & Mary Weiss - certified crystal acrylic art "Coming Out Roaring", Carolina Panthers Ed #0137 of 5,000
- Carolina Raptor Center - 2 shirts
- Vicky Kaseorg - 3 copies of her book "Unlikely Rescue"
- Mathias & Linda Engelmann - 4 wren nest boxes and 1 cat post
- Pat Everett (CRC volunteer) - 1 framed Osprey Picture
- Deborah Roy (CRC volunteer) - 1 framed Barred Owl picture
- Mr. and Mrs. John Lillard - Bags, gnomes, T-shirts and many many more miscellaneous items for grab bags
- Duke Lemur Center - 2 free admission tickets
- Food Lion - \$25 gift certificate
- Wild Turkey Federation - 1 "Wild About Turkeys" Education Box
- Mike's Falconry Supplies, Inc. - 1 pair Arm Or Hand Animal Handling Synthetic Gloves, elbow length, size Large, open finger model for Vets; 50 flyers
- Betsy Shank - Pocket Hammock, Honeycomb Hammock, PomPom Toy, Stocking, Jingle Buddy, Junior Cube, Cozy Pocket



Mike's Falconry Supplies
QUALITY FALCONRY EQUIPMENT AT AFFORDABLE PRICES.
A FAMILY OWNED BUSINESS IN THE USA SINCE 1980.

2019 WRNC Raffle Donor List (continued)

- Sally Weber - Rehabbers Prayer Plaque; Rabbit Tapestry Bag with misc. items; Squirrel Tapestry bag with misc. items; Quilt Bag with misc. items
- Mazuri Exotic Animal Nutrition - gift certificate for two free bags of feed
- Squirrel Store - 4 gift certificates for \$25 each
- Melisse Hopping - 2 coffee mugs, hot chocolate, table fountain, 2 bottles of wine
- Kimberly Brewster, Appalachian Wildlife Refuge - 7 bags of Wands for Wildlife
- Ann Rogers - one basket, one Wildlife Hospital Book
- Brandi Clark (NCSU vet student & WRNC Liaison) - 1 Bakers Rack, measuring cup, silverware set, scrub sets, picture frame
- Martha Petty - Pie plate, small wallet, stamps, cloth picture, mobile, silver coffee carafe, rolling cooler
- Deanna Epps - nine matted 8x10 photos, thirteen matted 11x20 photos
- Lou Mitchell - 2 turtle pot hangers, 1 rabbit heart hanging ornament; 1 opossum pottery wall hanging/paperweight; 1 acorn candy dish
- Wildlife Rescue Nests - crocheted baby bird nests
- Amanda Falk - assorted items
- Armstrong's Cricket Farm - gift certificate for 1000 live crickets OR 1000 live mealworms.

Without our donors who generously contribute so many beautiful, fantastic, wonderful items every year, our raffle would not be the success it always is.

Remember to support our donors throughout the year!



***Thanks to “Starbucks” on Edwards Mill Rd in Raleigh
for providing free coffee for the symposium !***

The WRNC Symposium Raffle !

Some people get pretty excited about this raffle, and for good reason.

Thanks to our many wonderful donors there is always cool stuff!



Photographs by
John Althouse

Keynote Speaker at Symposium

Dr. Stephanie Schuttler with the NC Museum of Natural Sciences in Raleigh, NC was our keynote speaker at the banquet this year. She gave us a very entertaining and informative look at her work with schools in countries all over the world. Students are using trail cameras to survey and record species and in some cases discovering species that had not been observed in certain areas. Check out <https://emammal.si.edu/> to see wildlife caught on cameras all over the globe.

Dr. Schuttler has also been studying elephants in Africa and shared some insights into how scientists study family life and social structure in elephants. She introduced us to a third species of elephant that most of us have probably never heard of, the African Forest Elephant. Apparently these elephants live in very small groups and forage on fruits in the forest and can be surprisingly difficult to spot.

She encouraged the audience to consider participating in a statewide effort to document wildlife using wildlife cameras here in North Carolina. To find out more about this project, go to <https://www.nccandidcritters.org/>



**Photograph by
John Althouse**

**Photograph by
Stephanie Schuttler**

“Gator Country”

by Linda Bergman-Althouse as published by Carolina Salt Magazine

Some of the calls we receive at the Outer Banks Wildlife Shelter in Newport, NC require attention a little beyond our realm of expertise. Such is the case when a call comes in to relocate an alligator that has just shown up in the parking lot of a shopping mall and happens to be a 10-12 foot 400 pounder with a bite force of 1500 pounds per square inch at that! Although we, wildlife rehabilitators, aren't "hands on" with a gator, and they definitely won't fit into our largest kennel cab, we know who to call. Wildlife Control Officers directed by the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission and local po-

lice departments consider an alligator out of water and wandering around in a residential area a critical danger and respond with a great sense of urgency.

