2009 Annual Report

Making a Real Difference for Wildlife
by providing specialized training, information, and resources to wildlife rehabilitators, veterinarians, and educators

www.nwrawildlife.org

National Wildlife Rehabilitators Association
Incorporated August 25, 1982, as a not-for-profit corporation in the State of Illinois, USA.
Tax exempt under IRS Section 501c3.
Employer identification number 37-1143442.
Donations are tax-deductible as charitable contributions.
National Wildlife Rehabilitators Association (NWRA)

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

CORE VALUES
• Respect and concern for wildlife
• Shared knowledge
• Professionalism
• Continuing improvement
• Teamwork and cooperation

DRIVING FORCE
To improve the care of wildlife in rehabilitation and serve as a voice for the profession

GUIDING PRINCIPLES
The NWRA 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 the wild.

PURPOSE
1. To foster continued improvement of the profession of wildlife rehabilitation through the development of high standards of ethics and conduct;
2. To encourage networking and to disseminate knowledge;
3. To engender cooperation among public and private agencies and individuals in support of its mission; and,
4. To foster respect for wildlife and natural ecosystems.

VISION
The National Wildlife Rehabilitators Association and wildlife rehabilitation as a profession are recognized and respected worldwide.

Contact Information
National Wildlife Rehabilitators Association
2625 Clearwater Road, Suite 110
St. Cloud, MN, 56301 USA
Telephone 320-230-9920
Email NWRA@nwrawildlife.org
Website www.nwrawildlife.org

Staff
Debra Dohrmann, Office Manager
Deb Mortenson, Bookkeeper/Accounting Clerk
Brianna Jungels, Office Assistant
Sarah Sevcik, Office Assistant
Emily Holewa, Office Assistant

Publications Manager
Lessie Davis

Business Manager
Elaine Thrune
The National Wildlife Rehabilitators Association (NWRA) has a proud history of service to the wildlife rehabilitation community and beyond—2009 was no exception. NWRA continues to be the leader in improving care for wildlife in rehabilitation and serving as a voice for the profession.

Wildlife rehabilitation is a relatively new profession. It requires a multi-disciplinary approach, drawing from many different established professions and fields of study. NWRA programs are available not only to rehabilitators but also to veterinarians, veterinary students and technicians, educators, administrators, and volunteers. People must work together to improve wildlife care, combining and sharing a wide range of knowledge, skills, and talents. NWRA provides education, training, and resources to help make this possible.

As human population growth continues nationwide and our native wildlife comes under ever increasing pressure from this growth, NWRA is committed to encouraging new rehabilitators, providing current and multi-level education for new and experienced wildlife rehabilitators, and offering the highest standard of professional support for all working in the field.

Wildlife rehabilitators fund their work mainly through donations from the public, small grants, and small-scale fundraising endeavors, not through government dollars or fees. NWRA strives to provide affordable beginning and continuing education as well as multiple resources for our dedicated members, whether they work in a center, clinic, or home setting. Individuals must fund the cost of continuing education necessary to receive and maintain required state and federal permits. For those unable to attend our annual symposium and for those who wish to build an affordable professional library, NWRA is constantly providing new publications and updated editions of our well-respected reference books.

NWRA maintains a strong and sound level of member benefits as well as needed services for all rehabilitators as NWRA continues to strive to be even more effective. Our members are providing quality compassionate care for thousands of injured, orphaned, and diseased wild animals annually. NWRA and our members are providing information and education to caring citizens and agency staff about wildlife rehabilitation, the challenges faced by our precious wildlife, and how citizens can help.

**NWRA — celebrating a 27-year tradition of excellence**
Programs and Services

The National Wildlife Rehabilitators Association (NWRA) was founded and incorporated in 1982 by a small group of far-sighted wildlife rehabilitators, veterinarians, and educators who realized the necessity of an organization to promote and support the activities and needs of a growing and changing profession. The organization has been operating continually since that time for the benefit of all wildlife professionals and the wild animals that come into their care.

NWRA as an organization does not provide care for wildlife in need of assistance, but rather provides a unique and singular venue of resources to those who do provide actual care for individual animals and those who help to preserve wildlife, habitat, and ecosystems through public education. NWRA programs ensure practitioners are able to:

- keep abreast of new techniques,
- expand learning with continuing education courses,
- conduct their work within ethical guidelines and stated standards of care,
- network with peers and medical professionals for optimum care of animals and personal support, and
- improve their skills in multiple areas of the profession.

