

# WILDLIFE REHABILITATORS OF NORTH CAROLINA

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## *Message from the President by Cathy Burns*

Dear Members,

Thank you to those of you that came to our symposium. It is always great to spend time catching up with fellow rehabbers and to have the chance to meet those of you that I hadn't been introduced to before. Networking is a very important part of being a rehabber and one of WRNC's goals. It is always nice to have that network of people out there to give you some support. Whether it is offering advice or listening to you when you are having a bad day [or week]. As many of us know, no one seems to be able to understand what you go through as well as another rehabber.

Putting on our symposium takes a lot of behind the scenes work and dedication. We have actually started to plan our next one. **So save the date, January 19th, 20th and 21st, 2018 at NC State College of Veterinary Medicine.** We are going over the surveys that were completed and taking your suggestion under advisement. One idea that was suggested was to have signs used to point the way to the school and the parking area. Great idea and we will be having signs made for us to put out and use. Keep those ideas coming! If you didn't attend or thought of something else after you left, please send those ideas to [info@ncwildliferehab.org](mailto:info@ncwildliferehab.org).

I can't say "Thank you" enough to our symposium committee! Thank you for all your long hard hours, all your emails that you sent out and followed up on, the countless phone calls, and all the other million things that need to be done to have the symposium come off so successfully. A special "Thank You" to Jean Chamberlain. She has been the rock of the symposium committee for years and we would be lost without her. We have been very fortunate to have her guiding the symposium committee, making sure that things run as smoothly as possible.

Have you renewed your membership to WRNC? While it is part of the symposium fee, not everyone took advantage of this easy way to renew their yearly membership. [http://www.ncwildliferehab.org/membership/membership\\_public.php](http://www.ncwildliferehab.org/membership/membership_public.php) The password is wildlife.

Did you know that you don't have to be on the board to be on a WRNC committee? We need member volunteers to help out. If you would like to be involved with the planning and execution of the symposium or join any of our other committees, please go to <http://www.ncwildliferehab.org/whoweare.php> then click on committee descriptions. If you have any questions or would like to join, please send an email to [info@ncwildliferehab.org](mailto:info@ncwildliferehab.org).

The spring baby season is already starting, please make sure to take care of yourself. Without you who will take care of the wildlife? I believe that one person can and does make a difference in the life of an animal.

Cathy Burns, WRNC President



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Greg Lewbart, DVM

## *WRNC Symposium 2017 Summary*

*by Jean Chamberlain*

Our 15th symposium was held at the vet school in Raleigh on January 21-22. Rehabilitators came from North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia and all the way from Michigan and California. About 250 people attended the conference.

Attendees had the opportunity to participate in more than 30 presentations and a variety of labs. There were sessions on backyard habitat enhancements, compassion fatigue, armadillos, groundhogs, chimney swifts, the illegal reptile trade, Chinese veterinary medicine, anatomy, neonatal care and many more. Workshops covered large bird and song bird bandaging, avian physical exam and necropsy, and turtle shell repair. An orthopedic surgery lab was held for vets.

Beginners took classes on fluid therapy, handling wildlife calls, the care of opossums, squirrels, zoonoses and basic medical. Beginner labs were conducted on performing a physical exam and the administration of sub-q fluids. There was also a cage building workshop.

Visit our website for a link to many photos of the participants and activities. I hope to see you all next year at symposium 2018. It will be held on January 20-21.

## *WRNC Board of Directors and our NCSU-CVM Liaisons*

*Photograph by John Althouse*



Front Row, L to R: Lou Mitchell, Carla Johnson, Amanda Falk, Amber McNamara, DVM

Middle Row, L to R: Mathias Engelmann, Greg Lewbart, DVM, Cathy Burns, Jean Chamberlain, Ann Rogers, Toni O'Neil

Back Row, L to R : Casey Colicchio, Nicole Himebaugh, Kelley Odell, Linda Bergman-Althouse, Rebekah Harp, Jennifer Heyward??

Not pictured: Kathy Lillard, Savannah Trantham, Mischa Trink, Mary Weiss

## *Wildlife Case Report: Sea Lion Pup*

*by Duane Tom, DVM; California Wildlife Center Malibu, CA USA*

This article is reprinted with permission from Lafeber. Visit their website listed below for additional articles:

<http://emeraid.com/wildlife-rehabilitation/wildlife-case-report-sea-lion-pup/>

### Introduction

California sea lions (*Zalophus californianus*) give birth to their pups around July. These pups usually nurse for the first 6 months but may stay with their mother about a year, before learning to catch fish on their own. For the past 3 years, however, California has been under an Unusual Mortality Event or UME for California sea lions. Thousands of pups have stranded with severe emaciation and other illnesses, possibly secondary to their poor body condition.

### The patient

On March 18, 2015, a pup was rescued by California Wildlife Center's Marine Mammal Rescue Team from a beach in Malibu, California. Although estimated to be approximately 8 months of age, she weighed only 8.1 kg, which is considered about what they should weigh at birth. A normal sea lion at this age should weigh over 25 kg. The pup was also shivering, presumably due to an absence of fat stores. Harsh lung sounds were auscultated.



