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EWC'S NEWSLETTER

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Letter From the President

I hope you have enjoyed this slow time because I hear the mating calls already. Here we are in early March. Owls and hawks are already hatching, and so we wait.

The center has had a full winter. Our first call of the year, a raptor call, came in on Jan. 1st. I would guess there have been 3 calls a week since then. EWC is flying 2 blue herons in one of our cages for American Wildlife Refuge out of Raleigh and we are glad to help. We also still have AJ the bald eagle and a new eagle named Jefferson. Two of our hawks are ready for release as well as the herons but it would be death to them to be let go in the dead of winter in unfamiliar hunting areas so we will wait.

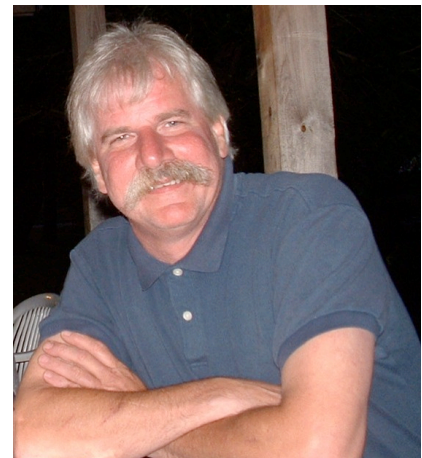
We need to hear from the membership as to what supplies you might need for the new year and we will try to accommodate. Certainly formulas and nipples will be provided. The key is to be ready. Don't wait until you get a call to find the heating pad, or syringes. Set yourself up now. I personally use a fishing tackle box. It's easy to throw in the car and has plenty of organizational compartments that I stock with stuff. I try to have everything in it I might need, meds, syringes, tape, scissors, hemostats, bandages, nipples, iodine, some Nutrical, formula, and fluids.

As you grow in rehab you will find yourself as the first person to get to an animal and sometimes fluids, stopping bleeding or nutrients will make the

difference in whether the animal survives the trip home or to the vet, so be prepared.

The Eagle Scout project is finally moving thru the approval process and should be accepted by the county commissioners. I cannot wait until they finish their work. The center will be a different place with a lot of updates. It's a very big project with 20 scouts working, so I will sit back and watch! We will get the sign painted with our logo, new bridges, a new aviary and any existing cages that need repair (rotten wood) will get it. A new 10 by 16 foot , 4 section squirrel/bird cage will be added. A lean-to roof will be added to the building for outside storage as well as shelves inside. Junk in the woods will be hauled off. Paths will be cleared, and a new expansion area cleared for the future. WOW! See you next time.

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WRNC's Fifth Annual Symposium

On January 26th, 27th and 28th the Wildlife Rehabilitators of North Carolina (WRNC) held it's fifth annual symposium in Asheboro, NC. Several EWC members attended this year. Kay Raade, and Nimette Soli picked up Judith Wilt from Goldsboro and stayed for the entire symposium arriving just in time for the Friday night "Ice Breaker". Paula and Brianne Poppe joined them on Saturday and Sunday and Anne Dewar was there for Saturday's events.

This year, like last year, there were workshops on cage building, administering subcutaneous fluids, calculating medication dosages, and doing necropsies. Talks were given on many topics including chimney swifts, killdeer, ground hogs and fawn. As in years past WRNC offered a tour of the wildlife rehab facility at the Zoo. And, a Federal Permit class was premiered.

That class, created by a special committee within WRNC, taught participants what to know about birds before getting a Federal permit, and what steps to go through to apply for that permit. It was an eight hour class, split between Friday and Saturday and will be offered to interested groups around the state.

There were talks and workshops and vender's tables set up everywhere you turned. There were rehabbers everywhere too. Rehabbers were buying books and t-shirts and syringes and formula, going to presentations or workshops, exchanging rehab stories, meeting new people and having a wonderful time.

This symposium, like symposiums in the past, held a raffle as a fund raiser. There were two walls of tables set up in the large conference room where donated items were displayed. Raffle tickets were being bought up and stuffed into raffle boxes all day long. At the drawing Saturday evening folks won Fox Valley formula, beautiful wildlife art, hide boxes, books, gift certificates and even a sleeping bag. Our own Kay Raade donated some beautiful wildlife art items from her online store, www.cafepress.com/kayzsqriz, for the raffle. There was so much to raffle off that it seemed that

half of the attendees won something.

