

## 2022 Instructors

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### **Cindy Bailey**

*(Rehabilitating Squirrels 101, Rehabilitating Squirrels 201)*

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### **Dr. Kerri Bailey**

*(Herptofauna Zoonoses, Emerging Reptile and Amphibian Diseases)*

Dr. Kerri Cooper-Bailey has served as an exotic species and small animal veterinarian in the state of Virginia for over 10years. She has worked in the field of wildlife medicine as a wildlife rehabilitator for over 20 years and enjoys working specifically in the fields of raptor (eagles, hawks, falcons, and owls) and reptile rehabilitation. Dr. Bailey and her husband are both Master Falconers. She has worked with venomous species for decades and gained her American Zoological Association certification in venomous species in 2009. Since then she has been a consultant for the rehabilitation and management of such species for many years including training law enforcement and animal control officers on safe handling, containment and first aid. She currently is an Adjunct professor at the Virginia – Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine on the Blacksburg campus at Virginia Tech. She lectures constantly for local public events all the way to national veterinary conferences. Dr. Bailey spends her spare time with her fellow wildlife rehabilitator husband, 6 dogs and small zoo of birds and reptiles they care for at their home.

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### **Daron Barnes**

*(Wildlife Rehabilitation RS 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.

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### **Linda Bergman-Althouse**

*(Compassion Fatigue, Squirrel-Ailments)*

Linda began volunteering at the Outer Banks Wildlife Shelter (OWLS) in Morehead City, pursuing her passion in wildlife conservation and rehabilitation twenty-six years ago. She achieved her certification as a state wildlife rehabilitator and continues to volunteer at OWLS, working clinic in rehabilitation, coordinating and accomplishing field rescues and mentoring new volunteers, as well as, working independently in the field of wildlife rehabilitation. Linda has been presenting wildlife classes on issues

and topics relative to the field of wildlife rehabilitation such as "Squirrel Ailments," "Anything & Everything Squirrel," "Alternate Habitat for Chimney Swifts," "Professionalism," "Hazards of Wildlife Rehabilitation" and "Treating the Human Animal" for many years as requested by coordinators for wildlife symposiums and conferences held in our eastern region. Linda is proactively concerned with the loss of wildlife habitat due to progressive development in Onslow and its surrounding counties and regularly attends community and civic meetings to voice those concerns through education, as well as, rally support. Linda holds a Master of Science degree in Educational Psychology. Linda grew up in rural Macon County, Illinois with many chickens, cats and dogs, but after 30 years of in state residency calls North Carolina home. She is Eastern Illinois University Alumna, an author, a retired U.S. Marine, College Psychology Instructor, Industry Training Developer & Line Build Designer, Career Transition Counselor for the DOD, Wildlife Rescuer and Rehabilitator, current board member of Wildlife Rehabilitators of North Carolina, Inc. (WRNC) and staunch advocate for animal rights and conservation of our natural resources. Linda resides in Onslow County, North Carolina with her retired Marine & Professional Photographer husband, John, and three (indoor only) cats; Seven, Shadow and Frizbee.

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**Moriah Boggess**

*(CWD: NC Surveillance and Response Plan)*

An NC native from the foothills of Wilkes Co. Moriah earned a degree in Fisheries, Wildlife, and Conservation Biology at North Carolina State University. He went on to earn his master's at Mississippi State University where he studied the effects of white-tailed deer on oak reproduction dynamics. His personal interests in deer ecology, forest dynamics, and plant communities are represented in his professional work and hobbies. Beyond his academic experience Moriah has worked for the Indiana Department of Natural Resources as the state deer biologist and now serves in this same capacity for the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission.

*(CWD: NC Surveillance and Response Plan)*

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**Linda Bowen**

*(Bats 101)*

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](http://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](http://www.bats101.info). She has published articles in state and national rehabilitation journals and has lectured at several wildlife conferences in the northeast.