### Case management

Upon presentation to our facility the pup began having grand mal seizures. We were unable to obtain an initial blood sample as is sometimes the case with these animals that present in such poor condition, likely due to a combination of hypothermia and hypovolemia. However, knowing that these young emaciated animals often present with varying levels of hypoglycemia we administered 16 ml of 25% dextrose solution intraperitoneally (IP) along with 200 ml of Plasmalyte-A with 2.5% dextrose administered subcutaneously. The pup was provided heat support and she was also started on injectable antibiotics for possible respiratory infection.

Normally, we hydrate all marine mammal patients on intake and gradually transition them from Emeraid Piscivore (Piscivore), to a fish gruel, and then onto fish; however, with severely hypoglycemic, seizing animals we immediately provide them with nutrition using Piscivore as soon as they are responsive. We feel this helps to maintain a more steady glucose state, thereby decreasing pronounced hypoglycemic dips. We start their initial gavaging at 90 g Piscivore/400 mL water to help with hydration. Not knowing the animal's stomach contents or capacity, we start with a gravity tubing. After the first 24 hours, we continued with Piscivore at a slightly more



## *Sea Lion Pup (continued)*

concentrated mixture of 90 g Piscivore/300 mL water, doing our best to even out her gavagings as much as possible throughout the day at 250 mL four times daily. The pup was also started on vitamins and other nutritional supplements. The pup continued to be very dull before having another seizure the afternoon of March 20. We repeated a dose of 16 mL Dextrose 25% IP, and then continued her Emerald tubings once responsive.

Over the next few days the pup became more stable and active so we began a gradual switch to fish gruel. She continued to improve over the next 4 days and on March 25 we offered her a small fish, which she ate readily. It took several weeks, but the pup continued to become much more active, however she continued to shiver, particularly after meals, so we continued heat support until her weight exceeded 10 kg. Once completely on fish and housed with other sea lion patients, the pup continued to become more active and gain almost 2 kg body weight per week until her release on June 19 at Westward Beach in Malibu at a much more normal weight of 26.7 kg!

### **Emeraid Use at the California Wildlife Center**

The California Wildlife Center receives numerous animals in poor nutritional states. At our wildlife rehabilitation facility we rely on the Emerald product line as our initial nutritional formulas, whether it be Emerald Piscivore, for our marine mammals or many species of sea birds, Emerald Carnivore for raptors, or Emerald Omnivore for numerous other species. These Emerald products often help our patients through their most critical period in rehabilitation.



**All photographs by Dr Duane Tom,  
California Wildlife Center**

## *Continuing Ed. for veterinarians and veterinary technicians at Lees-McRae College by Amber McNamara, DVM, CVA*

Lees-McRae College is hosting a one day, RACE-approved symposium, offering 7 hours of CE for veterinarians and veterinary technicians. The focus this year is to provide relevant information to veterinary teams that don't primarily see wildlife, but who will likely have cases presented to them or who just want more information.

<http://www.lmc.edu/community/wildlife-medicine-symposium.htm>

## 2017 WRNC Raffle Donor List by the Raffle Committee:

*Cathy Burns, Amanda Faulk, Sue Heritage, Kathy Lillard, Toni O'Neil, and Michelle Ray*

- NWRA: (National Wildlife Rehabilitators Association) - 2 travel coffee mugs, 1 owl t-shirt, 2 NWRA stickers, 2 CDs, 1 "Quick Reference" guide, 1 set "Wildlife Rehabilitation" Volumes 10-18, volumes 26, two #24s, 22, 21, one "Clinical Pathology", 1 set "Wildlife Rehabilitation Bulletin" volumes 25-28, 1 copy "Minimum Standards"
- Jim Craig, nature photographer - 4 matted pictures: Lavender-breasted bird, Oyster Catchers, Red-Cockaded Woodpecker, and Baby Owls peeking out of tree nest
- Kevin Geraghty, nature photographer - two large matted pictures of baby sea turtles
- Possumwood Acres - squirrel egg, baskets, carry bags, medical supplies, rodent bedding, kennel, pictures, hand-made gift cards, pillows, picture frame
- Mrs. Alice Sanders, nature photographer/artist - framed pictures: tree swallows, bear painting, swamp scene
- RodentPro.com, LLC ; [www.rodentpro.com](http://www.rodentpro.com) - one gift certificate valued at \$50
- North Carolina Zoological Society, Asheboro Zoo - 4 gift admissions passes
- Fox Valley Animal Nutrition, Inc.; [www.foxvalleynutrition.com](http://www.foxvalleynutrition.com); 20 gift certificates worth \$20 each (for one free 1 lb. bag of formula with free shipping each) Total donation value including freight = \$345.00
- Nature's Way; <http://thenaturesway.com>— 3 gift certificates for 5000 free medium mealworms plus shipping
- Golden Sands Beach Resort - Carolina Beach, NC; 910-458-8334; Mr. Jimmy Pope, Owner - one gift certificate for a 2 night stay
- Lafeber Company, [www.lafeber.com](http://www.lafeber.com); [www.lafebervet.com](http://www.lafebervet.com); - 5 packets Emeraid Herbivore, 5 packets Emeraid Omnivore, 5 packets Emeraid Carnivore, and 5 Intensive Care Basic User Guides



**This Raffle can get pretty exciting!**

**Photograph by John Althouse**



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## 2017 WRNC Raffle Donor List (continued)