The goal is to ensure that native wildlife remains a part of the ecosystem for future generations to enjoy.

Since much of the work with wildlife is funded by voluntary public donations and personal contributions, expense is a primary consideration in resource materials and training. NWRA strives to keep prices affordable to those who dedicate themselves to helping wildlife.

Program Accomplishments During 2009

NWRA’s programs and publications reach a range of people across North America and beyond:

- from individual wildlife rehabilitators to staff and volunteers at rehabilitation facilities and clinics,
- from veterinary students to licensed veterinarians,
- from rehabilitators aspiring to become better educators to educators focusing on wildlife issues and challenges in today’s world, and
- from individuals new to the field to those with many years of experience.
Membership Benefits

Membership for 2009 was 1651, only slightly below membership in 2008 despite the depressed economy. NWRA continued all member benefits with the nominal $45 individual dues.

Benefits for members include:

1. **Wildlife Rehabilitation Bulletin**—48- to 52-page semi-annual journal with wildlife care, medical articles, and new discoveries, as well as book reviews and current literature review

2. **The Wildlife Rehabilitator**—12- to 16-page semi-annual newsletter with association news and information, availability of scholarships and grants, and notices of continuing education around the country

3. **Member Directory**—annual listing of members used as a resource for networking, assistance among rehabilitators needing information for wildlife care, and wildlife patient transfers

4. **Membership Certificate**—downloadable, printable, suitable for framing, and showing pride and participation in the national organization

5. **Emails to members**—once or twice monthly communication to convey critical news, such as a new rabies outbreak or the new bat White-nose syndrome, new or changes in wildlife rules and regulations, and time-sensitive announcements of benefit to members

6. **Discounts**—available to members on purchases of reference, educational, training, or diagnostic aids and all NWRA publications, as well as on the symposium registration fee

7. **Insurance Coverage**—a members-only opportunity to obtain appropriate and affordable insurance coverage for the valuable work they do

Member benefits are designed to meet the needs of wildlife rehabilitators and our field—information and resources for members to improve wildlife care and release, be better equipped to respond to and educate the public in wildlife situations or encounters, and be knowledgeable about management of time, funds, resources, property, volunteers, and staff.

With a focus specifically on wildlife rehabilitation and the related veterinary medicine and educational programming, NWRA applies resources where they can be most effective—providing education and building skills in individuals that affect others. Teaching results in the ripple effect as each individual who learns from NWRA affects many others, both human and wildlife.
Publications, Website, Educational, and Training Materials

NWRA is recognized for publishing one-of-a-kind volumes pertinent to the field for wildlife rehabilitators, educators, and veterinarians. We take pride in our standard of excellence regarding the content, accuracy, and usefulness of materials. NWRA maintains nominal pricing to foster and promote self-education, skills development, and building a facility reference library—from $1 to $5 each for a selection of more than 200 article reprints and no more than $75 for in-depth volumes. The NWRA website is constantly updated and is designed to function as a resource, not only for members, but also for the public or casual browsers seeking information on the profession, assistance with injured wildlife, or NWRA itself.

Examples of NWRA publications and educational and training materials include:

1. **NWRA Wildlife Medicine Course**—a groundbreaking course for veterinary students unlike anything currently available with course material updated for 2009. This training introduces students to wildlife medicine prior to encountering wild animals when in practice. Funded in 2009 through a three-year grant (2007-2009) from the Kenneth A. Scott Charitable Trust, A KeyBank Trust, the course has been presented 16 times at 13 different universities, including 2 in Canada, since 1999.

2. **Principles of Wildlife Rehabilitation, The Essential Guide for Novice and Experienced Rehabilitators**—produced and published by NWRA and the only publication available that encompasses all aspects of wildlife rehabilitation. An excellent training and reference manual, this large volume is widely used by state rehabilitation associations and wildlife centers and clinics in their training classes.

3. **Topics in Wildlife Medicine**—an on-going series addressing a particular aspect of veterinary medicine related to wildlife; editor and chapter authors are experienced veterinarians who work with wildlife. Volume 3, *Topics in Wildlife Medicine: Infectious Diseases*, was completed in 2009 by editor Karen Shenoy, DVM.

