2016 Annual Report

National Wildlife Rehabilitators Association

Improving wildlife care through current, relevant, professional, affordable education and training since 1982

www.NWRAwildlife.org

President’s Message

I am happy to present the Annual Report of the NWRA. The National Wildlife Rehabilitator’s Association is dedicated to improving and promoting the profession of wildlife rehabilitation and its contributions to preserving natural ecosystems.

I have been very fortunate in being involved with this fine organization since a year after its inception in 1982. Over that period, I have seen the NWRA grow into an outstanding organization helping those who help wildlife. Through numerous publications, annual symposiums, newsletters, bulletins and other means, the NWRA has tremendously advanced the science of wildlife rehabilitation.

I can speak for my own organization, Howell Nature Center. When we began rehabilitating in 1983, like other centers, when we hung out our shingle we had many things to learn on proper rehab. We would not be the center we are today without the guidance and support of the NWRA. They gave us the tools, information, and education for us to be the best we can be.

One main reason for the success of this fine organization that it has never wavered from its early mission of improving the profession of wildlife rehabilitation. As you read this report that mission will be demonstrated on every page.

In closing, it has been my honor to serve as President and I am always amazed at what we have done as an organization of mainly volunteers, in order to advance the field of wildlife rehab.

Sincerely Yours,
Richard Grant

Summary of Significant Accomplishments During 2016

- **Symposium 2016** in Norman, OK was well attended and highly successful
- Annual **Membership Directory** published and distributed to nearly 1500 members
- Fifteen **scholarships** awarded totaling $9027
- One **national achievement award**
- 9,550 hours of **volunteer time** received from 200 volunteers
- $73,857 in **grants and contributions** received
Spotlight on → NWRA Wildlife Medicine Course

Three NWRA Wildlife Medicine Courses were taught in 2016, which were funded by the Kenneth A. Scott Charitable Trust. The courses were taught at Virginia Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine, Western University of Health Sciences in California, and the University of Minnesota. Since 1999, the course has been taught at veterinary schools, proactively exposing veterinary students to the concept of humane and appropriate care for native wildlife species and basic approaches to wildlife stabilization, medical treatment, and captive management. In addition to hands-on skills, the training provided by this course also prepares students to work better with wildlife rehabilitators once they become practicing veterinarians, resulting in optimal medical management during the rehabilitation process. Course instructors are nationally recognized licensed veterinarians from the NWRA Veterinary Committee with extensive experience treating wildlife patients. The two-day course has been presented 27 times and has served an approximately 1260 veterinary students.
Symposium 2016

The NWRA Symposium offers training and development to wildlife rehabilitators from all over the world. 395 people from 41 states, 5 Canadian provinces, Australia, Latvia, and The Netherlands attended the 34th symposium, hosted by WildCare Foundation. The program lineup offered wildlife rehabilitators valuable information, insight, and resources.

Five days of programming provided over 160 hours of education for attendees. State veterinary boards and natural resource agencies, as well as federal migratory bird offices, approve Symposium presentations for continuing education credits required of practicing veterinarians, veterinary technicians, and licensed wildlife rehabilitators.

All for One and One for All

This theme reflects NWRA values of respect and concern for wildlife, professionalism, continuing improvement, teamwork, and cooperation. Each one of us does our part to make life better for wildlife. I may be a rehabilitator, educator, veterinarian, volunteer, intern, telephone answerer, cage cleaner, groundskeeper, fundraiser, transporter, bookkeeper, manager, executive director, consultant, wild foods gatherer, or one of the many other people who contributes what they can. All are important!

Each wild animal comes to us with its own unique characteristics and needs. Each one requires its own action plan if we are to help the best we can – each species, age group, and injury is different; each situation is different–we learn from each individual case to improve care for future patients.

NWRA is one organization for ALL rehabilitators helping all species. We learn from each other to continually improve. We share knowledge and information, not only through presentations at symposia, but also through published materials and our member network. NWRA provides continuing education and standards of care to help each of us provide the best care possible for our wildlife patients. NWRA works to establish and sustain a professional reputation for wildlife rehabilitators.

Rehabilitators do more than just provide care for orphaned and injured wildlife:
we use networking and cooperation with colleagues to help with the animals;
we provide public education to protect both wildlife and their habitats;
we cooperate with biologists and researchers to learn more about our native species;
and, we speak out to help change legislation affecting wildlife.
Wildlife rehabilitators, educators, and veterinarians make a positive difference for wildlife. We ensure there is a next generation providing care for injured or orphaned wild creatures, ensure there are educators following us in interacting and teaching the public, and ensure there are veterinarians interested, trained, and willing to assist wildlife in need. The lectures, workshops, discussion panels, posters, seminars, and networking that occur at the Symposium help us to do that.