- Elizabeth Hanrahan, Ocracoke, NC - large outdoor cage
- Droll Yankees; <http://drollyankees.com/> - donated one tube bird feeder and one Birds at the Feeder Identification Guide
- JurassiPet - <http://jurassipet.com/> - 1 Sample Box (contained 1 each: 250 gm. JurassiCal Calcium Supplement, 100gm. JurassiDiet Gut Load for Crickets, 80 mg. JurassiDiet Bearded Dragon Formula, 80gm. JurassiDiet Aquatic Turtle Formula, 60 gm. JurassiDiet Newt/Aquatic Frog Formula, 60 gm. JurassiDiet Hermit Crab Formula, 250 ml. Jurassi Safe,); (2 each of: 250 ml. Jurassi Fruit Flavor Enhancer Spray/Strawberry, 250 ml. Jurassi Fruit Flavor Enhancer Spray/Banana, 250 ml. Jurassi Clean Spray) (3 each: 250 ml. Jurassi Mite Spray, 250 ml. Jurassi Cal Spray)
- Carolina Hurricanes Hockey Club Raleigh, NC ; [www.carolinahurricanes.com/foundation](http://www.carolinahurricanes.com/foundation) - one gift voucher for 2 tickets to a regular season game, valued at \$180.00
- Armstrong's Cricket Farm <https://www.armstrongcrickets.com/> - brochures, business cards, 3 Pocket Pals



The competition for some items was fierce but everybody walked away happy; Photograph by John Althouse

[www.facebook.com/AnimalHelpNowWildlifeHelperResources](http://www.facebook.com/AnimalHelpNowWildlifeHelperResources); [www.facebook.com/AnimalHelpNow](http://www.facebook.com/AnimalHelpNow) - two T-shirts, literature, magnets, and window stickers



2017, and one gift certificate for 1000 any size live crickets or worms and one gift certificate for 1000 live crickets any size

- Duke Energy - 13 boxes of these versatile yellow rubber linesman gloves, assorted sizes
- Mazuri Exotic Animal Nutrition; [www.mazuri.com](http://www.mazuri.com) - one \$25 gift certificate and product information
- Squirrel Store; <http://www.squirrelstore.com/> - ten \$10.00 gift certificates and one \$5.00 gift certificate and business cards
- NC Aquariums; [www.ncaquariums.com](http://www.ncaquariums.com) - two complimentary admission passes
- Animal Help Now ; [www.ahnow.org](http://www.ahnow.org);

## 2017 WRNC Raffle Donor List (continued)

- Wildlife Rescue Nests; [wildliferescuenests@gmail.com](mailto:wildliferescuenests@gmail.com) - 20 handmade knitted baby bird nests
- Mike Dupuy Hawk Food; <http://mikedupuyhawkfood.com/> - donated one gift certificate for \$100 off Variety Pack order and one metal raptor perch
- Ghann's Cricket Farm, Inc. ; <http://www.ghann.com/> - five gift certificates worth \$10 each
- Linda Bergman-Althouse, author, and John Althouse, nature photographer - 3 Baskets:(Bee Happy, Afternoon Delight, and Time for Me & Tea) and 4 framed photographs (2 foxes and 2 bears)
- The Humane Society of the United States <http://www.humanesociety.org/> - 12 "Wild Neighbors" books and 13 Raccoon magnets
- Oxbow Animal Health; [www.oxbowanimalhealth.com](http://www.oxbowanimalhealth.com) - rabbit gift box: 1 tote bag, 1 timothy carrot, 1 bottle digestive support tablets, 1 pouch Bell Pepper Baked Treats, one 5 lb. bag essentials adult rabbit food, 1bag western timothy hay, 1 box western timothy with carrots harvest compressed stacks, 1 bag Pure Comfort small animal bedding, 1 medium timothy bungalow
- Cathy Burns - wine baskets
- Bonnie Graham - Set of squirrel salt and pepper shakers
- Liz Fisher - Large Blue Jay picture
- Carolina Raptor Center (CRC); <http://www.carolinaraptorcenter.org/> - one copy of "Raptor Medicine, Surgery and Rehabilitation" by Dr. David E. Scott ; One Gift certificate for 4 free admission passes; One Gift certificate for a two hour orthopedic surgical lab with Dr. Scott at CRC (for a veterinarian only)
- Mathias & Linda Engelmann - 2 cat scratching posts
- Staci Wood - various basket items
- Maria and Luis Luques - mirror set and 5 baskets with: crocheted handbags, puzzle, flag, 2 calendars, mealworm, Birds & Garden guide book, no melt suet, suet basket, letter/file box, pencil box, hand crafter newspaper wheelbarrow, chocolates, hand towel, calendar, note cards, set of kitchen towels, potholders, turtle pillow, 4 sets of original Pen & Ink wildlife drawings by Luis, and much more
- Betty Holloway - basket with stuffed animal, bird feeder, opossum in moonlight picture, and much more
- Michelle Ray - 2 assorted hot sauce gift baskets
- Monroe Road Animal Hospital, Charlotte NC - 2 boxes of medical and rehab supplies
- Grandfather Mountain; <http://www.grandfather.com/> - Behind the Scenes Tour for 4. Includes 4 separate passes to the mountain
- Grandfather Mountain - Keeper for a Day Passes for 2, with admission to the mountain included



