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## **Great Horned Owl Trio Released in November**

#1 On April 3, 2021, a local Game Warden was called about a young owl on the ground in Mt. Lebanon. The bird was a Great Horned Owl (GHO) fledgling. While the youngster was at the stage where its parents would continue its care while on the ground, the Warden decided that the area was just too dangerous for the juvenile to survive.

On admission, we found a very large, very feisty owlet (see photo on back page) that was not happy to be at Wildlife Works at all. Because of the size, we figured the juvie was a female, as in most raptor species the female is larger than the male. She was far enough along developmentally that there was no fear of imprinting her. All she wanted to do was kick some butt. This made her rehab fairly straightforward, we had to simply house and feed her until she was mature enough for release.

Unfortunately, GHO's don't leave their parents' care until September or October, so we were all in for a long haul.

#2 In August we admitted an adult GHO from Coal Center that was weak and underweight. The only problem we found on exam was one toe on the right foot had an old open wound on top of the joint and mobility of the toe was impaired by the scar tissue that was forming around the wound.

This owl, a small mature male, was treated with antibiotics and topical

meds with a bandage to help the toe finish healing. Once he was finished with treatment and had gained some weight, we moved him outside to our raptor barn with the "angry" juvenile. Being able to put an adult with her was the next best thing to a good foster parent, and it wasn't long until the two were comfortable with each other.

#3 On August 27 we saw yet another GHO admission – another very large and very fierce-looking female. Although we could find nothing obvious on exam, she was definitely "ADR" – rehab lingo for "Ain't Doing Right."

We took some samples and sent off some cytologies to our vet to help with her diagnosis. In the meantime, we provided supportive care in the form of warmth, fluids, food and a quiet, stress -free environment. Diagnostics proved inconclusive, so with the help of our vet, Dr. Craig Hill, we started the owl on several medications to see if that was going to turn her around.

After two weeks of meds and mice, she had not only gained weight, she re-gained her feisty GHO demeanor. She ultimately joined the other two in our barn and we had our Great Horned Owl trio until fall. The adult female was returned to where she was found.

And since the little male and the big "Baby Huey" with an attitude had become chummy, we released them together in early November.

## **GREAT HORNED OWL FACTS**

- They are the largest of American "eared" owls and also the largest owl in PA.
- They have yellow eyes, white throat patches and "barred" breasts.
- Their large feet are feathered to the ends of the toes.
- They are territorial, though conflicts are rare with other owls generally staying clear of one another's territories.
- GHO's do not build their own nest, they
  use an existing nest, often a red-tailed
  hawk nest, or other natural location such as
  a cave or cliff. Two to four white eggs are
  incubated mostly by the female.
- Since they cannot move their eyes up, down, or side to side, they've evolved the ability to rotate their heads 270 degrees.
- The sexes are outwardly alike but the female is larger as is the case in many raptors.
- They take prey as large as skunks. WWI
  often admits GHO's that have a skunky
  aroma.. Needless to say, owls do not have
  a sense of smell.
- GHO's produce the Hoo HooHoooooo HooHoo, a series of 4-5 deep, resonant hoots that are often answered by another owl. Female hoots are shorter and higher pitched than the male.
- Once paired, males and females remain closely associated, often roosting together during the day.
- GHO's live anywhere from 15-25 years in captivity.



## **Troubled Toad???**

It was October 27, and we took a call about a toad found in trouble. While it was late in the season for amphibian activity, we made an appointment for admission. We felt up to the task since we'd successfully over-wintered a very large toad last year.

**Not a Toad!**, On admission, we found not a toad but a badly injured Northern Green Frog. The frog was male and had a broken leg. His skin was torn across the belly and was rolled up like a window blind. We did our best to immobilize the leg, but we really had no idea what to do about the wound. Then there was the concern about being able to manage the frog

through the winter months, since a frog's needs are very different from a toad.

First things first! This frog needed a vet appointment to explore treatment options. This was a job for Dr. Robert Wagner.

In an amazing feat of veterinary skill, Dr. Wagner was able to pull the wound margins together and fix them in place with surgical glue. Even more impressive was the pinning procedure Dr. Wagner did on his patient – a frog, no less!

As of this writing, our patient is doing well. In fact, he has gotten positively fat on a diet of mealworms, waxworms, night crawlers, and crickets. A sign that he is content is the sound of his croaking. We keep telling him that Spring is just around the corner.



# Broken leg Broken leg

## FROG OR TOAD?

#### **FROGS**

- Have long legs, longer than their bodies, that are made for hopping.
- Have smooth, somewhat slimy skin. They look wet even on land.
- Are lithe and athleticlooking.
- Their spawn is laid in gooey clumps of jelly.
- Their tadpoles are slim with gold flecks.

#### **TOADS**

- Have much shorter legs and prefer to crawl around rather than hop.
- Have dry, warty skin, covered with little bumps.
- Are somewhat squat and dumpy.
- Their spawn floats in stringy lengths.
- Their tadpoles are plain black in color.