The entire program is planned by wildlife rehabilitators for wildlife rehabilitators. The Program Committee assembles topics and speakers to meet the wide range of needs in the field. Each year modifications are made based on feedback attendees have supplied, thus providing what is most useful, most recent, and most informative for symposium participants.

“I absolutely loved your Symposium and learned so much. I appreciated being talked to as an intelligent caregiver who already knows a lot about rehabilitation but can learn more. The vet speakers were so articulate and explained complicated things in a way that was easy to understand.”

“This was my first symposium and I was just thrilled to have the opportunity to come. NWRA is an amazing organization that put together an incredible conference with such talented speakers. Best highlight of my rehabilitation career thus far.”

As with other NWRA programs, volunteers play a key role in ensuring each annual Symposium is successful and affordable for attendees. Over 4000 volunteer hours were put toward the success of Symposium 2016 from 136 volunteers. Coordinators work all year-round to plan and secure the site, hotel, speakers, workshop supplies, field trips, evening banquet, Icebreaker reception, and everything that occurs during the week-long event. During the Symposium, trained volunteers staff the registration/information desk and the AV Team, and serve as speakers, moderators, workshop instructors, and assistants.

View information on past and future symposia online at www.nwrawildlife.org in the Symposium section and in Annual Reports.

Professional Recognition Awards

The 2016 NWRA Board of Directors Award was presented to Nick Lattimore, LA, of the NWRA Symposium Audio/Visual Team. Nick contributes skills and expertise to each annual NWRA Symposium, especially with his knowledge of recent technological advances. Working behind the scenes, Nick helps make each symposium a success!
Educational Publications

NWRA has many publications and educational, reference, and training materials. Many wildlife rehabilitators disseminate information to the public and offer educational programs for children and citizen groups; therefore, NWRA publishes books to help members become better educators. Many members are veterinarians, veterinary technicians, and veterinary students working with wildlife; thus, NWRA publishes books with wildlife medicine topics as well.

Examples of NWRA publications and educational and training materials include:

- Minimum Standards for Wildlife Rehabilitation, joint NWRA/IWRC publication
- NWRA Quick Reference
- Topics in Wildlife Medicine—Pathology
- Topics in Wildlife Medicine—Emergency and Critical Care
- Topics in Wildlife Medicine—Infectious Disease
- Wildlife in Education, A Guide for the Care and Use of Program Animals

Publications are available through the Marketplace at www.NWRAwildlife.org.

Membership Benefits

NWRA provides updated resources to sustain efforts of dedicated wildlife rehabilitators and veterinarians who care for injured wild animals, and those who educate concerned citizens about wildlife behavior and survival. Member benefits focus on the association’s mission of improving and promoting the profession of wildlife rehabilitation and its contributions to preserving natural ecosystems. Information and resources help members improve wildlife care and release, more timely and effectively respond and educate the public in wildlife situations or encounters, and better manage time, funds, resources, volunteers, and staff.

Membership benefits include:

- The Wildlife Rehabilitator semiannual newsletter
- Membership Directory
- Wildlife Rehabilitation Bulletin, semiannual peer-reviewed journal
- Members-only section of the NWRA website
- Downloadable and printable membership certificate
- Access to an insurance plan designed to cover wildlife rehabilitators
- Twice monthly Member Emails to convey opportunities and critical news
- Discounts for all members on purchases and symposium registration fees
- Periodic member only and online only sales on publications and merchandise
Scholarships

NWRA is pleased to receive donor contributions for all scholarships awarded. **Fifteen scholarships** totaling $9027 were awarded in 2016.

- **Eric Sticht Memorial Scholarship** of $625 to Meaghan Elliot, ID, to attend Symposium 2016

- **James J. Wolf CARE for Wildlife Education Scholarship** of $500 to Sophia Phillips, IL, to attend Symposium 2016

- **Alma Natura Trust North American Scholarship** of $750 to Linda Peck, MN, to attend Symposium 2016

- **Alma Natura Trust International Scholarship** of $1,750 to Kim Bensdorp, The Netherlands, to attend Symposium 2016

- **Debra L. Chandler Memorial Scholarship** of $500 to Peggy Popp, WI, to attend Symposium 2016

- **NWRA Cage Building Scholarship** totaling $2182 to Maggie Engler, SD; Ame Vanorio, KY; and Michelle Wiley, GA, to help fund appropriate rehabilitation housing for raptors, opossums, and fawns

- **Rachel Fischoff Education Scholarship** of $650 to Laurie Campbell, TN, for symposium registration, membership, and/or publications

- **William Jessen Memorial Scholarship** totaling $500 to symposium speakers Amanda Wrigley, IN, and Sarah Gunter, TX, to attend Symposium 2016