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**Jean Chamberlain**

*(Basic Medical Terminology for Beginners)*

Jean has been a rehabilitator for about 30 years, specializing in raptors for over 20 years. Jean presents many wildlife education programs each year for Owls Roost in the Forsyth county area. She designed

and teaches WRNC's Basic Course and chairs the committee that organizes the symposium each year. Jean is past president for WRNC, is on WRNC's Board and is the treasurer and its web administrator. Jean created Raptor ID on IWRC's website and is on the Curriculum Development Committee for IWRC's courses.

Jean is active in the Forsyth Audubon Chapter, participates in several area bird counts, the Climate Watch nuthatch survey, the NC Bird Atlas survey and coordinate the Pilot Mountain Hawk Watch each September. Jean is an advocate for exposing orphaned songbirds to their song while they are in rehab. She is currently recording birdsong, studying the song of our resident songbirds and creating a website for the recordings.

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**Melissa Coe**

*(Educational Programs for Children)*

Melissa is the founder and president of Piedmont Wildlife Rehab and has been rehabbing for over twenty years. She specializes in birds and loves designing programs for the group.

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**Dr. Ernesto Dominguez**

*(Critical and Intensive Care, Wound Management)*

Dr. Ernesto Dominguez is currently the Associate veterinarian at Wellesley Animal Hospital, in Richmond, VA. Dr. Ernesto Dominguez grew up in Mexico City. After studying two years of Human Medicine, Dr. Ernesto graduated from the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM) School of Veterinary Medicine in 2013. 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, African Safari Zoo in Mexico, The Wildlife Center of Virginia, and the Johannesburg Zoo in South Africa. In 2016 he completed an internship in Raptor Medicine and Surgery at the Raptor Center at the University of Minnesota. From 2016-2020 he was the Hospital Director at The Wildlife Center of Virginia. Ernesto's research has been focused on wildlife and conservation medicine. He is Board Certified by the American College of Veterinary Preventive Medicine. Dr. Ernesto and his wife, who is an LVT, love traveling and spending time with their two dogs and three cats.

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**Rebecca Duerr DVM MPVM PhD**

*(Critical Care Nutrition, Avian Anatomy, Avian Necropsy Lab)*

Dr. Rebecca Duerr is the Director of Research and Veterinary Science at International Bird Rescue's two wildlife clinics in California. She earned a BS in Marine Biology and Limnology from San Francisco State University, then completed her DVM, MPVM, and PhD degrees at University of California Davis, with graduate work on the clinical care of oiled Common Murres and the nutritional energetics and physiology of Common Murres and Western Grebes. She was the lead editor and an author of the 2nd edition of Hand-Rearing Birds (2020), contributed Seabird Medicine and Orphan Care chapters to Medical Management of Wildlife Species: A Guide for Practitioners (2019), co-wrote the wild orphans section of recent editions of the Merck Veterinary Manual, plus co-edited and wrote several chapters in NWRA's Topics in Wildlife Medicine, Vol. 4: Orthopedics. She is a frequent speaker at wildlife rehabilitation, avian veterinary, and waterbird biologist conferences. She has served on the Board of

Directors of the National Wildlife Rehabilitators Association since 2014 and serves on the Scientific Advisory Committee for the Oiled Wildlife Care Network.

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**Maureen Eiger**

*(Essentials for Rehabilitating Swallows & Swifts, Tips & Tricks for Raising Songbirds Roundtable)*

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 the author of one of the new chapters and co-author of another chapter in Hand-Rearing Birds, Second Edition edited by Rebecca Duerr and Laurie Gage.

As a State and Federally Permitted Bird Rehabber Maureen has been rehabbing various species of birds, teaching and presenting programs for over 20 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 bird rehabbers / people from all over the country asking for advice to solve their "bird problems" or answer bird related questions.

Maureen is an avid birder and previously a Virginia Bluebird Society Board Member and 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.