4. **Wildlife Rehabilitation**—published annually with peer-reviewed papers from each annual symposium; volume 27 was available in 2009.

5. **Minimum Standards for Wildlife Rehabilitation**—the standard of minimum requirements to provide appropriate care for wildlife and now adopted into permitting regulations by several state agencies and the US Fish & Wildlife Service.

6. **Wildlife in Education, A Guide for the Care and Use of Program Animals** and **Introduction to Wildlife Education Programming, Tips & Techniques for Better Presentations**—both books compiled and published by NWRA and the first publications available with a comprehensive approach to both long-term care of captive wildlife, and developing effective and meaningful educational programs on wildlife preservation and ecosystem awareness.
Annual Symposium Event—Symposium 2009

Making a Difference for Wildlife

The 2009 Annual Symposium in Bloomingdale, IL, the largest and most comprehensive professional training and development event in the field, hosted over 430 individuals attending from 34 states and the District of Columbia, Brazil, France, Sweden, Costa Rica, the Cayman Islands, and 6 Canadian provinces. Total attendance is representative of 26% of membership and new NWRA members represented nearly 20% of attendees.

State veterinary boards and departments of natural resources as well as federal migratory bird offices approve the annual NWRA symposia as qualifying for continuing education credits required of practicing veterinarians and licensed wildlife rehabilitators. Five days of concurrent programming offered over 140 hours of educational opportunity, including two targeted eight-hour seminars on Introduction to Wildlife Rehabilitation and Advanced Critical Care and Diagnostic Testing.

Certificates of Attendance were issued for specific workshop and seminar attendance as well as general symposium attendance; attendees demonstrate their commitment to continuing education to their clients, donors, permit agencies, and local officials.

When asked about the highlights of their Symposium 2009 experience, attendees told us:

- Reconnecting w/other rehabbers, learning new and different techniques, the ability to talk to and question wildlife vets
- Turtle rehab workshop - incredible class, I went from knowing nothing about turtles to gaining the knowledge I needed to feel confident treating and caring for turtles. I am so glad I took this class.
- Fluid therapy, wound management and avian pediatric care workshops were wonderful. I’m very novice to rehabbing and these workshops were very good at covering several topics pretty thoroughly. I learned a lot and it motivated me to be more involved and it gave me a little more confidence in my skills.
- Wildlife and the Public roundtable - excellent info, excellent program
- All of the great information learned, networking, low cost of registration, great workshops and great techs/vet students that helped out so much w/the new people
- Field Museum - behind the scenes were outstanding. Loved all the enrichment sessions, loved the talks on volunteers
- Sometimes hard to choose which lecture to attend because so many great choices - this is a good thing!
- A lot of great information. Almost overwhelming. We learned a lot in a short amount of time. And there were a few speakers who just can’t help but inspire you with their enthusiasm. It’s great to see you really aren’t alone out here in rehab world.

Making a Difference—One Animal at a Time
Grants, Scholarships, and Professional Recognition Awards

Grants

NWRA believes in excellence in wildlife rehabilitation and that it is our job to encourage it. We strive to do this in all of our programs and services but especially through our Awards, Grants, and Scholarships.

NWRA directly funds and awards qualified individuals or organizations grants for research, education, or studies that contribute to the foundation of knowledge or protocols affecting care and treatment of wildlife. The amount available increased from $5,000 in 2008 to $6,000 in 2009. Each recipient agrees to present findings and results of the project either through an NWRA publication or symposium presentation. Since 1984, NWRA has provided $82,000 to improve the field and care for wildlife.

Grants awarded in 2009:

1. University of British Columbia Animal Welfare Program, Canada. $4,000 toward their project Improved Feeding of Orphaned Harbour Seals

2. Friends of Wildlife, Michigan. $1,000 toward their project Red Squirrel Alopecia

3. Marathon Wild Bird Center, Inc., Florida. $1,000 towards their project The Study of Hand-rearing Least Terns

Scholarships

NWRA is proud to award scholarships to deserving individuals. By funding symposium attendance and purchase of published materials, NWRA is working toward its mission of disseminating information and improving wildlife care. Since 1993, NWRA has awarded more than $20,800 in scholarships to more than 70 different individuals. We are honored to provide this continuing financial support through the generosity of member donors.

