

2020 Instructors

Daron Barnes

(Wildlife Rehabilitation RVS Regulations)

Daron graduated from NC State University in 1996 with a Bachelor's degree in Fisheries and Wildlife Sciences. He has been an employee of the NC Wildlife Commission for 18 years, and is currently the Section Manager over Regulated Activity Permits (RAPS) and the Human Wildlife Interactions (HWI) call center. He is responsible for endangered species permits, wildlife and fish collection licenses, captivity licenses for rehabilitation and holding, falconry licenses, controlled hunting preserves, wildlife damage control agents, special hunt opportunities, non-farmed cervid facilities, gamebird propagation licenses, taxidermy licenses and special permits. He also supervises a human wildlife interaction hotline providing assistance and technical guidance to callers regarding wildlife observations, injured wildlife, and wildlife damage.

Linda Bowen

(Bats 101, Kindergarden for Wood Ducks)

Linda is licensed by CT DEEP, specializing in bats and also by USFWS to rehabilitate migratory birds, specializing in waterfowl. She works closely with CT DEEP and USFWS regarding bat populations and White Nose Syndrome and is coauthor of the nationally recognized protocol *Rehabilitating Bats with White Nose Syndrome* which is available for free download at www.bats101.info. She authored the chapters on bats in both the NWRA *Topics in Wildlife Medicine: Orthopedics* and *Medical Management of Wildlife Species: A Guide for Veterinary Practitioners* published by Wiley-Blackwell and the section on bats in the upcoming revision of IWRC's *Minimum Standards*. *Tabitha's Tale* is her children's book about bats which is also available through her website www.bats101.info. She has published articles in state and national rehabilitation journals and has lectured at several wildlife conferences in the northeast.

Dr. Ernesto Dominquez

(Handling and Restraint of Wildlife, Amphibians)

Dr. Ernesto Dominguez grew up in Mexico City. After two years of studies in medical school (2003-2005), he quit med school to follow his dream of becoming a veterinarian. Dr. Ernesto graduated from the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM) School of Veterinary Medicine in 2013. During his last year of veterinary school, Dr. Ernesto spent some time doing his graduation project in avian orthopedics at the Wildlife Center of Virginia. After getting his degree, he completed different postgraduate training in wildlife centers and zoos around the world, including the Belize Wildlife and Referral Clinic, Arcas Wildlife Center in Guatemala, The Maryland Zoo in Baltimore, Africam Safari Zoo in Mexico, and the Johannesburg Zoo in South Africa. From September 2015 to June 2016 he completed an internship in Raptor Medicine and Surgery at the Raptor Center at the University of Minnesota. Dr. Ernesto is currently the Hospital Director of the Wildlife Center of Virginia; he is a Certified Wildlife

Rehabilitator, and he oversees the medical treatment and rehabilitation of more than 2,600 patients per year.

Maureen Eiger

(Release Criteria for Bird, Deciding Where to Release Birds)

Maureen Eiger is the founder and Director of Help Wild Birds; Roanoke's only nonprofit wildlife rehabilitation organization that exclusively rehabs migratory birds. She is a State and Federally Permitted Bird Rehabber and has been rehabbing various species of birds for over 12 years. She has been a contributing writer to the North American Bluebird Society Journal, The Roanoke Star Newspaper, various Audubon and bird club newsletters and the blog 10,000 Birds. She receives hundreds of calls a year from people from all over the country asking for advice to solve their "bird problems" or answer bird related questions.

Maureen is an avid birder, a Virginia Bluebird Society Board Member and previous Vice President of the Roanoke Valley Bird Club. She enjoys teaching bird rehab and non-rehab bird programs to various groups and networking with other bird rehabbers across North America. You can say her life is very "birdy."

Mathias Engelmann

(Bat House Workshop)

Mathias is a biologist and the Senior Rehabilitation Coordinator at Carolina Raptor Center where he has worked for 37 years. Under the guidance of staff veterinarian Dr. Scott, Mathias, along with several other staff members and many volunteers and interns, provides day-to-day care for 800-1000 new raptor admission every year. Mathias specializes in cage construction and raptor banding.

Nina Fischesser

(Working with Your Vet)

Nina Fischesser has been a licensed rehabilitator since 1991, was the founding WRNC president. She works with Avian, small mammalian, and reptilian native NC species. She holds a MA in Environmental Education and Communication from Royal Roads University in Victoria, BC Canada, and a BA in Therapeutic Recreation from Southern Illinois University. Nina has been employed for 15 years at Lees-McRae College in Banner Elk, NC, as Director of the May Wildlife Rehabilitation Center, teaching wildlife rehabilitation and wildlife education through experientially based program as a BS in Wildlife Biology: Concentration Wildlife Rehabilitation.

Nina was employed by the North Carolina Outward Bound School as a field instructor for 11 years, and is a strong believer in experiential education through wildlife rehabilitation and wilderness adventure.

Elisa Fosco

(Skunk Rehab, Fox Rehab, Rehabbing Rabbits)

Carla Johnson

(Handling Wildlife Calls, Zoonoses/Sanitation/Keeping it Clean)

Carla has been rehabbing for over 25 years and is on the board of WRNC. She has coordinated wildlife rehabilitation classes through the local community college in Winston-Salem, NC and presented countless environmental education programs to the surrounding community. Carla is WRNC's current President, is on the symposium committee and helped put together and teach the refresher course taught by WRNC.

In her spare time, she rescues dogs from puppy mills and natural disaster situations, is the Southeastern Region coordinator, treasurer as well as one of the board of directors for Chihuahua Rescue & Transport, a national 501(c)3 organization and enjoys working to place unwanted hairless dogs.