The banquet, held Saturday night, allowed rehabbers the opportunity to talk and talk and talk with folks of like interest while enjoying really good food. After everyone was full there was a brief business meeting at which retiring Board members were replaced through a quick election of officers. And, a change in how the WRNC newsletter would be delivered was announced. It was stated that all newsletters will be emailed to the membership from now on unless members specifically request that it be mailed parcel post. A \$15 dollar fee will be charged to those wanting a hard copy of the WRNC newsletter.

All in all, EWC members had a good time at the WRNC '07 Symposium. Whether or not it was the camaraderie, the presentations, the workshops, the vendors tables, or the raffle, everyone enjoyed something.



Photographed in front of the North American entrance to the North Carolina Zoo are, from left to right, Nimette Soli, Brianne Poppe, Kay Raade and Judith Wilt.

Rehabbing Turtles, Not All It's Cracked Up to Be

One of the better presentations at this year's WRNC symposium was on working with turtles. Several tidbits of information were important enough to pass along to the EWC membership.

Many of us, in our attempts to help wildlife, rescue turtles we find trying to cross busy roads. Did you know that if they are taken from that immediate area, say to your home for release, you haven't helped that turtle as much as you might have thought?

Box turtles have a defined home range of two and a half to ten acres with most turtles staying within the smaller area. They will try their best to return to their home turf no matter how far they have to travel to get home. This may hold true for other types of turtles as well. By taking them away from their home area you have put them in danger from the additional roads they'll have to cross and miles to travel to get back. They won't know where to find food, water or shelter in the new area. In addition, they will carry their own pathogens across other turtles' territories.

All animals carry parasites as well as micro organisms that cause no harm to that animal. But, if shed in a different environment they can cause health problems for any animals that have not been exposed to those new organisms. So, by releasing a turtle away from his home you've not only further endangered him but also put at risk other turtles his path might cross.

The best way to rescue a turtle from a

busy road is to help it along it's path. Take it across the road in the direction it was traveling. If that doesn't remove the turtle from danger take it to a safer release site as close to where it was found as possible. Remember, you're trying to keep it within it's home range.

Another bit of important information that will help you help turtles involves shell repair. Turtles can recover from seemingly catastrophic injuries. They can heal from severely cracked shells and even live with pieces of missing shell. So, if you find a turtle that's been hit by a vehicle, don't write it off unless you know that it has expired.

Even if the turtle you stopped to rescue is dead you might be able to provide aid. If it's a female turtle and you find it during late spring or summer she was probably on her way to a good egg laying site. Females are identified by a flat rather than mildly concave bottom shell. A dead female turtle may be carrying eggs that are still viable, even if she's well past expired. Those eggs can be removed, set up in an appropriate nest, and hatched successfully.

Turtle numbers are decreasing world wide. Like so many other animals, they are losing habitat. North American turtles are sold into the pet and food trade world wide. Our road ways claim many turtles too. Help them out. Stop for injured turtles and take them to a rehabber with training in turtle care. And, help them along their way when your paths cross, just don't remove them from their home range.



Photograph from Lehigh Wildcare depicting a female box turtle with a plastron, or bottom shell, crack repair.

What is That ?

One of the joys of rehabbing is occasionally getting to work with an unusual animal. Marti Brinson is luckier than most in that she has worked with quite a few different animals in her long career.

A few weeks ago she got a call about a baby animal that needed help. The caller didn't know what he had but told her his rescue story. He and his kids were out on the water, in Martin County, and came up to a beaver mound. They found a tiny critter on top of the den crying loudly for it's Momma. It was skin and bones, weighing only about 5 oz at the time of rescue. Even though they tried to put it back three or four times it kept swimming to them. So, they picked it up, took it home and then got on the phone to find a rehabber to help. To make a long story shorter, the little guy wound up with Marti Brinson who immediately identified it as a baby nutria.

Nutria, known as coypu throughout the rest of the world, are found along the coast and inland waterways of NC but aren't yet numerous in this state. They were imported from fur farms in South and Central America to Louisiana back in the 1930s. They were originally introduced to supplement the fur trade in that state. By the 1940s it was also thought that they could help clean out

aquatic plants that were choking waterways and so were exported to other Gulf Coast states. Nutria more than thrived, spreading so rapidly that they are now considered a nuisance animal along the Gulf Coast.