The alligator pictured, although extremely annoyed, was successfully relocated to a gator friendly area without injury to himself or the wildlife professionals involved in his capture and transport. The question that surfaces is "Why was he out of the water, away from his habitat and among humans in the first place?" We have lots of alligators in our fresh water streams, canals, ponds, lakes, marshes, swamps, and tidal estuaries of eastern North Carolina, and that's usually where they stay until people start feeding them. It's against the law and the fine can be as high as \$200, but intentional feeding still happens; bread, chips, sandwiches, chicken bones. Some feeding is unintentional, like cleaning fish and throwing the remains in the water.

Alligators are carnivorous, and they are opportunists. They eat whatever is available – fish, other alligators, turtles, waterfowl, cats, dogs, ducks, small livestock, humans. Meat is meat and food is food as far as the gator knows. North Carolina gators only eat during the spring, summer and early fall when temperatures are above 70 de-



Photograph by Jamie Moncrief, Wilmington Star News



Photograph by John Althouse

“Gator Country” (continued)

rees Fahrenheit. They grow slower than alligators that live in warmer climates. In fact, North Carolina is the farthest north that the American Alligator can live. Alligators are large, dangerous animals that can easily lose their fear of people, giving them the classification among biologists as “charismatic megafauna.”

North Carolina wildlife officials warn people not to feed alligators, which are common around waterways also frequented by tourists, especially in the southeastern part of our state. Almost all human attacks come as a result of illegal feeding. Although alligators have made a strong comeback after being hunted nearly to extinction in the 1900s, they remain listed as a threatened species. Sometimes an alligator is confused with its closest cousin, the crocodile. Our alligators have a short, blunt, rounded snout while crocodiles have a long, pointed snout. Cold-blooded alligators, the largest reptiles in North America, have overlapping jaws with darker coloration than the crocodile and are less tolerant of seawater, although they have been known to take a dip in the ocean. Unlike alligators, crocodiles do not live in North Carolina.

Alligators are diurnal and nocturnal, meaning they are active both day and night. They dig large holes into the earth and make dens that provide protection and a place to rest during very hot or cold days. The “doorways” to these

dens are usually accessed under water.

They are commonly seen on river banks, basking in the sun during the spring and summer. Alligators may be spotted in the water by watching for eyes, a head or snout protruding from the water’s surface. Social animals, alligators often gather with other gators during mating season. The alligator begins courtship in April and breeding goes on until May or early June. The female lays her eggs, about 30, in a nest she constructs of vegetation. The decaying organic material serves to heat the eggs. The nest is about two feet high and five feet in diameter. The white eggs, only a bit larger than chicken eggs, take about 65 days to hatch. The hatchlings are



Photograph by John Althouse



Photograph by John Althouse

“Gator Country” (continued)

about 9 inches long and sport yellow bands around their bodies. The young alligators leave the nest in early fall, but the mother keeps a close watch over them for up to two years. During the first six years of an alligator’s life, it will grow up to a foot each year. Male alligators normally grow to be 11 to 12 feet long. Females grow to around 8 feet long. The longest alligator ever recorded was a male over 19 feet long! The average lifespan of the alligator is 30-50 years, with the maximum most likely occurring in captivity. In North Carolina hunting or killing an alligator is illegal and only state wildlife officials can remove problem gators.

The images of the rescue and process of relocation of the alligator by the wildlife control officers and the “helpful” police officers were taken in Jacksonville, NC as the “wayward” one was heading to a shopping mall. The alligator was unharmed, loaded into the bed of a pickup and eventually transported to a “less residential” area at Holly Shelter Game Lands, Pender County, NC. Alligators can become aggressive if they feel threatened, especially when defending their nest or young and will attack humans, so do not approach them and by all means: DO NOT FEED THEM! Gators will mind their own business and stay away, unless they are being fed. Alligators have been around since the dinosaur days, so they will make do in the wild without an individual yielding to the temptation to picnic with them or any other human interference! Although death by alligator has occurred in South Carolina, Florida and Texas, there are no recorded human deaths in North Carolina due to alligator attack, so let’s keep it that way!



**Photograph by
John Althouse**

And The Winner Is ...

The symposium raffle is always popular. Possibly the biggest hit among the many items available for bids this year were two giant inflatable chipmunks!