Dr. Gregory Lewbart

(Turtle Shell Repair)

Greg has degrees from Gettysburg College, Northeastern University, and the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine. He worked for a large wholesaler of ornamental fishes before joining the faculty at the North Carolina State University College of Veterinary Medicine in 1993, where he is Professor of Aquatic Animal Medicine. He is a diplomate of both the American College of Zoological Medicine and the European College of Zoological Medicine, is an author on over 125 popular and scientific articles about invertebrates, fishes, amphibians and reptiles, and speaks locally, nationally and internationally on these subjects. He's also authored or co-authored 25 book chapters and edited or co-edited four veterinary textbooks.

Kathy Lillard

(Introduction to Rehabilitation)

Kathy has been a member of WRNC since it was formed, and has been helping behind the scenes for several years, especially during the Symposiums and Raffles. She has also been a member of NWRA and IWRC. "I have always loved animals and living in the country I rehabbed animals before I knew what rehabbing was. Now she is an independent rehabber and has been rehabbing for 20 years. Mainly, she rehabs small mammals (but not bunnies – I scare them to death) She prefers to work with neo-nates, as she has the time to take them on! Kathy has served on the WRNC Board for 8 years and has also chaired the symposium raffle committee.

Toni O'Neil

(Introduction to RVS Rehab)

Toni O'Neil has been rehabilitating since 1991 and specializes in songbirds, shorebirds, raptors, and waterfowl. Currently she teaches the Wildlife Rehabilitation courses through Coastal Carolina Community College in Jacksonville, NC and the online courses through the Animal Behavior Institute.

Since 2003 she has been the Founder and Executive Director of Possumwood Acres Wildlife Sanctuary in Hubert, NC.

Lynn Oliver

(Woodchuck, Albinism)

Betty O'Leary

(Avian Physical Exam Lab, Beak Anomalies and Injuries)

Betty has 25 years of raptor experience at Carolina Raptor Center. She worked with birds in rehabilitation and permanent resident birds used for education. She operated a hawk watch and raptor banding station during fall migration at Pea Island National Wildlife Refuge for four years, and assisted with two other stations for 10 years. She enjoys teaching others on raptor rehabilitation and care, and performing necropsies.

Linda Ostrand

(Observation: First Look at an Old Problem)

Linda has BA in education and an MS in psychoeducational processes. She has worked with urban wildlife for over 30 years, rehabilitating wildlife in Pennsylvania, Virginia and North Carolina. She now is the executive director of Our Wild Neighbors, a wildlife center in Hillsborough NC.

Barbara Ray

(Raccoon Rehab)

Barbara Ray received her Bachelor of Science in Animal Science from Ohio State University. She is currently Dublin's Nature Education Coordinator and the Rehabilitation Director for Crows Hollow Wildlife Care. Prior to Dublin, Barbara was the Director of Education for the Ohio Wildlife Center and Animal Programs Coordinator/Trainer for the Columbus Zoo from 1989-2001. She has worked as a licensed rehabilitator and veterinary assistant from 1981-present. As an Adjunct Professor at Otterbein University, she guided the captive wildlife management and environmental interpretive curriculum for the new Zoo and Conservation Science 4 year degree program, now in its 6th year. Both past and current responsibilities include creating environmental education programs and providing animal management services and consultation in the community to design and promote habitat modification and green corridors to facilitate peaceful co-existence with wildlife.

Dublin is one of the founding partners of the Ohio Wildlife Community Cooperative, a state-wide cooperative to promote peaceful and safe coexistence with wildlife and Barbara sits on the committee to plan and implement the annual conference. She is also the Emerging Infectious Diseases and Rabies Vector Chair on the Ohio Wildlife Rehabilitator's Association Board of Directors, and created and teaches the rabies certification for the State of Ohio. She has earned numerous awards such as the Audubon Youth Service award and recognition for work in Environmental Education, animal behavior management and wildlife conservation.

Dr. David Scott

(Large Bird Bandaging Lab, Avian Necropsy, Raptor Eyes and Eye Injuries)

David Scott earned his BS in Electrical Engineering from the University of Illinois in 1988 and his DVM in 1997. He is currently the staff veterinarian at the Carolina Raptor Center where he oversees the medical care of close to 1000 birds each year. His specialties include orthopedic surgery and bioinformatics and he has developed the RaptorMed medical management software system in use at many major rehabilitation facilities worldwide. He regularly speaks at avian conferences both nationally and internationally and teaches veterinary students in an intense hands-on RaptorVet externship program.

In addition to the 2nd edition of his book, "Raptor Medicine, Surgery and Rehabilitation" he just recently published "The red-tailed hawk: A surgical dissection", a detailed layer-by-layer of a common wildlife species.

Dr. Joni Shimp

(RVS Rehab and Vets)

Dr. Joni Shimp went to the University of Minnesota for her undergraduate degree and North Carolina State University for her veterinarian degree. She works full time in her mixed animal veterinary hospital in Rocky Point, and she operates a small but thriving Raptor Rehabilitation Center out of the veterinary hospital. The Cape Fear Raptor Center provides surgical and medical care to raptors that benefit from specific treatments that are limited to a veterinary setting. Her vision for the future is to be a resource to local rehabilitators who have raptors that have extensive injuries with the goal to treat and repair and then return them to the original rehabilitator.

Vicki Windham

(Here BeDragons, Environmental enrichment in a rehab setting: starting a dialogue)

Vicki is the President/Director of North Mt Wildlife Rescue. She retired as a zookeeper after 22 years and has been a rehabber for the last 12 years. She specializes in reptiles, opossums and cottontails but also cares for other small mammals.