- **Ed Hiestand Memorial Veterinary Student Scholarship** of $500, plus registration and banquet, to JoAnna Jarred, NC, to attend Symposium 2016 to present her paper on *Mycoplasma Species in an Eastern Box Turtle and Yellow-bellied Slider*

- **Michigan Wildlife Rehabilitator Continuing Education Scholarship** of $500 to Allyson Swanson, MI, to attend Symposium 2016

- **Walter Crawford Memorial Scholarship** of $500 to Deborah Sykes, TN, to attend Symposium 2016

- **Eric Orendorff Memorial Scholarship** of $70 to Priscilla Purnick, NJ, to purchase educational materials

Since 1993, NWRA has awarded over $80,000 in scholarships to 147 individuals. Scholarship descriptions and recipient lists are posted online at [www.NWRAwildlife.org](http://www.NWRAwildlife.org).
Letters from Scholarship Recipients

Debora L. Chandler Memorial Scholarship Recipient

I would like to thank the Debra L. Chandler family and the NWRA for presenting me with the scholarship that allowed me to attend the 2016 NWRA Symposium in Norman, OK. The Symposium was a fabulous learning and networking experience that left me recharged and ready for the spring baby season. Attending the Symposium would not have been possible for me without the scholarship.

During my seven-day adventure I was able to share the drive with an experienced, long-time rehabilitator from Minnesota who is passionate about habitat restoration and education; share my hotel room with a wonderful rehabilitator from Indiana who specializes in water birds; and talk with other rehabilitators from as far away as Australia, Hawaii, and Alaska who were often identified as first time attendees by the ribbon on their name badge. The two workshops and the many lectures I attended provided me with new skills and new resources.

In addition, I was able to participate in organized field trips to the WildCare Foundation Rehabilitation and Education facility and the Grey Snow Eagle House, and take a personal excursion to the Wichita Mountain Wildlife Refuge for a day of hiking. As I had never visited Oklahoma before it was a perfect opportunity to see some marvelous rehabilitation facilities and stunning new landscapes.

I highly recommend attending the Symposia whenever possible, and I appreciate the opportunity given to me by the Chandler family and the NWRA for attending the 2016 NWRA symposium. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Peggy Popp

Alma Natura Trust Scholarship Recipient

I was so honored to receive the Alma Natura Trust Scholarship which enabled me to attend the 2016 NWRA Symposium in Norman, OK. I am still digesting the amazing information provided by the excellent presenters.

Two presentations especially spoke to me. The first was the documentation of the successful reuniting of orphaned fawns with does experiencing the loss of their own fawns. The second emphasized respecting the innate wildness of the orphaned and injured wild animals we rehabilitate.

Also important to me is that the scholarship supports education. All of us need to encourage the public, especially children and youth, to love nature and feel comfortable in nature. The future of our planet need a public that feels they belong to nature and the web of life.

Thank you to the donors who make this scholarship possible. I hope I can continue enriching the lives of children and install a sense of stewardship for our planet with the education programs I do with raptors.

Sincerely,
Linda Peck
Research Grants

The NWRA grant program is unique in awarding small grants specifically to those who work with wildlife. Recipients present results of their work through NWRA publications or presentations at annual symposia so others in the field can benefit from their studies and findings.

- $1675 was awarded to Karli Chudeau, CA, for a research project entitled *The Physical and Behavioral Effects of Enrichment in Rehabilitating Eastern Pacific Harbor Seals*
- $800 was awarded to Andreas Eleftheriou, DVM, MT, to partially fund a research project entitled *Stress Effects of Anthropogenic Disturbance on Pathogen Prevalence in Wildlife Species*
- $3500 was awarded to Dana Franzen, DVM, VA, in partial support of the project: *Epidemiology of Box Turtle Adenovirus-1 in Eastern Box Turtles* (Terrapene carolina carolina) *Presented to a Virginia Wildlife Rehabilitation Center*

Since 1984, NWRA has provided $112,862 to improve the field and care of wildlife. A list of recipients and projects is posted online at www.NWRAwildlife.org.

Donated Volunteer Time

NWRA gratefully acknowledges 200 volunteers donating more than 9,550 hours of time to program services, organizational management, and fundraising efforts. Volunteers allowed NWRA to save thousands of dollars by not paying for certain operating expenses, and their expertise and energy significantly enriched the organization.

The total time donation of 9,550 hours included:

1. Board members, 1,818 hours for board business;
2. Board members, 4,121 hours for program activities; and,
3. Nonboard member volunteers, over 3,611 hours for program support.

Thank you!
Significant Financial Gifts

NWRA is sincerely and deeply grateful to donors who support programs vital to wildlife rehabilitation. Every contribution plays an important role in enabling NWRA to pursue its mission to ensure wildlife rehabilitators, educators, and veterinarians stay abreast of new and innovative techniques for the welfare of native North American wildlife.

