

2023 Instructors

(Additional speakers will be listed as they are confirmed)

Linda Adams

(Baby Bird ID)

Cindy Bailey

(Rehabilitating Squirrels 101, Rehabilitating Squirrels 201)

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.

Linda Bergman-Althouse

(Compassion Fatigue, Alternate Habitat for Chimney Swifts, Is Mentoring for You)

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.

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 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.

Dr. Ernesto Dominquez

(Critical and Intensive Care, Handling and Restraint)

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.

Maureen Eiger

(Renesting birds, 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.

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.

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.

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.

Dr. Amber McNamara

(Vertebrate Anatomy, 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.

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.

Betty O'Leary

(Avian Physical Exam Lab, Feather Imping Lab)

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.

Falyn Owens

(Rabies Species Regulations, CWD)

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.

Dr. David Scott

(Large Bird Bandaging Lab, Retrospective look at raptors with spinal and ocular trauma)

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

(Avian Influenza)

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.

Linda Veraldi

(Rehabbing Opossums, Opossum Wheel Lab)

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

Dr. Carl Williams

(Rabies, the Disease & Vaccinations)

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).