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**Mathias Engelmann**

*(Bat House Workshop)*

Mathias is a biologist and the Senior Rehabilitation Coordinator at Carolina Raptor Center where he has worked for 39 years. Under the guidance of staff veterinarian Dr. Scott, Mathias, along with several other staff members and many volunteers and interns, he provides day-to-day care for 800-1000 new raptor admission every year. Mathias specializes in cage construction and raptor banding.

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**Suzie Gilbert**

**(Keynote Address:** Tales from the Front: A Rehabber's World of Mirth, Madness, and Misidentification)

Suzie Gilbert worked for the Hudson Valley Raptor Center for 11 years, then ran her own all-species bird rehab center out of her home for another decade. She is the author of the children's book *Hawk Hill* (Chronicle), her bird rehabbing memoir *Flyaway* (HarperCollins), and the suspenseful wildlife adventure novel *Unflappable* (Perch Press). She has written environmental columns, articles, and was the wildlife rehab blogger for the great birding website *10,000 Birds*. She lives in the Hudson Highlands of New York.

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**Jennifer Gordon**

*(Social Media and Rehab)*

Jennifer Gordon, Executive Director - She is the founder of Carolina Waterfowl Rescue. Jennifer has volunteered at the Carolina Raptor Center and became a mammal rehabilitator with Animal

Rehabilitators of the Carolinas (ARC). Jennifer has amassed over 20 years of rehabilitation experience with mammals, reptiles as well as birds. Early on in her career she helped pioneer techniques along with her veterinarian for prosthetic development. Her work has been featured in shows like PBS Nature Series documentaries as well as National Geographic.

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**Carla Johnson**

*(Handling Wildlife Calls, Zoonosi: 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.

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**Traci Keller**

*(Bobcat Rehab)*

Traci Keller is the Wildlife Care Assistant Manager for the Lake Metroparks Wildlife Center in Kirtland, Ohio. Traci has been rehabbing a variety of native Ohio wildlife for over 20 years, providing daily care to both rehab patients and 30 resident animal ambassadors, including a Bald Eagle, various raptors, gray foxes, opossums, and variety of herps. Traci helps oversee the care of over 2500 animals that the center receives each year. Traci has specialized in Bobcat Rehabilitation, and has had much success with this species since 2013. Currently, the Lake Metroparks Wildlife Center is the only rehab facility in the state that rehabs bobcats. Traci has presented on this topic at both OWRA and IWRC symposiums in the past years.

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**Dr. Gregory Lewbart**

*(Turtle Shell Repair Lab)*

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, Wildlife, and Zoological Medicine. He is a diplomate of the American College of Zoological Medicine and the European College of Zoological Medicine, is an author on over 200 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 30 book chapters and edited or co-edited five veterinary textbooks.

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**Kathy Lillard**

*(Introduction to Rehabilitation)*

Kathy lives in Edenton with her husband and 2 cats. She worked at Wildbirds Unlimited for 3 years and enjoys working in her yard, volunteering in the community, and being outdoors in general.

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 taking a break, but has been rehabbing for 21 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.

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**Dr. Mary Ann McBride**

*(Regulations for Education Mammals)*

Mary Ann McBride, DVM works with USDA APHIS Animal Care. Her territory is North Carolina and includes exhibitors, breeders, brokers and research facilities. She is a North Carolina native and has served as the Assistant State Veterinarian for NC Department of Agriculture and Staff Veterinarian for USDA APHIS Veterinary Services Professional Development Staff. She has also been in private practice for over 20 years. Her rehab passion is bobcats.

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**Dr. Amber McNamara**

*(Avian Fracture Assessment, Songbird Bandaging Lab)*

Dr. Amber McNamara is an Associate Professor of Biology at Lees-McRae College and the veterinarian for the college's May Wildlife Rehabilitation Center. Courses taught at LMC include Advanced Clinical Wildlife Rehabilitation, Comparative Vertebrate Anatomy, Zoonotic Diseases, and Digital Radiography, as well as assisting the director in facilitating clinical instruction of wildlife rehabilitation students. She came to LMC in 2013 and previously worked for the Clinic for the Rehabilitation of Wildlife (CROW) for over eight years. She is a 2003 graduate of Purdue University and is currently completing a master's degree (almost done!) in health sciences with a One Health focus through the University of Florida.