Above: actual winner

Left: Chipmunk groupies

Below: actual winner



Photographs by
John Althouse



Rabid Black Bear Found Dead in Hyde County

by Jodie B. Owen, NC Wildlife Resources Commission

Reprinted with permission from NCWRC

FAIRFIELD, N.C. (Dec. 28, 2018) – A black bear found dead in Hyde County has tested positive for rabies — the first known case of a rabies positive black bear in the state, according to the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission.

Johnny Dale, of Fairfield, contacted the Commission on Dec. 17 after finding the yearling male bear dead at his game feeder. Dale reported he first observed the male bear the day before at his game feeder and that it was alive, but very lethargic and unable to move. Because the cause of death was not obvious, Commission personnel conducted an initial necropsy (autopsy performed on animals) and sent the bear to researchers at the Southeastern Cooperative Wildlife Disease Study (SCWDS) at the University of Georgia for further testing. On Dec. 21, SCWDS informed the Commission the bear had rabies, which had resulted in its death.

Rabies is a fatal disease, which can affect all mammals, causing inflammation in the brain with symptoms that can include lethargy, loss of balance, fever, anorexia, and/or eye and nose discharge. Signs progress within days and can include fever; swelling in the head, neck, tongue or eyelids; excessive salivation; difficulty breathing; difficulty swallowing; vomiting; paralysis; abnormal behavior, self-mutilation, aggression, and/or no fear of humans.



Note by editors: this is not the bear referenced in this article

Photograph by Melissa McGaw

“Rabies in wild black bears is extremely rare; it has been documented only four times in the lower 48 states since 1999,” said Colleen Olfenbuttel, the Commission’s black bear and furbearer biologist. “You can only get rabies by coming in direct contact with the saliva, tears, or brain/nervous tissue of an infected animal.”

The Commission offers the same precautions to bear hunters as it does for deer hunters to prevent disease transmission:

- ◆ Do not handle or eat any animal that is acting abnormal or appears to be sick.
- ◆ Wear latex or rubber gloves when field dressing; never handle a dead animal with your bare hands.

Rabid Black Bear (continued)

- ◆ Minimize the handling of the brain and spinal cord.
- ◆ Do not allow pets around your field dressing area to prevent contact with saliva, blood and other tissues.
- ◆ Wash hands, boots and instruments thoroughly after field dressing is completed.
- ◆ If a deer or bear is commercially processed, request that animal be processed individually and without meat from other animals.
- ◆ Use proper cooking temperatures to ensure safe food.

Anyone who encounters a black bear exhibiting disease symptoms or comes across a dead black bear should call the Commission's N.C. Wildlife Helpline at 866-318-2401. The call center is open Monday through Friday (excluding holidays) from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. On weekends, please call 800-662-7137.

The North Carolina Division of Public Health was contacted and provided recommendations to Dale regarding post-exposure treatment.

For more information about black bears in North Carolina, visit the Commission's website at
<https://www.ncwildlife.org/Learning/Species/Mammals/Black-Bear>

Or contact Jodie B. Owen at jodie.owen@ncwildlife.org



Note by editors: this is not the bear referenced in this article

Photograph by Melissa McGaw

WRNC Symposium 2019 Offers Something For Everyone

The WRNC Symposium offered a wide variety of classes, including some real hands-on experiences such as building nest boxes.

Over the course of two days, more than 30 lectures and 11 labs gave attendees some unique opportunities to learn, observe and maybe even get their hands “dirty”. One unique lab by Dr Joni Shimp demonstrated the technique of exercising raptors on a creance (“leash”).



Above: Nest box construction

Left: Creance-flying a Red-tailed Hawk

Below: Exercising a Barred Owl



Photographs by
John Althouse

2019 WRNC Chimney Swift Tower Grant Recipients

by Linda Bergman-Althouse

CONGRATULATIONS are in order for Michele Poe (Mocksville), Dr. Bobby Schopler (Chapel Hill) and Emilie Nelson (Lincolnton) who are 2019 WRNC Chimney Swift Tower Grant recipients. They each have received \$500.00 financial assistance and the Paul & Georganne Kyle book, "New Habitat for America's Mysterious Birds (A Construction Guide)" from WRNC. Within days or weeks (depending on the weather!), construction for three new alternative habitats in the form of towers for Chimney Swift nesting and roosting will begin. All three individuals are extremely passionate about conserving the Chimney Swift, our environmental partner, and chose to take proactive steps to increase the presence of Chimney Swifts in their respective areas.

