2003 Annual Report
NATIONAL WILDLIFE REHABILITATORS
ASSOCIATION

Wildlife Rehabilitation Medicine Course

Photo by Erica Miller
The National Wildlife Rehabilitators Association is dedicated to improving and promoting the profession of wildlife rehabilitation and its contributions to preserving natural ecosystems.

**Our purpose is to foster continued improvement of the profession of wildlife rehabilitation through the development of high standards of ethics and conduct. The NWRA also strives to encourage networking and dissemination of knowledge to individuals in support of its mission, and to engender respect for wildlife and natural ecosystems.**

WRA is incorporated for the support of the science and profession of wildlife rehabilitation and its practitioners. Wildlife rehabilitation is the treatment and temporary care of injured, diseased, and displaced indigenous wildlife and the subsequent return of healthy animals to appropriate habitats in the wild.

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LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Don’t let the “National” in our name confuse you – we are an international organization with members worldwide. We receive no support from any governmental source, conduct no political lobbying, and do not fall neatly into funding categories like do many other nonprofits.

Your support of NWRA and wildlife rehabilitators could make all the difference in the world to the sick, injured, and orphaned wildlife cared for by our members. These dedicated individuals do not charge for their work – meaningful work – from saving 40,000 penguins in South Africa to one peregrine falcon in Minnesota.

A list of membership benefits, publications, and free downloads (and anything else you are curious about) are available on NWRA’s website at www.nwrawildlife.org. NWRA strongly believes in preventing inhumane treatment of wild animals through education, training, and direct care. We believe you do, too.

NWRA pursues our mission through supporting the science and profession of the treatment and temporary care of injured, diseased, and displaced wildlife and the subsequent return of healthy animals to appropriate habitats in the wild.

The purposes of the Association are to foster continued improvement of the profession through development of high standards of ethics and conduct, to encourage networking and to disseminate knowledge, to engender cooperation among public and private agencies and individuals, and to foster respect for wildlife and natural ecosystems.

Wildlife rehabilitation is a growing activity with a rapidly expanding base of knowledge and ever increasing professional standards. Generally, by law, free-ranging native wildlife is a natural resource that belongs to the public, therefore rehabilitators can not charge for their services. Wildlife rehabilitation has resulted in more humane treatment for injured wild animals that may otherwise needlessly suffer or be destroyed.

The spectrum of member activity ranges from the retrieval of injured or displaced wildlife to identifying and arranging suitable release sites. Of course, there is managing volunteers, constructing caging, conducting public education programs, and fundraising to do as well. In 1997 our members cared for over a half million animals, spending almost 8 million dollars, most working without outside funding.

Wildlife rehabilitation also involves anticipating and helping to prevent problems with wildlife as well as humanely resolving human-wildlife conflicts. Wildlife rehabilitation is part science, education, problem solving, and care giving. An average NWRA member works 32 – 36 hours a week during the spring and summer, usually without pay.

Contact between humans and wildlife grows daily as humans increasingly move into or destroy wildlife habitat. In most cases, when humans and wildlife collide, wildlife suffers. Wildlife rehabilitation gives these wild animals in need a second chance to live free in their natural habitats.

Thanks for your support!
~Lisa Borgia

“You can make an incredible difference for so many wild creatures that have no other chance to escape suffering and death.”

Student learning how to wrap a wing fracture
Photo — Dana Miller
### Financial Highlights

Financial report prepared by Schmitz & Ketchum, P.A.

#### Support/Revenue

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Support/Revenue</td>
<td>$241,163</td>
<td>$233,488</td>
<td>$253,628</td>
<td>$229,835</td>
<td>$196,741</td>
<td>$185,563</td>
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#### Expenses

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Expenses</td>
<td>$237,560</td>
<td>$279,614</td>
<td>$257,334</td>
<td>$203,897</td>
<td>$155,861</td>
<td>$132,057</td>
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#### Change in Net Assets

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<tr>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Change in Net Assets</td>
<td>$3,603</td>
<td>$(46,126)</td>
<td>$(3,706)</td>
<td>$25,938</td>
<td>$40,880</td>
<td>$53,506</td>
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#### Net Assets Beginning-of-Year