A total of $4,775 was given in 2009:

1. The James J. Wolf CARE for Wildlife Education Scholarship in the amount of $500 was presented to Heather Morris (TX) to attend Symposium 2009.

2. The Ed Hiestand Memorial Veterinary Student Scholarship was presented to Bethany DeVilbiss, third–year student at Cornell University, Ithaca, NY. The $500 helps defray costs of attending Symposium 2009 to present her paper entitled Surgical Enucleation of the Right Eye Following Traumatic Injury in an Eastern Screech-owl (Megascops asio).

3. The Eric Sticht Memorial Scholarship in the amount of $525 was awarded to Maria Pyrdek (PA) to attend Symposium 2009.
4. The **Eric Orendorff Memorial Scholarship** was presented to Elizabeth Lowell (ON). The $250 certificate helps purchase publications to build a reference library.

5. The **Alma Natura Trust Scholarship** (North America) in the amount of $750 was presented to Martha Thompson (WI) to attend Symposium 2009.

6. **NEW in 2009**, the **Alma Natura International Scholarship**, was presented to Gisele Guiomara Stein (Brazil) in the amount of $1,750 to attend Symposium 2009.

7. **NEW in 2009**, the **Wild Friends Department of Best Friends Animal Sanctuary** donated $500 for a rehabilitator to attend Symposium 2009 that was awarded to Rebekah Weiss (WI).

**Annual Recognition Awards**

NWRA seeks nominations annually for awards to recognize and honor outstanding colleagues in the field of wildlife rehabilitation, medicine, and/or education. Since 1983, NWRA is proud to have honored more than 50 deserving individuals who have made major advances in our field for the benefit of many rehabilitators and countless wild animals.

2009 awards are as follows:

1. The prestigious **NWRA Lifetime Achievement Award** is given to a person whose primary identification is with the field of wildlife rehabilitation and who has made significant contributions for many years. The 2009 award was given to **Diana Shaffer**, founder and director of Wildlife Resqu Haus, Inc., in Yorktown, IN for her lifelong commitment to wildlife, education, and the community since 1964. Diana believes wildlife rehabilitation is most effective if dovetailed with education in a positive manner. Diana has been instrumental in teaching dozens of others to be quality rehabilitators; it is her belief that when a candle is used to light another, its brightness is not diminished. Her influence has had a wide ripple effect in saving many animals, training rehabilitators, and teaching the public about wildlife.

2. The **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. The 2009 recipient was **Annette Prince**, Director, Chicago Bird Collision Monitors of Illinois. Coordinating with hundreds of volunteers, Willowbrook Wildlife Center, and many Chicago-area high-rise building managers, the organization works to save thousands of migratory birds from window strikes during the semi-annual avian migrations.

3. The **NWRA Board of Directors Award** is given in recognition of an individual’s outstanding contribution specifically to the NWRA organization. **Rose Augustine** of Illinois received the 2009 award for contributing extensive volunteer hours assisting with proofreading NWRA publications (Wildlife Rehabilitation Bulletin, NWRA Member Directory, Wildlife Rehabilitation volumes, NWRA Member Survey Report) to ensure content is correct, accurate, and clear.
NWRA Financial Position

NWRA, similar to many other non-profits, found 2009 to be a year of continuing challenges. The economy, political events, natural disasters, and increasing competition for donations all impacted our ability to raise money to maintain and grow our services and programs. NWRA faces a constant challenge to balance the growing needs of wildlife rehabilitation and our members with the need for stability, quality, and financial reserves.

Value of Donated Volunteer Hours

In 2009, volunteers donated more than 10,604 hours of time to NWRA organizational management, program services, and fundraising efforts. According to The Nonprofit Sector (<http://nonprofitsector.org/volunteer_time>), the value of donated time is $20.85 per hour. Using this figure, NWRA benefited by volunteer time equaling an amazing value of $221,093. This not only means that NWRA was able to avoid paying for certain operating expenses, but also that a significant amount of expertise and energy enriched the organization.

Time donations included:
1. board members, over 4,100 hours for board level business;
2. board members, over 4,334 for program activities; and,
3. volunteers who are not board members, over 2,170 hours for program support.

