

# **National Wildlife Rehabilitators Association**

## **Marlys J. Bulander Working Together for Wildlife Award**

The NWRA Marlys J. Bulander Working Together for Wildlife Award is given to an individual or group that has brought together individuals, organizations, rehabilitation facilities, agencies, industries, businesses, and/or academia in a cooperative effort to make a positive difference for wildlife.

### **2020**

**Not awarded in 2020**

### **2019**

**Laura Edmonds (IN)** – for using her outstanding networking skills to create and maintain a network of Indiana rehabilitation centers that work with raptors. Cooperation for bird recovery and release is a primary goal for Laura. In her roles as rehabilitator, master falconer, education director, and curator at the Indiana Raptor Center, Laura manages the care and health of birds in rehabilitation, resident education ambassadors, foster parents, and exhibit and falconry birds. Based on strong relationships she has built and encouraged, rehabilitation birds are moved among a group of eight centers for the good of each bird—a single nestling screech owl transfers to a center with a foster parent and surrogate siblings; vultures go to a center with a small captive colony; and birds are moved when centers have appropriate prerelease housing space. Bird calls are referred to the closest center for faster rescue and triage. Expertise and information are shared among these centers and other groups to benefit injured and juvenile raptors.

### **2018**

**Mario and Brandi Nickerson of Nature's Edge Wildlife and Reptile Rescue (TX)** – for their efforts to assist wildlife rehabilitators in the Houston area after Hurricane Harvey. When the calls started coming in that animals needed to be transferred to make room for the increasing number of wildlife in need, Brandi and Mario coordinated with several Houston area rehabilitators to meet at a central location to pick up the animals. Brandi drove to Houston and picked up 233 animals for distribution around the Dallas/Fort Worth area. She then spearheaded a fundraising campaign to raise money and acquire donations for the Houston area rehabilitators. Brandi made two more trips to the Houston area with over \$3,500 worth of supplies, and on each trip she picked up more animals. The quick response by Mario and Brandi Nickerson, along with the combined efforts of TWRC, Gulf Coast Wildlife Rescue, Rhonda Murgatroyd, Baby Warm, and many others made this a true example of "Working Together for Wildlife".

**2017**

**Not Awarded**

**2016**

**Not Awarded**

**2015**

**Not Awarded**

**2014**

**Not Awarded**

**2013**

**Dr. Isabelle Paquet-Durand (Belize)** – for founding the Belize Wildlife Conservation Network (BWCN) and the Belize Wildlife and Referral Clinic (BWRC). Through the BWRC, Dr. Isabelle works closely with a number of wildlife projects and educational entities to provide wildlife medicine and education to a new generation of conservationists. Through the BWCN, Dr. Isabelle organizes an annual Wildlife Symposium bringing together governmental and non-governmental stakeholders to strengthen collaboration and communication for conservation. The team brought together under BWCN revised the Wildlife Order, strengthening wildlife protection legislation. This effort also gives the managing authority more control over trafficking and hunting of wildlife and the criteria for attaining permits to keep wildlife as pets.

**2011**

**Tri-State Bird Rescue & Research, Inc. (DE), Louisiana State Animal Response Team (LA), Louisiana State University School of Veterinary Medicine (LA), and International Bird Rescue Research Center (CA)** – for joining forces to work as one group to care for the birds affected by the Deepwater Horizon oil spill off the coast of Louisiana. This combined group built, organized, and ran two oiled bird rehabilitation centers and three oiled wildlife stabilization sites. The four separate organizations had never before worked together yet quickly meshed into one team to respond to the largest oil spill in US history.

**2009**

**Annette Prince (IL)** – for establishing a strong working relationship with the Willowbrook Wildlife Center, Glen Ellyn, IL in order to treat rescued birds.

Annette is the director of the Chicago Bird Collision Monitors (CBCM), an all volunteer, hands on grassroots conservation effort that benefits migrating birds. She annually trains, organizes and supervises over 100 volunteers who search downtown Chicago and along Lake Michigan for downed birds.

Annette works personally with many of Chicago's building managers to get them involved in the Lights Out Program, and to make the managers aware of how otherwise esthetically pleasing trees, greenery and water features can have deadly consequences for exhausted migratory birds. These cooperative relationships with building managers, volunteers and wildlife rehabilitators ultimately reduce unnecessary bird deaths and provide second chances to migrate and breed.

## 2005

**Minnesota Wildlife Assistance Cooperative (MN)** – for creating and maintaining a task force of many individuals to write new regulations pertaining to wildlife rehabilitation in Minnesota. This work resulted in a well thought out wildlife rehabilitation regulation process along with the steps and tools to make it work.

Over a three-year period, many people with a diversity of perspectives, experience, expertise, vision, and representation, were brought together both by selective invitation and by open invitation, with the goal of creating the best possible product and process.

Task force members included and represented:

- State rehabilitation association board members and members
- A network of in-home rehabilitators
- Individual in-home rehabilitators from around the state
- A veterinary clinic/rehabilitation center
- A community network centered at a university
- An internationally recognized raptor center pioneering in raptor medicine, rehabilitation, and education
- Staff and volunteers from the largest rehabilitation center in Minnesota
- Wildlife veterinarians
- Nature center wildlife care and education staff
- Zoo educational program staff
- The state agency wildlife rehabilitation supervisor
- The federal agency permit examiner