## 2017 WRNC Raffle Donor List (continued)

- Gary Woodruff - 1 luxury wooden squirrel box
- Chris's Squirrels and More, LLC ; <https://www.squirrelsandmore.com/> - 10 Miracle Nipple Sample Sets (1 cc syringe/short nipple, 3cc syringe/long nipple, bracelet, information) - total value of \$89.50
- Betsy Shank; [bdshank@gmail.com](mailto:bdshank@gmail.com); Auntie MM's Custom Boutique - Cuddle Cube, Cozy Pocket, Pocket Hammock, Boa, Jingle Buddy
- Zoo Med Laboratories, Inc.; <http://www.zoomed.com/> - 50 plastic decorated gift bags, 50 product catalogs, one ReptiBreeze open air screen cage, one Reptisun 9x13" LED terrarium Hood, 2 giant size ReptiHammocks, one 50 W ReptiTuff splashproof halogen lamp, one 75WReptiTuff splashproof halogen lamp, 1ReptiSun 10.0UVB 13 W bulb, 1 mealworm feeder, 25 Quick Reptile Lighting Facts, 4 Cricket Calcium & Gut-load Blocks, two 1.2 oz. Can O'Grasshoppers, two 1.2 oz. Can O'Superworms, six 125 ml. ReptiSafe Water Conditioner, two 2.0 oz. Crested Gecko Food- Juvenile Formula, two 2.0 oz. Crested Gecko Food- Adult Formula, two 1.6 oz. Hatchling Formula Aquatic Turtle Food, two 2.1 oz. sinking Mud/Musk Turtle Food, one large Floating Turtle Log, 12 Box Turtle Guides, 12 Leopard Gecko Guides, 12 Hermit Crab Care & Maintenance Guides, 12 Bearded Dragon Guides, 12 Water Turtle Care & Maintenance Guides, 12 Beginner's Guides to Reptile Care, two 13 oz. Aquatic Turtle Food - Growth Formula, two 12 oz. Aquatic Turtle Food - Maintenance Formula, two 15 oz. Forest Tortoise Food, two 15 oz. Grassland Tortoise Food, two 20 oz. Box Turtle Food, two 8.25 oz. Gourmet Box Turtle Food, two 4.5 oz. Gourmet Repti Sticks Floating Aquatic Turtle Food, two 7.5 oz. Gourmet Tortoise Food, two 8.25 oz. Gourmet Bearded Dragon Food, one 12 oz. ReptiCalcium with D3, one 12 oz. ReptiCalcium without D3, one small set Glow Bowls, one set Medium Glow Bowls, two 8.0 oz. Reptivite withD3, six 3.0 oz. ReptiCalcium without D3, six ReptiCalcium with D3,
- Friends of the WNC Nature Center; [membership@wildwnc.org](mailto:membership@wildwnc.org); Asheville NC; [www.wildwnc.org](http://www.wildwnc.org) - 2 one-day passes to the Western North Carolina Nature Center
- Wildlife Welfare, Inc.; <http://www.wildlifewelfare.org/> - basket with squirrel ceramic dish, squirrel framed picture, baby knitted nest, cookie cutter set



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## *2017 WRNC Raffle Donor List (continued)*

- Mr. and Mrs. John Lillard donated: (16) koozies,(1) glass framed 14x16 duck picture,(2) 10 inch bird feeders, (1) multi tester,(4) pair scissors,(1) hat flashlight, (1) mini flashlight,(1) blue hanging flashlight,(1) fingernail kit,(2) metal bookmarks,(10) paper bookmarks,(41) calendars,(60) card sets,(15) wrapping paper sets,(16) t-shirts,(5) long sleeve t-shirts,(4) blankets,(4) plastic buckets,(1) american flag 3x5,(2)stuffed animals (tiger,otter),(3) dream catchers,(2) large plastic cups,(2) cans glass cleaner,(1) bottle carpet cleaner,(2) tape measures,(1) mini cooler,(3) hand fans,(1) glass humming bird feeder,(7) glass container candles,(2) pillar candles,(1) 3 wick candle,(1) mug warmer,(1) multi function flashlight, (1) coffee mug,(1) bird carving (tree fungus)(1) deck nascar playing cards,(1) bird house ornament,(2) screw driver sets,(1) rubber nascar coaster, (1) tony tiger key chain, (1) fanny pack,(1) set of 3 golden guide books( trees,spiders, butterflies & moths),(1) leather notebook,(4) portfolios,(1) small notebook,(1) pink pig key chain,(33) tote bags,(2) duffle bags,(1) computer bag,(1) garden pouch,(2) over the shoulder bags,(1) apple bird house,(2) eagle steins (Avon),(1) bear stein (Budweiser) Also donating two sets of free Checkers admission passes
- Elizabeth Hyde - Foot massager \$15, Bear Christmas ornament \$7, Cell phone portable charger \$1, Color changing owl lights \$12, Paw print photo frame \$1, Cat calming collar \$1, Red bag \$1, Ice breaker \$1, Post card \$1, Little cow \$1, Nail file \$.50, Training treats ×3 \$1 each, Omega 3 supplements \$12, Royal canin bag \$1, Blue bag \$1, Christmas ornaments \$5, Fuzzy socks \$2, Swell water bottle \$10, Red bag \$1, Lunch box \$1, Purple scarf \$1, Pink tie dye scarf \$1, Pink cashmere \$3, Coozie \$3, Selfie stick \$5, Lanyard \$1, Coloring book + pencils \$12, Blue bag \$.50, Perfume roller \$5
- Vernon Dee Wood; GE Hitachi - NC flag, nest box house, dog socks, dog purse
- Susan Brumbaugh [susan@namegamedesign.com](mailto:susan@namegamedesign.com); Southport, NC - 2 custom embroidered tote bags ( 1 great horned owl and 1 peregrine falcon), 1 custom embroidered duffel bag (Gray Squirrel); 1 custom embroidered stitched apron (peregrine falcon); Total value = \$60.00