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<thead>
<tr>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Net Assets Beginning-of-Year</td>
<td>$344,884</td>
<td>$391,010</td>
<td>$394,716</td>
<td>$368,778</td>
<td>$327,898</td>
<td>$274,392</td>
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#### Net Assets End-of-Year

<table>
<thead>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Net Assets End-of-Year</td>
<td>$351,383</td>
<td>$344,884</td>
<td>$391,010</td>
<td>$394,716</td>
<td>$368,778</td>
<td>$327,898</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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#### Change in assets and liabilities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>2003</th>
<th>2002</th>
<th>Positive (minus)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total current assets</td>
<td>$432,030</td>
<td>$404,832</td>
<td>$27,198</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total liabilities</td>
<td>$91,142</td>
<td>$68,841</td>
<td>$22,301</td>
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<tr>
<td>Deferred restricted donations</td>
<td>$22,388</td>
<td>$5,931</td>
<td>$16,457</td>
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<tr>
<td>Net assets</td>
<td>$351,383</td>
<td>$344,884</td>
<td>$6,499</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total liabilities and net assets</td>
<td>$420,137</td>
<td>$413,725</td>
<td>$6,412</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net assets revenue total</td>
<td>$241,163</td>
<td>$233,488</td>
<td>$7,675</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expenses total</td>
<td>$237,560</td>
<td>$279,614</td>
<td>$(42,054)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Change in net assets</td>
<td>$3,603</td>
<td>$(46,126)</td>
<td>$49,729</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net assets beginning</td>
<td>$344,884</td>
<td>$391,010</td>
<td>$(46,126)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net assets ending</td>
<td>$351,383</td>
<td>$344,884</td>
<td>$6,499</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net cash flows from operating activities</td>
<td>$478</td>
<td>$(30,302)</td>
<td>$30,780</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increase (decrease) in cash</td>
<td>$59,577</td>
<td>$(60,066)</td>
<td>$119,643</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net cash flows from investing activities</td>
<td>$59,099</td>
<td>$344,884</td>
<td>$(29,764)</td>
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Balmy and unseasonably warm temperatures in Orlando, Florida, greeted more than 420 participants at this year’s National Wildlife Rehabilitators Association annual Symposium hosted by the Florida Wildlife Rehabilitators Association. Five days of programming provided fantastic learning and sharing experiences on a variety of levels. Ninety-four paper presentations were offered, with topics ranging from parasites to disaster plans and post-release studies to emerging diseases. Sixteen workshops enabled hands-on experience mastering techniques like songbird splinting or reptile critical care.

Participants also had special opportunities to view natural Florida and enjoy the unique field trips that were offered. An abundance of birds and sea life certainly made Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge a premier trip. The Audubon Center for Birds of Prey trip was very informative. The ‘behind the scenes’ tour at SeaWorld Adventure Park was one of a kind, providing the multitude of participants close up observation and information regarding the rehabilitation process of marine life patients admitted and cared for. From choices of educational classes, workshops, roundtable discussions, and field trips, NWRA Symposium 2004 was an ‘all-inclusive’ learning opportunity for rehabilitators and others interested in the field.

There were also opportunities to relax, share, and laugh with old and new friends. The Tuesday night Icebreaker was the forerunner for mingling, socializing, eating, and exchanging -- an event preceding the subsequent days of intense learning and focused activities. Friday night brought relaxation in the form of the annual NWRA Awards Banquet. With the soft, evening Floridian winds channeling in through open doors, guests arrived in fashion. After fine dining and libations, awards were presented to the following: the prestigious Lifetime Achievement Award to Sigrid Ueblacker; Board of Directors Award to Dianne Tuff for Strategic Planning; James J. Wolf Scholarship to Linda DeEulis; and Amy Block received the Eric Orendorff Memorial Scholarship. The Ed Hiestand Memorial Scholarship was given to Chris Enright for his paper submitted in the Veterinary Student Competition. Grants were also awarded during the dinner. Flo Tseng, DVM, and her intern Tara Rittle, DVM received a grant for Clinical Investigation of West Nile Virus in Raptors. Dr. Melvin Sunquist and Maena Voight received a grant for Post-release Study of Brazilian Free-tailed Bats.