The Alma Natura Trust provided $750 to fund the Alma Natura Trust North American Scholarship and $1,750 to fund the International Scholarship.

Barry Chandler donated $22,328 to fund a second Debra Chandler Memorial Scholarship

Two anonymous donors gifted $2000 to the Cage Building Scholarship

Ronald Coté donated $750 for the Coté Scholarship

Linda Wolf donated $600 for the Wolf Scholarship

Chouinard Trust contributed $1000

A total of 72 individuals, organizations, centers, and businesses from around the country contributed $34,569 in financial support for Symposium 2016 in Norman, Oklahoma. Donations and sponsorships defray expenses, enabling NWRA to keep symposium registration fees affordable for those dedicated to helping wildlife. Special thanks to our Premier Sponsor, the Kirkpatrick Foundation, for their $10,000 contribution and to Avian Power Line Interaction Committee for their $5,000 sponsorship. Special thanks also to Judi and Bruce Goodman for sponsoring all workshop lectures, three sessions, and one workshop, The Humane Society of the United States for sponsoring five sessions, Adam and Patricia Goodman for sponsoring a workshop and session, Mazuri for sponsoring two workshops, Wildlife Rehabilitation MD (WRMD) for sponsoring two workshops, the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation for sponsoring a seminar, Pet-Ag for sponsoring a seminar, to Kim and Bill Schlittler, and to Jorgensen Laboratories for their generous donation of workshop supplies.
Financial Report

2016 Revenue Sources:

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<th>Revenue Source</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Percentage of Total Revenue</th>
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<td>Program Services</td>
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<td>Membership Benefits</td>
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<td>Annual Symposium</td>
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<td>Publications, information</td>
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<td>Contributions and Grants</td>
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<td>Interest Income</td>
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<td>Other (ads)</td>
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2016 Expenses:

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Net Assets and Liabilities

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NWRA Board of Directors 2016

The NWRA Board of Directors is 100% invested in the organization; every board member made a financial contribution during 2016. In addition to board governance, they serve as project leaders, managers, and publication editors. They contribute to the field with published research and protocols, teach the signature NWRA Wildlife Medicine Course, and present papers and teach hands-on skills workshops at NWRA symposia and other conferences. Their depth and range of expertise, skills, and knowledge is a resource both for the organization and for all who work with wildlife.
2016 Board Members

**Bettina Bowers**, Founding member and Vice-President, Tennessee Wildlife Educators and Rehabilitators Association. Past board member and Secretary, Tennessee Bat Working Group. PTA, third generation wildlife rehabilitator, Reiki master. Nashville, TN

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

**Sherri Cox, DVM, MBA, Treasurer**, President and Wildlife Veterinarian, National Wildlife Centre Canada; Executive Director Global Development, University of Guelph; past Head Veterinarian, Toronto Wildlife Centre. Ontario, Canada

**Rebecca Duerr, DVM, PhD**, Veterinarian and Director of Research, International Bird Rescue; wildlife rehabilitation center volunteer, staff person, or Board of Directors member since 1988. CA

**Michele Goodman, President Elect**, founder and Director, Webbed Foot Wildlife Rehabilitation Clinic; VMD

**Richard Grant, President**, Executive Director, Howell Nature Center. MI

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

**Dave McRuer, MSc, DVM, DACVPM, Vice President**, Director of Veterinary Services, Wildlife Center of Virginia; co-developer of WILD-ONe patient management program. VA

**Jenny Schlieps**, Program Manager and Rehabilitation Manager, Focus Wildlife; founding member, Washington Wildlife Rehabilitation Association. WA

**Lisa Smith, Secretary**, Executive Director, Tri-State Bird Rescue & Research, Inc.; past board member and senior clinic supervisor at Tri-State. DE

**Kathy Stelford**, founder and President, Oaken Acres Wildlife Center; founding President, TAILS Humane Society; Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee at Northern Illinois University; independent licensed rehabilitator for over 30 years. IL

**Barbara Suto**, Avian Care Director, Gulf Coast Bird Rescue. FL

**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
National Wildlife Rehabilitators Association (NWRA)

Improving wildlife care by providing specialized training, information, and resources to wildlife rehabilitators, veterinarians, and educators since 1982

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

Vision

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

Contact Information

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2016 Staff

Debra Dohrmann, Office Manager
Kelly Alonso-Heath, Bookkeeper/Accounting Clerk
Mary Jo Holewa, Office Assistant
Tracy Hunt, Office Assistant
Molly Gezella-Baranczyk, Conference Manager
Lessie Davis, Publications Manager
Elaine Thrune, Business Manager