**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 Lake Boone Trail in Raleigh and especially Emily for once again providing free coffee for the symposium !*



## *“Smart as a Fox” by Linda Bergman-Althouse*

*As written for “Carolina Salt Magazine”*

We once received an evening call about a bunny burrow being unearthed by a snoopy Jack Russell Terrier. Although the cottontails were unharmed, separation of dog and bunny had to happen, as well as repairing the bunnies’ home. While replacing the nesting material and putting the infants back to ensure their Mom would continue feeding them, the wildlife rehabilitator (me!) noticed a shadowy figure across the road sitting very still and watching her every move. After closer examination, the patient observer turned out to be a very interested Red Fox. I probably don’t have to tell you that plans changed immediately, and the bunnies headed to the Outer Banks Wildlife Shelter in Newport to be raised and eventually released.

It’s exciting when you catch a not so common glimpse of wildlife, especially an elusive species known to avoid people as they live their wild lives, but its unfortunate such a gorgeous creature as a Red Fox has so many unappreciative things said about it even though it’s part of the dog family, which is man’s best friend. Although they don’t readily sport any nicknames, people describe them as smart, clever and sly! They have taken on these descriptive terms because the problem solving fox is known for its many sophisticated tricks for losing predators like backtracking and running on fence poles to confuse or eliminate tracks.

Although due to North Carolina law we cannot rehabilitate a Red Fox at our shelter, we have seen our share of beautiful foxes passing through the grounds at the facility and feel blessed that the bordering states’ wildlife rehabilitators can and do take on the task of fox rehabilitation. Because they are here, in Eastern North Carolina, we should know more about these stunning wild dogs and how to co-exist with them peacefully, especially since they eat lots of insects, mice and rats that would multiply much faster than we could manage if they weren’t on duty.



**Photograph by John Althouse**

The Red Fox is distinguished from other fox species by its ability to adapt quickly to new environments. Foxes are shy, non-aggressive and primarily nocturnal animals, so it’s not likely most people will encounter a Red Fox in the wild. However, the Red Fox is the most widely distributed canid or wild dog in the world. It is named for its red-orange coloration. The tail, body and top of the head are all some shade of yellow-orange to reddish-orange. The undersides are light, and the tips of the ears and lower legs are black. Red Foxes can occur in other color variations, such as black, silver, or a cross between red and silver, commonly known as a “cross fox.” A rare genetic condition, can also cause a Red Fox to appear brown or gray in color. The Red Fox may be active during warmer hours of the day since their thin coat lacks insulation. The tail, used for balance, signaling and thermal regulation,

## *“Smart as a Fox” (continued)*

is long (about 70 percent as long as the head and body length), bushy and has a white tip. Adults are the size of a small dog and weigh from 7.7 to 15.4 pounds, but their skulls and muzzles are narrower than most domestic dogs. Their canine teeth are relatively long. Their eyes are specially adapted to night vision with a unique layer of cells that reflect light back through the eye, which is very cat like. North American Red Foxes are generally lightly built, with comparatively long bodies rather than the stout and heavy build of the European Red Fox. Preferred habitats include farm land, pastures, brushy fields and open forest stands. They frequently hunt the edges of these open habitats.

The Red Fox, unlike other mammals, hears low-frequency sounds very well and can hear small animals digging underground. They frequently dig in the dirt to catch prey. Mice, meadow voles, squirrels and rabbits form the bulk of its diet, but it will also eat insects, reptiles, invertebrates, birds (including game birds, so keep your chickens close, very close), eggs, fruits and berries in spring, summer and fall. Since the Red Fox is also a scavenger, it may also eat carrion and garbage. They continue to hunt even when full and store the extra food under leaves and dirt. They are agile and capable of jumping over 6 to 7 foot fences and can swim well. Foxes are so athletic they have been known to climb trees and settle on low branches.

The Red Fox mates from January through March. The female will make one or more dens or burrows, also called earths, right after mating. The extra den locations are used if the original den is disturbed. The same dens may be utilized year after year. A little less than two months after mating, the female gives birth to a litter of between one and seven kits. The male brings the female food while she is caring for the kits who have short noses and resemble puppies when born. The parents create a



**Photograph by John Althouse**

patted down dirt area just outside the den, and the kits are allowed to play there when they are about a month old. Mom discourages the youngsters from leaving that mound of dirt, especially when she is away hunting. The mother begins feeding her kits regurgitated food to wean them, and eventually she brings them live prey to "play" with and eat. Playing with live prey helps the young kits develop the skills they will need for hunting. They catch small rodents with a characteristic high pounce. This technique is one of the first things cubs learn as they begin to hunt.