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**Toni O'Neil**

*(Introduction to RS Rehab, Capture & Restraint of Small Mammals & Birds)*

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.

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**Betty O'Leary**

*(Avian Physical Exam Lab, Raptor ID)*

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.

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**Paige Person**

*(Cottontails 101)*

Paige Person received her BS in Conservation of Natural Resources at NCSU. She is one of the original founders of the Heartwood Montessori School in Cary NC. She spent most of her life involved with her horses until she fell in love with rescuing small mammals. Paige is on the board of WRNC and is a rehabber, mentor and instructor with Wildlife Welfare in Raleigh. She is head of Wildlife Welfare's training team...teaching classes to train new rehabilitators and providing advanced training classes for current members. She enjoys mentoring new rehabbers and taking them under her wing each season.

Paige works full time and devotes most of her time away from work to nurturing our native wildlife. She has a special love and interest in cottontails. She enjoys being involved with other compassionate likeminded animal lovers and making a difference. She is a lifelong learner, which is one of her favorite parts of rehabbing.

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**Michele Poe**

*(The Making of a Mentor)*

After 30 years' service as a 911 Supervisor and then the Evidence Management Supervisor for the Winston-Salem Police Department, Michele retired in 2008. While working, she earned a BS from Gardner-Webb University, an AA from Forsyth Technical Community College, and a General Instructor Certificate from the NC Justice Academy, qualifying her to instruct certification training for telecommunicators and police and fire recruits. She became a NC rehabilitator in 2009 and is licensed to rehabilitate fawn and small mammals and currently teaches new and experienced rehabilitators, veterinary staff, and the public about wildlife rehabilitation. Michele helps to develop curricula, facilitate, and provide instruction in a twelve-week *Introduction to Wildlife Rehabilitation* virtual course sponsored by Wildlife Rehab, Inc. (WRI). She served on WRI's board of directors for ten years (president for nine), as the public board member of Veterinary Hospital Manager's Association's (VHMA) Certified Veterinary Practice Managers (CVPM) for six years, and is a current board member of Wildlife Rehabilitators of NC (WRNC). Michele is currently participating in NC's new mentorship program and hopes to help develop a professional and valuable program for rehabilitators statewide.

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**Linda Ostrand**

*(Observations)*

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**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.

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**Ann Rogers**

*(Medical Math for Small Mammal Rehabbing)*

Ann has been a licensed home rehabilitator of small mammals since 1988. She has been federally permitted for songbirds since 1991. She is a board member of both Wildlife Welfare, Inc. and WRNC. She has a degree in mathematics from Duke University and retired from her job a software developer in 2000. She is the mother of two adult sons, a Boston terrier, two house sparrows, and two pet mice, who all travel in a motorhome with her and her husband when they take extended trips.

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**Mary Ellen Rogers**

*(Waterbirds)*

Mary Ellen is an environmental activist. She bought the Sea Biscuit beach cottage on Oak Island as a rental investment in 2003. Then she moved in 2 years later. She had retired from real estate and signed up as a volunteer at Ft Fishers Aquarium. She found no local facility for injured birds and decided to start one. She drove to the Morehead City area every week for over a year in order to gain shorebird experience. State and federal permits were received in March of 2007. Veterinary assistance is donated by local doctors. A team of transporters bring injured birds to the clinic. Donations finance the shelters day to day expenses, and grants take care of capital improvements.

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**Hailey Roman**

*(Reducing Animals’ Psychological Stress in a Wildlife Rehabilitation Setting)*

My name is Hailey Roman and I’m a senior majoring in Animal and Poultry Science at Virginia Tech. This

summer, I completed an internship at Possumwood Acres Wildlife Sanctuary where I gained 270 hours of hands-on wildlife rehabilitation training. I also completed my capstone project on the outside crow cage.

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**Dr. David Scott**

*(Large Bird Bandaging Lab, Raptor Case Studies)*

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.