The evening’s entertainment following dinner was a combination of the many hidden or unknown talents of symposium participants themselves! Mark Mitchell and Jeannie Lord hosted the first Rehabilitator’s Idol talent competition. An enthusiastic and very supportive crowd cheered and encouraged participants - fellow rehabilitators, veterinarians, family, and friends - with talents ranging from guitar playing or wiggling of ears, to singing, dancing, jokes, and mimicry. A good time was had by all!

Tired but inspired, and with great reluctance in leaving not only such wonderful temperatures, but the old friends and new acquaintances, attendees departed for their respective homes and awaiting patients. One attendee summed it up best with “I don’t remember when I have ever learned and laughed so much at the same time!”

We are looking forward to next year’s symposium in Minnesota! See you there!
Wildlife rehabilitators are committed to the treatment and subsequent release of indigenous wildlife in need. Estimates indicate over 75% of the animals cared for are affected in some manner by human activities. Nest tree destruction, vehicle collisions, unrestrained pets, illegal or legal wild “pet” trading, intentional or unintentional poisonings (including oil contamination), window collisions, and non-target trapping or shooting result in wildlife distress.

NWRA members treat hundreds of thousands of animals annually, some with little or no financial support. They provide educational programs to over 8 million people each year in an effort to reduce the negative impact people have on our native wildlife.

The NWRA is a unique wildlife organization because its members’ activities are focused on preserving individual wild animals, rather than preserving entire populations and their habitats.

NWRA is committed to the value of educating the public about wild animals as individuals and as part of the intertwining web of life. Habitat preservation is essential to the continued existence of all creatures.

Approximately 70,000 birds, 34,000 mammals and 5,000 herptiles (reptiles and amphibians) were treated by 272 NWRA survey respondents in 2002. Overall release rate for those animals was 55% for birds, 70% for mammals, and 60% for herptiles. Respondents handled over 260,000 wildlife-related telephone calls, and over half provided wildlife education programs to the public, reaching an estimated 2.1 million people in 2002.

The organization recognizes the need to proactively work with state and federal regulatory agencies. In 2001, a grant for $32,000 was obtained to facilitate a special committee of agency personnel, rehabilitators, and other wildlife professionals to address better relationships and regulatory processes.

In 1984 the NWRA had a membership of 221 people; by 2003, the membership reached 1,800 people from all over the world.

The members are a diverse group of people, ranging from those who work out of their homes to those who work in or run large wildlife rehabilitation centers, and ranging from interested beginners to experienced wildlife rehabilitation professionals.

Officers, board members, committee chairs, and committee members volunteer their time, money, and talents.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service issued 2,164 Special Purpose Rehabilitation Permits in 2002 for the rehabilitation of migratory birds. Thousands of other rehabilitators have state-issued permits for the care of state-protected non-migratory animals. These numbers do not reflect the thousands of volunteers that work with those listed on the permits!

According to a recent membership survey, 24% of the members are veterinarians, vet students, or veterinary technicians. Other members are affiliated with humane societies or zoos, still others are educators or biologists, or members of numerous other professions.

The National Wildlife Rehabilitators Association (NWRA) incorporated August 25, 1982 in Illinois. The first national symposium exclusively on wildlife rehabilitation was held in February, 1982, in Naperville, Illinois. 262 people attended that first symposium. Over 500 people from around the world are expected to attend the 2005 Symposium.

Annual symposium sites:

- 1982 Naperville, Illinois
- 1983 Naperville, Illinois
- 1984 Kalamazoo, Michigan
- 1985 St. Paul, Minnesota
- 1986 Boston, Massachusetts
- 1987 Clearwater Beach, Florida
- 1988 Denver, Colorado
- 1990 Ithaca, New York
- 1991 Schaumburg, Illinois
- 1992 New Orleans, Louisiana
- 1993 Sacramento, California
- 1994 Wilmington, Delaware
- 1995 Minneapolis, Minnesota
- 1996 Houston, Texas
- 1997 Columbus, Ohio
- 1998 Seattle, Washington
- 1999 Greensboro, North Carolina
- 2000 Milwaukee, Wisconsin
- 2001 Lake Tahoe, Nevada
- 2002 St. Louis, Missouri
- 2003 Newport, Rhode Island
- 2004 Orlando, Florida
- 2005 Minneapolis, Minnesota