Red Foxes are usually together in pairs or small groups consisting of families, such as a mated pair and their young, or a male with several females with kinship ties. The young of the mated pair remains with their parents until at

## *“Smart as a Fox” (continued)*

least the fall of the year they were born and will sometimes remain longer, especially females, to assist in caring for new kits. Although the Red Fox tends to prey on small mammals and smaller predators, it is vulnerable to attack from larger predators, such as wolves or coyotes, but in our coastal area, the human and their motor vehicles are the Red Fox’s most dangerous predators.

Red Foxes have been known to live 10 – 14 years in captivity but live on average 5 years in the wild. Unfortunately, the Red Fox can become habituated to humans if easy access to unnatural foods exists. To avoid conflicts, people should keep their yards and neighborhoods free of feeding sources such as pet food. Sometimes well-intentioned people who feed feral cats attract the red fox, as well as coyotes, raccoons and opossums. A concentration of many species of wild animals sharing food sources could result in outbreaks of certain diseases, such as rabies or canine distemper. Sharing the planet with the Red Fox, as with any wild animal, demands that safety precautions be taken. Makes sense!



**Photograph by John Althouse**

**Note from the editors:** The ability to climb trees may be a skill that has to be taught to Red Foxes by Gray Foxes they happen to come into contact with. Gray Foxes can usually climb trees but it is not really natural instinct, they have to be taught by the previous generation. However most Red Foxes cannot climb trees. The only **Red Foxes** that can climb trees are some of the ones that live around gray foxes.

If you have any insight into this phenomenon, feel free to send us an update or article for a future newsletter.

## *Past Newsletters are a Great Resource*

*by Jean Chamberlain*

Did you know that most of the past WRNC newsletters can be found on the website? They are available once you log in as a member by clicking on the newsletter link on the left, near the bottom. At the top of the newsletter page there is a link for the past issues. There is also a link to a list of the articles in each of the newsletters. To find articles on particular topics use the article search by entering a keyword. There is a wealth of information available in our past newsletters waiting for you to enjoy.

## *Wildfire Preparedness*

*by Toni O'Neil*

Wildfire preparedness is top of everyone's mind after the deadly wildfire in Tennessee. While news out of Gatlinburg showed how some wildlife facilities fared very well, it is a somber reminder that planning for such events is essential. Preserving human life is always the highest priority in an emergency situation and it is quite possible that your area will have a mandatory evacuation if threatened by wildfire. However, there are steps you can take beforehand to mitigate risk to your animals and your facility. Please see the below resources on wildfire preparedness for further information:

The National Fire Protection Agency (NFPA)

- General wildfire preparedness <http://www.firewise.org/wildfire-preparedness.aspx>
- Defensible space <http://www.firewise.org/wildfire-preparedness/be-firewise/home-and-landscape/defensible-space.aspx>
- Landscaping and plant lists <http://www.firewise.org/wildfire-preparedness/firewise-landscaping-and-plant-lists.aspx>

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)

- How to Prepare for a Wildfire [https://www.fema.gov/media-library-data/1409003859391-0e8ad1ed42c129f11fbc23d008d1ee85/how\\_to\\_prepare\\_wildfire\\_033014\\_508.pdf](https://www.fema.gov/media-library-data/1409003859391-0e8ad1ed42c129f11fbc23d008d1ee85/how_to_prepare_wildfire_033014_508.pdf)
- Ready.gov wildfire preparedness <https://www.ready.gov/wildfires>

Red Cross

- Wildfire preparation, response, and recovery, including active wildfire maps <http://www.redcross.org/get-help/prepare-for-emergencies/types-of-emergencies/wildfire#Recover>

## *Disease Investigation Services*

To request diagnostic services or report wildlife mortality, please contact the NWHC at 608-270-2480 or by email at [NWHC-epi@usgs.gov](mailto:NWHC-epi@usgs.gov), and a field epidemiologist will be available to discuss the case. To report wildlife mortality events in Hawaii or Pacific Island territories, please contact the Honolulu Field Station at 808-792-9520 or email Thierry Work at [thierry\\_work@usgs.gov](mailto:thierry_work@usgs.gov). Further information can be found at <http://www.nwhc.usgs.gov/services/>. See also the Wildlife Mortality Reporting and Diagnostic Services Request Worksheet.

## *Two Thumbs Up and 5 Stars for this weekend's 15th annual Wildlife Rehabilitators of NC Symposium! by Stephanie Farrell*

This was my first year attending the symposium, although I've been part of Wildlife Welfare Inc. (WWI) for over 3 years. I enthusiastically encourage those who have not attended to seriously consider going next year! It's a wonderful way to gain a lot of wildlife knowledge, about many different topics, in a short amount of time, from experts in their field!