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**Dr. Joni Shimp**

*(RS Rehab and Vets, Falconry and Its Techniques for Use in Conditioning)*

Dr. Joni Shimp went to the University of Minnesota for her undergraduate degree and North Carolina State University for her Veterinary Degree. She works full time in her mixed animal veterinary hospital in Rocky Point, and founded Cape Fear Raptor Center in 2012. She has a strong background in Bald Eagle rehabilitation and reconditioning. She is a co-researcher and author on multiple Bald Eagle research projects. Joni, her husband Scott, and their two children manage and live on Broken Dog Farm, home to 3-day Eventing and Dressage horses.

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**Linda Veraldi**

*(Rehabbing Opossums)*

Linda has lived in Raleigh for 38 years with her husband Sam, and 2 children. Has always had a passion for anything with 4 legs. Originally from New York State where as a child she always had dogs, bunnies, and horses. She was rehabbing before she knew it was a "thing". Finding Wildlife Welfare, Inc. in Raleigh and becoming a licensed Rehabilitator has been a dream come true. As she enjoys rehabbing opossums, squirrels and bunnies, she has found her passion with opossums. She was asked to join WWI's Opossum Training Team as her love for this misunderstood creature was infectious. She helped launch the move for the 2020/2021 training season for dozens of new rehabbers to a Zoom platform. It was a great success. She is also a mentor to new rehabbers and loves nothing more than to see them grow and thrive with each group of babies they take in. She loves to educate and inform everyone she meets about rehabbing and the wonderful Virginia Opossum and would love to re-educate the public about their abuse and mistreatment

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**Dr. Eva Welch**

*(Targeted Electromagnetic Field Therapy)*

A native of Tulsa, Oklahoma, Eva Welch graduated from Oklahoma State University College of Veterinary Medicine in 2004. After practicing small animal and exotic companion animal general medicine in Durham for 11 years, she co-founded Healing Paws Veterinary Hospital in Hillsborough, NC. In 2021, she made the decision to transition to a career in holistic medicine. While she advances her skills in this area, Dr. Welch is currently serving as the primary veterinarian and board member for Our Wild Neighbors in Hillsborough, NC.

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**Dr. Carl Williams**

*(Rabies, the Disease & Vaccinations)*

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**Tonya Weil**

*(Everything Bird)*

Tonya Weil holds federal permits for all bird species and state permits for small mammals, reptiles, amphibians and birds.

Tonya stumbled into wildlife rehabilitation while trying to find that one thing she needed in life, passion in work! In 2013, while attending UNCW for Environmental Science, she completed an internship with Toni O’Neil at Possumwood Acres Wildlife Sanctuary in Hubert NC. She decided wildlife rehabilitation was what had been missing in her life and dove in. She became the Education Coordinator at Possumwood Acres and set out to make the world a better place for wildlife by educating the public.

In 2019, she started at Cape Fear Raptor Center. Raptors have always been her soft spot and CFRC has allowed her to focus on them and grow as a wildlife rehabilitator. CFRC was founded by Dr. Joni Shimp and having a DVM and falconer as her mentor has allowed her to obtain valuable and advanced skills in wildlife rehab. This is where Tonya completed her Eagle mentorship.

In 2020, When the Raptor Center went to education only, Tonya and long-time friend Kaitlan Adkins, formed Wild at Heart Wildlife Sanctuary. They specialize in Eagles and Raptors but take in whatever needs help.

Before wildlife rehab, Tonya was a Marine and proudly served her country as a CH-46 aviation electrician and aerial gunner. She was meritoriously promoted twice and left the Marine Corps as a Sergeant. She obtained her AA in Liberal Arts from National University in La Jolla CA. Her husband Chris, retired from active-duty Marine Corps as a Gunnery Sergeant in 2020. They have an amazing daughter, Tiffany, that attends the Onslow Early College High School and many furry and feathered family members to keep them busy in their free time (aka not baby season).

Current WRNC Board Secretary.