Significant Gifts

The Barkley Fund presented NWRA with a generous gift of $25,000, which is helping NWRA maintain a strong and sound level of member benefits as well as needed services for all rehabilitators. The Barkley donation is partially funding the new full-time staff position.

One very generous NWRA board member donated $8,719 worth of audio-visual equipment to improve Symposium speaker services and the quality of presentations.

NWRA Adds a New Position to Increase Effectiveness

After assessing needs of the organization now and in the near future, NWRA created a new full-time staff position of Bookkeeper/Accounting Clerk to work with key functions to ensure accuracy, timeliness, and compliance. The job description is carefully designed to include tasks such as processing symposium registrations and deposits, assisting with preparation of reports for the annual audit, managing the donor database, and processing deposits for membership and sales revenue. The goal of more effectively accomplishing these ‘numbers’ related tasks is being achieved—the position was filled in October and NWRA welcomed an energetic and experienced person, Deb Mortenson.

Symposium Sponsorship Donations

Ten donors contributed a total of $6,400 to help sponsor Symposium 2009 near Chicago. These donations, ranging from $150 to $2,500, helped defray expenses so NWRA could keep symposium registration fees affordable for those who are dedicated to helping wildlife.
Growing Services through Fiscal Responsibility

The NWRA board of directors and staff are committed to the wise and responsible use of all monies received. Under guidance of the Finance Committee and Financial Procedures Manual, all support and revenue is recorded, tracked, allocated, and distributed according to NWRA’s needs and priorities to achieve its mission. Most fundraising efforts were accomplished by volunteers, thereby minimizing expenses in that area. The following two pages are from the Audited Financial Statements.

Functional expenses for 2009:

- Program Services: $172,222 (85% of total)
- Management and General: 28,156 (14%)
- Fundraising: 1,406 (1%)

NATIONAL WILDLIFE REHABILITATORS ASSOCIATION
STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION
DECEMBER 31, 2009 AND 2008

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ASSETS</th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2008</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CURRENT ASSETS</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash</td>
<td>$165,304</td>
<td>$186,925</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Designated Cash</td>
<td>150,000</td>
<td>150,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Certificates of Deposit</td>
<td>281,225</td>
<td>135,026</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accounts Receivable</td>
<td>1,565</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prepaid Expenses</td>
<td>9,607</td>
<td>226</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inventory</td>
<td>80,784</td>
<td>81,233</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Current Assets</td>
<td>802</td>
<td>802</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Current Assets</td>
<td>$689,287</td>
<td>$563,741</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ASSETS</th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2008</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Furniture and Equipment</td>
<td>23,958</td>
<td>15,693</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Computer Equipment</td>
<td>20,096</td>
<td>15,704</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Property and Equipment</td>
<td>44,054</td>
<td>31,397</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less: Accumulated Depreciation</td>
<td>27,861</td>
<td>23,151</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net Property and Equipment</td>
<td>16,193</td>
<td>8,246</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ASSETS</th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2008</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>OTHER ASSETS</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Certificates of Deposit</td>
<td>87,371</td>
<td>150,495</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Restricted Cash</td>
<td>10,000</td>
<td>10,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Non-Current Assets</td>
<td>97,371</td>
<td>160,495</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Assets</td>
<td>$802,851</td>
<td>$732,482</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS |        |        |
| CURRENT LIABILITIES |        |        |
| Accounts Payable | $3,529 | $292 |
| Accrued Expenses | 7,253 | 5,816 |
| Deferred Revenue | 70,750 | 79,677 |
| Total Current Liabilities | 81,532 | 85,785 |

| LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS |        |        |
| NET ASSETS |        |        |
| Unrestricted |        |        |
| Designated | 217,465 | 199,706 |
| Undesignated | 442,209 | 381,867 |
| Temporarily Restricted | 51,645 | 55,124 |
| Permanently Restricted | 10,000 | 10,000 |
| Total Net Assets | 721,319 | 646,697 |
| Total Liabilities and Net Assets | $802,851 | $732,482 |
**NATIONAL WILDLIFE REHABILITATORS ASSOCIATION**

**STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES AND CHANGES IN NET ASSETS**

**YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2009**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2009 Unrestricted</th>
<th>Temporarily Restricted</th>
<th>Permanently Restricted</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**SUPPORT AND REVENUE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>2009</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Membership Revenue</td>
<td>$72,956</td>
<td>$ -</td>
<td>$ -</td>
<td>$72,956</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conference</td>
<td>75,480</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>75,480</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sales</td>
<td>66,566</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>66,566</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net Sales</td>
<td>34,181</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>34,181</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributions and Grants</td>
<td>37,701</td>
<td>18,480</td>
<td></td>
<td>56,181</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest Income</td>
<td>25,201</td>
<td>559</td>
<td></td>
<td>25,760</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advertising</td>
<td>3,732</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>3,732</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous Revenue</td>
<td>8,116</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>8,116</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net Assets Released</td>
<td>22,518</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>22,518</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Support and Revenue</td>
<td>279,885</td>
<td>(3,479)</td>
<td></td>
<td>276,406</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**EXPENSES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>2009</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Salaries and Benefits</td>
<td>81,784</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>81,784</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Occupancy</td>
<td>10,820</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>10,820</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supplies</td>
<td>3,644</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>3,644</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Publication and Printing</td>
<td>17,568</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>17,568</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Postage and Shipping</td>
<td>18,934</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>18,934</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Events</td>
<td>16,342</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>16,342</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grants and Scholarships</td>
<td>10,975</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>10,975</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Insurance</td>
<td>2,379</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2,379</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equipment Rental</td>
<td>450</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>450</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Travel</td>
<td>10,221</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>10,221</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous</td>
<td>5,041</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>5,041</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Telephone</td>
<td>1,925</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1,925</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contract Services</td>
<td>8,523</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>8,523</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Training</td>
<td>260</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>260</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taxes</td>
<td>344</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>344</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professional Fees</td>
<td>7,713</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>7,713</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Depreciation</td>
<td>4,861</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>4,861</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Expenses</td>
<td>201,784</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>201,784</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**CHANGE IN NET ASSETS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>2009</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Net Assets - Beginning of Year</td>
<td>581,573</td>
<td>55,124</td>
<td>10,000</td>
<td>646,697</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net Assets - End of Year</td>
<td>$659,674</td>
<td>$51,645</td>
<td>$10,000</td>
<td>$721,319</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Copies of full audited financial statements are available from the NWRA Office upon request.
Happenings and Notes of Interest in 2009

Update on the NWRA Wildlife Medicine Course

Wildlife medicine is not part of most traditional veterinary curricula, so in the late 1990s, the NWRA Veterinary Committee developed a program to bring this training to veterinary schools in North America. The resulting Wildlife Medicine Course provides valuable knowledge to future veterinarians who will be treating injured wildlife. In 2007, NWRA received funding from the Kenneth A. Scott Foundation, a charitable trust, to further develop and improve the course materials and to conduct the course for an additional three years.

The purpose of the NWRA Wildlife Medicine Course is to provide an opportunity for professional students in accredited veterinary schools to gain formal training in medicine, surgery, and captive management of native wildlife species. This two-day course proactively exposes veterinary students to the concept of humane care for wildlife. Students learn how to stabilize patients, provide first aid, recognize common injuries and illnesses in wild species, guard against zoonoses, understand the philosophy of treatment for release, become familiar with legal issues, and realize the importance of establishing relationships with agencies and rehabilitators. Students are provided with intense didactic and hands-on training in a variety of practical topics. When wildlife rehabilitators and veterinarians work closely together, optimal medical management can be provided during the entire rehabilitation process.

Twelve experienced wildlife veterinarians have taught this course at 13 veterinary schools (11 in the United States and 2 in Canada), and have returned to teach the course a second time at three of the US schools. This invaluable course has been attended by both students and local veterinarians. Most recently, the NWRA Wildlife Medicine Course was conducted at the Western College of Veterinary Medicine in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, and at Washington State University College of Veterinary Medicine.

Loyal Volunteers Provide Valuable Services to NWRA

NWRA proudly acknowledges a large pool of individuals who volunteer countless thousands of hours annually. As many as half of these volunteers do not work with wildlife directly, but firmly support the mission and programs of NWRA and wish to assist.