After registering online, I must admit that I was a little confused about the format and wondered if I signed up correctly to get the most out of the weekend. But once I arrived Saturday morning, it was easy to figure out and not as intimidating as I thought. I chose to only attend classes that were offered throughout the day and did not sign up for any labs....I'm sure, my loss. You can attend any of the classes that interest you, no matter what level. You don't have to sign up, just show up. The class sessions were broken down into 3 Tracks: Beginner, Intermediate, and Advanced. I found all 3 levels to be interesting, challenging, and of course very informative. The "lectures" were interactive and questions from the attendees were highly encouraged. All the classes were super interesting and all the speakers were passionate and enthusiastic about their topics! Since I only do squirrel release, most of the classes I chose were to learn and gain a better understanding of the animals you work with every day. I learned so much more about wildlife rehab and have a greater appreciation for all you do to care for our NC Wildlife!!! Thank You!!!

Both Saturday and Sunday lunches were delicious and the hour lunch break was a wonderful time to meet other rehabbers and/or vets around the country. I thought I drove a long way (one hour) but one girl I met at lunch drove from Minnesota!!! (Yikes! ...she won!) I also met a very, very interesting holistic vet who kept me mesmerized throughout lunch with her research and work in holistic medicine.

I unfortunately missed Friday night Meet & Greet and the Saturday Banquet. I'm sure they were awesome! I just wanted to write to express my excitement and gratitude for this wonderful opportunity in our own backyard!



*I have been an animal-lover since birth. Since I was a little girl, I have always been action-oriented in helping and rescuing animals in need. I am full of compassion and empathy for all animals and could never turn a blind-eye to one in need. I graduated UNC School of Nursing in 1978 then joined the US Air Force Nurse Corps. Helping, healing, serving, and caring is a huge part of who I am. Throughout the many years of raising 3 active kids, we rescued many dogs and spent a lot of time watching wildlife in our own backyard. Through observation, we learned so much about animal behavior and*

## *Two Thumbs Up and 5 Stars (continued)*

*their unique personalities. I taught and encouraged my children to love and respect all of God's creation and to live in harmony with all our wildlife. I'm now doing the same with my 5 grandchildren. It wasn't until 3+ years ago that I volunteered with WWI, a wonderful group of compassionate people who are truly dedicated to the rehabilitation and release of injured and orphaned wildlife. I am proud and honored to play a small role with WWI in helping to care for our NC wildlife. I plan to further my involvement and education in animal advocacy and to continue to make a difference in the well-being of our furry friends.*      *Stephanie Farrell*

*One of my favorite quotes: "I expect to pass through this world but once, any good thing therefore that I can do, or any kindness that I can show to any fellow creature, let me do it now; let me not defer or neglect it, for I shall not pass this way again." Stephen Grellet*

## *Wildlife Commission Seeks Information in Bald Eagle Death by NC Wildlife Resources Commission (reprinted with permission)*

RALEIGH, N.C. (Feb. 8, 2017) — The N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission is asking for the public's assistance in identifying the person(s) responsible for the shooting death of a bald eagle on Feb. 6 in Chatham County.

The eagle was spotted on the side of Siler City-Glendon Road near Harper's Cross Roads. The carcass was transported to the N.C. Zoo in Asheboro where a veterinarian confirmed the eagle had died from bullet wound to the head.

Bald eagles are protected under the Bald and Golden Eagle Act, and killing one is a federal offense punishable by up to two years in prison or a \$250,000 fine.

Anyone with any information is asked to call Wildlife Enforcement Officer Claude Smith at 919-239-9897 or 800-662-7137. Information also can be submitted through the agency's **WildTip** program. Persons who provide information that results in an arrest and conviction are eligible for a reward. All information received will remain anonymous.

## ***FOUR Chimney Swift Tower Grant Approvals for North Carolina!!!*** by Linda Bergman-Althouse

During the WRNC Board of Directors meeting at the annual symposium in Raleigh, FOUR, yes 4, WRNC Chimney Swift Tower grant applications from a field of six were selected and confirmed to each receive a \$500 Chimney Swift Tower Grant!! Our program does state three Chimney Swift Tower awards annually, however, no cage grant applications were received this year, so board members voted to add another Chimney Swift Tower selection in support of our WRNC membership and the state of North Carolina.

Grant recipients, Robert Cherry – Valle Crucis, NC (Valle Crucis Community Park), Dr. Adam Philipps & Madison Clements – Grimesland, NC (G. R. Whitfield K-8 School), Tom Tribble – Asheville, NC (Beaver Lake Bird Sanctuary) and Lanie Wood – Hickory, NC (Civiton Park), have been awarded WRNC Chimney Swift Tower grants to construct towers that will provide alternative habitat for Chimney Swifts, as well as, to improve the quality of life for the residents of their communities. Each recipient has put together a team to build their 2017 Chimney Swift Tower and will ensure it is executed properly and in a timely manner. They all have made a commitment to seeing this project through and maintaining their tower for years to come.

The WRNC has instructionally and financially helped erect 17 Chimney Swift Towers (which includes this year's recipients) across our state

since 2008. Other concerned and passionate conservationists and bird enthusiasts have proactively sought our organization's guidance regarding Chimney Swift Tower construction but elected to use their own funding to build a Chimney Swift Tower. IT'S ALL GOOD!

If anyone is interested in constructing and maintaining a Chimney Swift tower to benefit the birds as well as your community, WRNC is in a position to help conserve this natural resource and encourage Swifts to return to North Carolina by offering a Chimney Swift Tower Grant to any environmentally active group or individual who will seek appropriate site approval, properly construct and regularly maintain a Chimney Swift Tower in their area. Find the requirements and WRNC Chimney Swift Tower Grant application online at <http://www.ncwildliferehab.org>. New applications must be submitted prior to January 5, 2018.