A member of the rodent family, nutria look like small beavers with a rat like, instead of a broad, flat tail. Adults average about 12 lbs and they can produce two litters of babies per year with up to 13 babies in each litter. Although most litters contain only five or six young. They have a similar life style to beavers. They are great swimmers, sometimes building dens in river banks like muskrats, and foraging on vegetation, both aquatic and terrestrial.

Ms. Brinson primarily feeds her little guy kitten milk replacer and supplements his diet with greens and other vegetables. He loves spinach, carrots, butternut squash, apple, sweet potato and clean grasses along with little grain. He also gets a few raisins per day "to keep the bowels moving right", as Marti puts it. He's very talkative, grunting, churring and squealing when she's near. And he loves to play with his squeaky toys while he's in the bathtub for his daily swim. He's growing, sleek and handsome, and very happy that he wound up with Marti.

"He loves to play with his squeaky toys in the bathtub."



Letter From the President, continued

The phone call:

"Dr Ansley?" "Yes." "Sir, we live in the country and have been seeing a bald eagle in the field." "A bald Eagle?" "Yes sir, we are birdwatchers and it is a large black eagle. I believe a juvenile."

"Well, that would be correct as far as color. What's wrong with it?" "I think its wing is hurt." "So, you think you can get it in a container?" "Ha, Ha! Well, I don't know." "It's not that bad you need a big pair of gloves and a blanket". "OK " "Throw it over him and scoop him up then we can get it to a vet and EWC will Pay all the bills. Can you do that for me?"

"I'll try." About an hour later, "Mr Ansley?" "Yes." "I got it, where should I take it?" "From where you are Dr House's office on Trade Street would be the closest." "OK."

Later I get a call from the girls up front at the vet's office, that a bird was there for pick up, so I drove over. I came in, said Hi, and they pointed to the back. I was anxious to see the guy and as I turned the corner saw a great big Turkey Vulture!

Bird guy huh? Well at least it did have a bald head...

Martha's Gonna Be a Vet!



Our own Martha Worthington has moved back to Kansas to return to vet school. She began her studies out there but returned home to North Carolina for a hiatus. Once she has her degree Martha's intent is to return to NC where she will practice. We want to wish her all the luck in the world!

Rehab Classes Have Been Rescheduled

The dual classes, Beginner's Class in Wildlife Rehabilitation and Basic Medical Care for Wildlife have been rescheduled. The classes have been combined into one presentation and are being offered on Saturday, March 31st. The class will be held from 9:00 am to noon and will be in the classroom at River Park North, Greenville, as before.

As with the first class offered to beginning rehabbers, this class will cover the basics of baby animal care. Squirrels, bunnies, opossums and birds will be the focus of discussion.

In addition basic medical care of incoming wildlife will also be covered. Common medications, wound management, fluid therapy, heat therapy and other triage topics will be discussed.

Attendance will be limited because of the room size so call to reserve your seat. As before your teachers will be Kay Raade and Nimette Soli. You can call them with any questions and to reserve your place in the class. This class is recommended for all current EWC rehabbers because of the basic medical care being offered. See you there!

"FYI - Don't forget that Eastern Wildlife Center has free nuts for members who are feeding releasees."

"FYI- forms for records keeping are being created for membership use and will be made available at the class being offered on March 31st."

"FYI - Don't forget our lending library. EWC has a number of excellent reference books on wildlife rehabilitation that are available to all members at the EWC center."

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NAME: _____ PHONE NUMBER: _____

ADDRESS: _____ ZIP _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

(Please check one)

I am enclosing the \$20 fee to become an associate member of EWC
(membership to be renewed annually)

I am interested in becoming a wildlife rehabilitator
(a one time membership fee of \$20 is assessed to rehabbers joining EWC)

Additional Donation: _____ Total Enclosed: _____

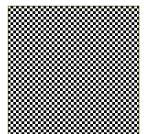
Eastern Wildlife Center is a not-for-profit organization with 501 C tax deductible status.

About Our Organization...

Eastern Wildlife Center, or EWC, is a not-for-profit organization of wildlife rehabilitators in Pitt and surrounding counties. It strives to support local rehabbers in their

work with North Carolina wildlife and to educate the public in better ways of interacting with the wild animals they encounter.

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