NWRA project managers successfully guide key volunteers to fulfill the organization’s mission. A few of the areas include:

- working at the symposium (audio-visual and technical support, registration table, presentations, hands-on workshop instruction, set up and clean up of workshop rooms, etc.);
- creating and producing publications (writing, editing, proofreading, layout, etc.);
- preparing mailings to members, symposium attendees, and others; and,
- creating original artwork for the journal cover and annual symposium logos.
Member Survey Data Published

Every five years since 1993 NWRA has conducted a Member Survey designed to ensure member input into NWRA’s current membership services, as well as the opportunity to contribute to the future direction of NWRA and wildlife rehabilitation. The survey is mailed to every NWRA member and gathers important data on wildlife rehabilitation activities, public education efforts, and demographics. Member responses are read, tabulated, and analyzed. Board and staff members use the resulting comprehensive report to make informed decisions to prioritize NWRA efforts and expenditures. Two of four summary reports for the 2007 NWRA Member Survey were published in 2009.

Here are some interesting findings:

- Of 1,610 questionnaires mailed, 461 (29%) were returned, and responses were geographically representative of NWRA membership.
- Respondents range from individual rehabilitators to directors of large facilities.
- Respondents are 88% female and 12% male.
- Most respondents are well educated with 61% holding at least a four-year college degree and 33% of those further educated.
- 57% have some background in animal health care (including 6% veterinarians, 3% veterinary students, and 21% veterinary and animal health technicians); 8% have a background in human medicine.
- Respondents have been involved in wildlife rehabilitation for an average of 13.3 years (range 1 to 55).
- Collectively, 449 respondents contributed roughly 5,978 years to the field.
- A great majority conduct wildlife rehabilitation on a volunteer basis—64% characterize themselves as ‘individual or independent, on a volunteer basis,’ 20% ‘do volunteer work under someone else,’ 16% are paid staff, and others are board members, founders, directors, cooperating veterinarians, educators, administrators, and retirees.
- In 2007, respondents provided care for 63,979 birds, 39,163 mammals, and 2,345 reptiles/amphibians.
- The overall combined release rate for all species is 67%—60% for birds, 72% for mammals, and 69% for reptiles/amphibians.
- 360 respondents answered 252,157 wildlife-related phone calls (range 1 to 24,000).
- 277 respondents handled 62,647 wildlife-related emails (range 0 to 12,000).
- About half the phone calls and emails did not result in animal admissions—callers received information, instruction, and/or referrals.
- 178 respondents offered at least 1 wildlife educational program for a total of 7,813 programs (range 1 to 1,591) reaching an estimated 838,618 people.
- Many included a living wild animal(s) as part of their educational program, and a surprising number used a creative array of non-living materials to augment programs—photos, posters, charts, x-rays, CDs, DVDs, PowerPoint presentations, taxidermy mounts, study skins, furs, feet, wings, skulls, bones, feathers, snake sheds, turtle shells, brochures, handouts, nests, eggs, scat, owl pellets, footprint casts, games, puppets, bird calls, music, stories, nature hikes, crafts, coloring books, etc.
Advocacy Inspires Symposium 2009 Theme and Logo

Wildlife rehabilitators, veterinarians, and educators are *Making a Difference for Wildlife* every day. We advocate for wildlife every time we speak with the public arriving with an animal, give an educational program, and answer wildlife questions. Effecting a change in understanding and perception about wildlife and its needs makes a real difference for wildlife! We deepen understanding and appreciation by providing natural history and behavior information, we raise awareness on the plight of and for the benefit of wildlife, and we provide options for people to live with, admire, respect, and enjoy wildlife.

Wildlife rehabilitators are part of the solution and contribute knowledge to more fields. Working ‘on the front lines,’ rehabilitators and wildlife veterinarians are in a unique position. We assist in furthering wildlife disease identification and treatment, isolating environmental contaminants, and showing new and changing trends.

The Symposium 2009 logo art shows caring hands releasing a young Blanding’s turtle (Blanding’s turtles are on the Illinois ‘threatened’ species list) and a rehabilitated white-throated sparrow, and protecting a young flying squirrel, all surrounded by a triangle. The Greek letter delta $\Delta$ is used in medical and technical fields for the word *change*. The logo is in the delta shape and represents the changes we make to further assist wildlife. Contained within the triangle are the birds, reptiles, and mammals coming into rehabilitators’ and veterinarians’ hands. If all gathered for the Symposium take an additional step in advocacy, we make a huge difference—a significant change—one that makes ripples across North America and beyond, like the far-reaching ripples when a pebble is thrown into a lake.