**Photograph by John Althouse**



**Photograph by John Althouse**

## *Cage Grant awarded to Western North Carolina rehabilitator by Mathias Engelmann*

The WRNC board awarded one cage grant for \$ 500 to Jeffries (she goes by Jeff) Standen of Candler, NC. Jeff is a mammal rehabilitator with over 16 years of experience and specializes in rabbits. In 2016 alone she cared for over 250 of them. She will be working closely with the Appalachian Wildlife Refuge and together they can definitely put this cage to good use.

WRNC has given out a total of 19 cage grants since 2005, the first year they were offered.

If you are interested in applying for a cage grant, visit WRNC's website at [www.ncwildliferehab.org](http://www.ncwildliferehab.org) for information and the application form.

## *WRNC Symposium from the Perspective of a Veterinary Student by Jennifer Heyward*

The Wildlife Rehabilitators of North Carolina (WRNC) Symposium is a great place for rehabilitators from across North Carolina and the neighboring states to come to learn from each other and share resources. However, being hosted at NC State's College of Veterinary Medicine also offers an incredible opportunity for veterinary students to explore the community of wildlife rehab. For those of us interested in wildlife medicine, it provides amazing experience through the lectures and hands-on labs, but it also exposes students who may have never thought about being a wildlife veterinarian to the joys and excitement that the profession offers. This year we had several dozen students volunteer with the symposium, many of whom are not currently considering careers in wildlife medicine. Whatever niche of veterinary medicine we end up filling, it is highly likely that we will be asked to handle or treat wildlife at some point during our career. By offering lectures on topics such as emergency triage, bird ID, feeding, mammal physical exam or avian necropsy labs, the WRNC symposium is allowing students at NC State to prepare themselves for when the concerned citizen brings the injured squirrel into their small animal clinic or they find an injured fawn on one of their farm visits. We cannot thank the WRNC board and all of the presenters or other rehabilitators who come to the symposium enough for allowing us to actively participate in this great event. We look forward to seeing everyone again next year!

*Jennifer is a first-year veterinary student at NCSU-CVM and is currently serving as an official liaison for WRNC. She, as well as, Casey Colicchio, Rebekah Harp and Nicole Himebaugh were instrumental in recruiting volunteers for the symposium among the veterinary student body at NCSU. Together they spent the entire symposium weekend helping out with many different tasks. We greatly appreciate their enthusiasm and interest in wildlife medicine and rehabilitation.*

## *HPAI Identified in Tennessee Poultry*

*by Amber McNamara, DVM, CVA*

Earlier this month, the USDA confirmed the presence of highly pathogenic avian influenza virus at a poultry operation in Lincoln County, Tennessee. This represents the first incidence of HPAI in the United States in 2017. The Tennessee outbreak appears to have been swiftly and effectively contained.

Domestic turkeys and chickens are extremely sensitive to the more severe, “high path” form of this disease, and the effects can be devastating to poultry flocks. Wild birds, especially waterfowl and shorebirds, are often implicated as factors in disease transmission. The virus can be passed in feces and nasal or ocular secretions. The disease can be spread to susceptible birds via equipment, materials, and shoes contaminated with infected feces, as well as direct contact with infected birds’ secretions.

Wild birds often have few to no clinical signs of infection. Bird enthusiasts, wildlife rehabilitators, and backyard poultry operators are encouraged to be vigilant to the presence of the disease in North Carolina. Per the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission, clinical signs in wild birds, if present, may include: bluish skin or legs, nasal and eye discharge (possibly bloody), head tilt, incoordination, depressed attitude, or sudden death.

Prevention strategies include diligence in practicing good hygiene (frequent hand washing, not eating while handling animals, wearing gloves that can be disinfected or discarded), using an appropriate disinfectant, separating wild hawks and waterfowl that are receiving care, and reporting sick birds or unusual bird deaths to state officials. More information can be found at the USDA’s Avian Influenza website (<https://www.usda.gov/topics/animals/one-health/avian-influenza>).

Here is a link to the story on HPAI in TN:

[https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/newsroom/news/sa\\_by\\_date/sa-2017/hpai-tn-update](https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/newsroom/news/sa_by_date/sa-2017/hpai-tn-update)

If you are interested in attending a meeting with USDA officials regarding biosecurity at your rehabilitation facility, please contact Dr. Joni Seymour, DVM, Rocky Point Animal Hospital and Cape Fear Raptor Center: [doctorjoni@capefearraptorcenter.org](mailto:doctorjoni@capefearraptorcenter.org)

## *WRNC’s Facebook Page helps Wildlife*

*by Cathy Burns*

Hi, I am Cathy Burns, one of the administrators for the WRNC Facebook page (and your current President). One of the things we would like to use the Facebook page for is to help get the word out when you or your organization is having a training event. Also, if there is an animal that needs transport from one area to another, I would like to post that. All you need to do is send me a message at [patcatb@aol.com](mailto:patcatb@aol.com) or text me at 910-650-9978 with the information such as date of training, location of training, cost and who to contact. For an animal that needs transport, I need location of animal, where it needs to go and who to contact.

## *Newsletter Editors*

Linda Bergman–Althouse

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