We encourage and welcome others to apply for a 2020 Chimney Swift Tower grant by the annual November 1st deadline to increase the presence of Chimney Swifts in our state. Refer to the application information on our website: www.ncwildliferehab.org to ensure your proposed location meets the needs and requirements for returning Chimney Swifts and their habitat. Once again, Congratulations to the new grant awardees!

Let the building begin!



Chapel Hill

Photograph by Roxann Schager, 2018 WRNC CST grant recipient



Asheville

Photograph by Martha Fugate, 2018 WRNC CST grant recipient

Training Opportunities

Wildlife Rehab Inc. in Winston-Salem, NC offers an 11-week course (1 night/week) at **Forsyth Technical College** in the spring and fall.

<http://www.wildliferehabinc.org>

Coastal Carolina Community College in conjunction with **Possomwood Acres** offers a 6-month course in wildlife rehabilitation. See details at <https://www.coastalcarolina.edu/>

Look for listings in the Continuing Education Schedule under the “Veterinary Office Assistant” section

Wildlife Welfare in Raleigh, NC offers training courses. Check them out at <http://www.wildlifewelfare.org>

Carolina Raptor Center is offering a Basic Rehabilitation Seminar on Oct 26 &27, 2019. Topics include Anatomy, Physical Examination, Identification, Basic Triage, Diet, Housing, Bandaging and a Q&A session with Dr Scott, staff veterinarian at CRC. See details at www.carolinaraptorcenter.org

Record Longevity for Barred Owl

by Mathias Engelmann

The Bird Banding Laboratory maintains a list of the oldest band returns for all native birds. As of February 2019 the oldest Barred Owl was listed at 24 years 1 month. That particular owl was banded in May of 1986 in Minnesota as a youngster (Age L) and recovered in June 2010.

Carolina Raptor Center (CRC) has been banding rehabilitated birds since 1980 and has since collected information on more than 570 raptor band recoveries out of 7500 banded birds.

In January 2019 a banded Barred Owl was admitted to CRC from Statesville, NC with significant eye injuries and a fractured humerus. Unfortunately the owl had to be euthanized due to the severity of its injuries.

As it turns out, CRC had admitted, treated and released this owl in April 1993. It had been trapped in a chimney and suffered minor injuries at that time. The bird was at least 12 months old at the time of release.

Assuming a hatch date of April 1992 (or before) that makes this female (sexed during necropsy) Barred Owl at least 27 years 9 months old!!

We have submitted this information to the Bird Banding Lab.

Here is the link to longevity records - https://www.pwrc.usgs.gov/BBL/longevity/Longevity_main.cfm



Photograph by CRC

Thanks To Our Symposium Speakers!

The symposium would not have been possible without the efforts of the speakers and instructors! Thanks to all of them for coming, sharing their knowledge, answering questions and expanding our horizons.



Above: Dr Ernesto Dominguez,
DVM

Left: Suzie Jones, NCSU-CVM
student & WRNC veterinary
student liaison



Right: Melisse Hopping, Rehabilitator and WRNC Board member



Below: Daron Barnes, NC Wildlife Resources Commission



Photographs by
John Althouse

Thanks To Our Event Photographer

This newsletter would not be the same without some nice pictures. And I don't know about you, but it is a lot of fun just to browse through all the pictures of the WRNC Symposium that are posted on our website.

That is only possible because of John Althouse, staff photographer at the Daily News in Jacksonville, NC.

THANK YOU JOHN!

WRNC Newsletter Schedule

Do you have a wildlife-related idea you would like to share with the WRNC membership? You should think about submitting it to the editors for consideration. How about a relevant article you found somewhere? Send us a link so we can ask for permission to reprint it. Email all articles, ideas, comments and questions to:
Mengelmann@carolinaraptorcenter.org

The WRNC newsletter is published four times a year. The deadlines for submissions are:

March 1st June 1st September 1st December 1st.

WRNC Awards Two Cage Grants

The WRNC board has awarded two cage grants in December 2018.

- Emilie Nelson of Lincolnton, NC has been actively rehabilitating for over 10 years and takes in several hundred animals every year.
- KT Childress of Durham, NC has been a rehabilitator for over 6 years and currently takes in over 200 animals each year.

Both of the recipients will be building the desperately-needed new enclosures as soon as they can this spring and we'll publish photographs of the final products.

Congratulations!

If you need to upgrade an existing cage or build a new one and need some extra cash, apply for this grant! The deadline for applying is November 1st. Find all the details on our website—www.ncwildliferehab.org

Newsletter Editors

Linda Bergman-Althouse

Jean Chamberlain

Mathias Engelmann

Carla Johnson

Ann Rogers