NWRA Leadership

Nineteen leaders from 13 states served on the Board of Directors to keep the organization moving forward and on the road to fulfilling our mission. The board conducted two business meetings during 2009—March in Bloomingdale, Illinois, and again November in Bellevue, Washington. The fall five-day meeting included committee planning meetings and a variety of project discussions as NWRA moves forward in response to member needs.

NWRA has a dedicated and committed volunteer Board of Directors that view their positions in the organization responsibly and are not compensated for their board duties. Individual board members serve as project leaders and managers and as editors for publications. They contribute to the field with published research and protocols, teach the signature NWRA Wildlife Medicine Course, and present papers at NWRA symposiums and other conferences. Their diversity of expertise, skills, and knowledge is a resource both for the organization and for those working with wildlife worldwide.
NWRA Board of Directors 2009

**Wendy Fox, President**, Executive Director, Pelican Harbor Seabird Station; board member, Florida Wildlife Rehabilitators Association. FL

**Frances Feeney, President Elect**, President, Wildlife Rehabilitators' Association of Massachusetts; at-home independent rehabilitator for over ten years. MA

**Di Conger, Vice President**, founder and Director, Last Chance Wildlife Center; co-founder and President, Maryland Wildlife Rehabilitators Association. MD

**Cheryl Hoggard, DVM, Vice President**, Hospital Director, Piedmont Wildlife Center. NC

**Sandy Woltman, Vice President**, Wildlife Specialist, Willowbrook Wildlife Center; founding board member, past Secretary, and past Treasurer, Illinois Wildlife Rehabilitators Association. IL

**Karen Shenoy, DVM, Secretary**, Staff Veterinarian, Wildlife Rehabilitation Center of Minnesota. MN

**Barbara Suto, Treasurer**, Wildlife Biologist and Hospital Supervisor, Suncoast Seabird Sanctuary. FL

**January O. Bill**, Wildlife Rehabilitator/Volunteer Coordinator, Oiled Wildlife Care Network, Wildlife Health Center, UC Davis. CA

**Jennifer Convy**, Wildlife Director, PAWS Wildlife Department; founding board member, Washington Wildlife Rehabilitation Association. WA

**John Frink**, founding board member, Tri-State Bird Rescue & Research, Inc. DE

**Michele Goodman**, founder and Director, Webbed Foot Wildlife Rehabilitation Clinic. CT

**Richard Grant**, founder and Executive Director, Howell Conference and Nature Center. MI

**Lorrie Hale-Mitchell, DVM**, Relief Veterinarian; past President, Louisiana Wildlife Rehabilitators Association; board member for the development of Georgia Rehabilitation of Wildlife. IL

**Leslie Lattimore**, Director, Wings of Hope Wildlife Sanctuary; at-home independent rehabilitator for ten years; founder and past President, Louisiana Wildlife Rehabilitators Association. LA

**Diane Nickerson**, Director, Mercer County Wildlife Center; board member, New Jersey Association of Wildlife Rehabilitators. NJ

**Martha Pokras**, Executive Director, Planning and Administration, Tufts University; active rehabilitator from 1972 to 1984; served in various not-for-profit management and board roles since then. MA

**Elaine M. Thrune**, founding board member and past President, NWRA; retired rehabilitator after 22 years with WILD AGAIN Wildlife Rehabilitation; founding board member and past President, Minnesota Wildlife Assistance Cooperative. MN

The following two individuals retired from the board early in 2009:

**Lessie Davis, Past President and Honorary Board Member**, retired rehabilitator; six years Director of Rehabilitation, Outer Banks Wildlife Center and subsequently home-based independent; past board member, Piedmont Wildlife Center, Wildlife Rehabilitators Association of North Carolina, Blue Ridge Wildlife Institute. NC

**Erica A. Miller, DVM**, Staff Veterinarian, Tri-State Bird Rescue & Research, Inc.; past President and past Secretary, NWRA. DE