

SIGNIFICANT ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS 1984 – 2024

The NWRA Significant Achievement Award is given to an individual who has made a major contribution to the field of wildlife rehabilitation within the past two years.

2024

Raquel and John Gardner (AZ) – in recognition of their significant contributions to the field of animal welfare. Raquel, John, and the entire Animal Professional team have played a pivotal role in advancing the welfare of animals globally by harnessing the power of technology to share quality information. Their exceptional work includes providing a platform for animal professionals, advocates, and conservationists to access a rich and diverse source of information. By recording and curating thousands of hours of content, they have transformed conferences all over the world into a dynamic online library that fosters understanding, collaboration, and innovation within the broad field of animal welfare.

2014

Julia Whittington, DVM, (IL) – for envisioning the creation of an online course to provide students in grades K-12 with a fundamental understanding of wildlife ecology, conservation, and medicine. Along with a team of students, elementary educators, and graphic designers, she developed a program entitled Wildlife Encounters, which is a unique interactive computer based program that actively engages students in four themed lessons: Habitats and Ecosystems; Wildlife Babies and Populations; Humans Relating to Wildlife; and Veterinary Care of Wildlife. This program is available free of charge to educators everywhere and has already reached thousands of students throughout the country.

2013

Karen Wright, (MD) – for bridging the gap between the pet industry and wildlife rehabilitators. In addition to attending numerous state and national wildlife rehabilitation meetings each year, she makes herself available to rehabilitators that have questions about wildlife nutrition. During a recent food product recall, Karen reached out to the rehabilitation community to ensure that any potentially tainted product was not being fed to wildlife and she worked countless hours to answer questions and concerns. This unselfish act may have helped deter many severe issues with wildlife under our care as rehabilitators.

2011

Resee Collins and Carmen Simonton, US Fish and Wildlife Service Migratory Bird Office (GA) – for defining the role of local wildlife rehabilitators and implementing and overseeing a system to identify, qualify, activate, document, support, and pay wildlife rehabilitators during the Deepwater Horizon oiled wildlife response. They were critical in facilitating the effective use of local wildlife rehabilitators in the multi-state response and in setting a precedent for future oil spill responses.

2010

Kathy Konishi, Colorado Division of Wildlife (retired) (CO) – for providing strong visible support for wildlife rehabilitation and creating internet accessible tools that have been successful in recruiting new wildlife rehabilitators and improving relationships among apprentice and experienced rehabilitators. While employed as Special Licenses Manager, she played an important role in revising Colorado's wildlife rehabilitation regulations and helped raise the state's wildlife rehabilitation standards and the quality of care by helping to clarify the state agency's expectations for wildlife rehabilitation and training.

2006

Pamela Reger (IL) – for her dedicated and skilled work with NWRA symposia over the past ten years, especially for assembling excellent educational programs for the benefit of many wildlife rehabilitators, educators, veterinarians, and countless animals.

2005

Kip Parker, PAWS Wildlife Center (WA) – for his work as a wildlife rehabilitator, his collaborative leadership and persistence in the creation of the Washington Wildlife Rehabilitators Association, and his commitment to working together to professionalize the field of wildlife rehabilitation.

2001

Erica Miller, DVM, Tri-State Bird Rescue and Research (DE) – for her work as editor of the Minimum Standards for Wildlife Rehabilitation, 3rd edition, compiling a mass of information from many different sources into a superb educational and reference manual.

2000

Guy R. Hodge, Humane Society of the United States (VA) – for his work as a wildlife rehabilitator and especially his work in promoting non-lethal solutions to nuisance wildlife through workshops (Wild Neighbors: Humane Solutions to Conflicts with Wildlife) for

rehabilitators, animal control officers, and other animal professionals, and through the book he co-edited, *Wild Neighbors: The Humane Approach to Living with Wildlife*.

1999

Blair Joselyn, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MN) – for his efforts ‘above and beyond’ to collaboratively design and implement Minnesota wildlife rehabilitation regulations, including state standards, an informative study guide, and examinations with published questions and answers; a system that will likely serve as a model for other states.

1998

Joshua Dein, VMD, United States Fish and Wildlife Service National Wildlife Health Center (WI) – for creating and maintaining the Wildlife Health Listserve on the internet for veterinarians and professionals working with wildlife to exchange information.

1997

Bea Orendorff (KY) – for her tremendous work expanding, editing, and producing the NWRA Quarterly for the past six years, adding a significant amount of peer-reviewed and published information to the knowledge base in our field.

1996

Daniel R. Ludwig, PhD, Forest Preserve District of DuPage County (IL) – for his work as editor of several Wildlife Rehabilitation volumes, and his work on post-release studies of rehabilitated wildlife.

1995

Stuart Porter, VMD, Wildlife Center of Virginia (VA) – for his research and presentations on pesticide poisoning of raptors.

1994

Donna Ludwig (IL) – for her work as Symposium Program Chair for the past four years and assembling outstanding presentations for wildlife rehabilitators.

1992

Jan White, DVM (CA) – for chairing the committee responsible for developing an accreditation program and minimum standards for wildlife rehabilitation.

1991

Debbie Marcum (TX) – for her scientific research and extensive efforts in developing appropriate dietary formulas for nursing mammals.

1990

Mark Pokras, DVM, and Charles Sedgwick, DVM, Tufts University School of Veterinary Medicine (MA) – for their efforts in planning, funding, and conducting special leadership programs for wildlife rehabilitators and veterinarians to disseminate state-of-the-art information on wildlife medicine and develop technical communication between veterinarians and rehabilitators.

1988

Patrick Redig, DVM, University of MN College of Veterinary Medicine (MN) – for his significant contribution to raptor medicine via his work with new avian orthopedic techniques.

1987

Carole H. Allen, H.E.A.R.T. (TX) – for an ongoing private and public campaign to save the Kemp's Ridley sea turtle from extinction.

1986

Barbara Walker, Raptor Research and Rehabilitation Program, University of Minnesota (MN) – for promoting wildlife rehabilitation educational programs.

1985

Carol Odell, Wildlife Rescue Team (NE) – for post-release studies of bobcats and coyotes.

1984

Betsy Jones (NJ) – for her work with the State of New Jersey for the benefit of wildlife rehabilitation.