## **Green Frog Facts**

- They are a native species found in every county in PA.
- Outside of PA, their range extends from the Maritime Provinces of Canada south to North Carolina and west to Minnesota.
- They come in an assortment of colors, from a brilliant metallic green, to greenish brown, to brown or tan. They can have assorted patterns on their backs, dark-brown or gray spots, some large enough to be called blotches. Their bellies are white with dark lines or spots under the legs.
- Their external eardrum is large, and on the male, bigger in diameter than the eye. See photo.
- Breeding takes place May to August.. The female releases 1,500 to 4,000 eggs. Only 1 in 50 survives to adulthood as they have a host of predators at different life stages.
- Their voice is like the twang of a loose banjo string, usually given as a single note, but sometimes repeated rapidly several times.



## **Cedar Waxwing**



As baby bird season winds down, we know there are only a handful of native birds that breed into early autumn. The American Goldfinch is one, along with the ever-popular mourning dove. Cedar Waxwings are another. The timing of the late waxwing

broods fledgling the nest coincides with the abundance of fruit found on native plants and ornamentals at this time.

A juvenile waxwing was admitted on September 27 with a very swollen right eye. It was difficult to ascertain whether it was just the eyelid or the eyeball itself, there was so much swelling. An initial application of eye ointment only seemed to make matters worse. After consulting with one of our vets, we started a different eye drop along with systemic meds, but there was no appreciable change. A second vet did a little surgery on the eyelid to reduce the scarring that was taking place. This was turning into a lot for one little bird to handle.

There are times when, despite our best efforts, we cannot realistically continue treatment, especially when it involves repeated handling and medicating. The stress we put a patient through can undo any good we are trying to accomplish. This became a question we had to ask ourselves about the little waxwing. There was just something about her that made me believe she wanted us to keep trying. As days went on, I had some doubts because so much healing still needed to happen, and our little patient was looking a bit rough. I kept telling staff that the waxwing was an "ugly duckling" and would turn into a beautiful bird in time.

And that's just what happened.

## **CEDAR WAXWING FACTS**

- They are smaller than a Robin.
- They are crested, masked brown birds with yellow tail tips and are almost always seen in flocks.
- Their nest is built by both the male and female, usually in a limb fork five to fifty feet high.
- They are found in open habitats where berries are available; they also eat insects and sap.
- Both sexes have the same plumage; juveniles have streaking on their breast and lack the black mask.
- They lay 3-5 oval, glossy, pale blue eggs; spotted with pale grey.





## 



In many Native American cultures, the coyote is a shape-shifting trickster. The Apache, Hopi and Okanagan peoples told stories of Coyote's many exploits and pranks. In January of this year, we at Wildlife Works experienced some real life coyote trickery.

In PA, coyotes are grouped with the other Rabies Vector Species (RVS), so the animal in question was admitted to our Mt. Pleasant facility. It was obvious at a glance that it was a canid suffering from severe mange, but was it a coyote or a dog? We were leaning towards it being a coyote except for the fact that the finder coaxed it into her basement – not exactly wild animal behavior. Also, animals in an advanced state of mange have a much altered appearance from what you would expect.

So, just to be sure, Morgan sent off a mouth swab in order to check the DNA to learn whether it was a coyote, a dog or even a mix of both (coyotes can mate with dogs).

While waiting for test results, the very depressed canid was set up in a cage in Morgan's hospital room, treatment for mange was started, and Morgan provided a warm, safe environment and a nourishing, restorative diet.

For days, our patient stayed cuddled in blankets at the rear of the cage and never moved a muscle when Morgan was in the

## **TRICKSTER COYOTE**

room. He only followed her with his eyes. Other than the food and water disappearing in her absence, Morgan barely knew he was there, he was so stoic.

This, however, was when the trickery came in. One morning, Morgan opened up to find her hospital room was trashed. The cage was demolished and the coyote was gone. We could see from scratches on the wall that he had somehow clung to the sill of the head-high window, chewed the rubber seal until he was able to force the window open and shred the screen – the coyote had vanished. His tracks in the snow petered out in high brush, and despite setting traps, we never saw him again.

Unfortunately, our Facebook posts about the "mystery" animal and its escape went viral, and it opened up WWI and Morgan to some very harsh remarks from some "armchair rehabbers." While the vast majority of comments were full of love, understanding and compassion, the negativity became so personal and so intense that we finally took down all of our posts and declined any further media interviews. We have never before experienced a story that took on a life of its own and engendered so much hurtful feedback. NO ONE could have felt any worse than Morgan.

In the end, the "mystery" animal turned out to be a full-blooded coyote, and we posted the results of the DNA on Facebook since so many people were dying to find out what he was.



#### Dear Professor Possum,

Every Spring, we are bothered by critters that dig up our yard, raid our garden and get into our attic. We get so annoyed that we set humane traps to catch the offenders and take them for a long ride. A friend told us that what we are doing is wrong, but can't tell us why. What do you think?

Hav-a-Hart in Hunker

#### Dear Harts.

You are not the only folks who have turned to this nonlethal method of dealing with the wildlife that share our space While it seems to be a humane option, there are many situations where this practice does more harm than good.

Moving any animal out of its home territory can have deadly effects. The translocated animal no longer has the benefit of its experience because it has been put in an area where there may not be sufficient food for foraging. The animal has to look for and re-establish nest sites. The residents in the chosen area may fight with and drive off the newcomers. Transplanted wildlife can carry infection into a population that has never been exposed to this kind of pathogen, possibly resulting in illness and die-offs of the residents.

Even worse, many of these transplants are mothers with young that are left behind to starve and die, all because it is so much easier to put our needs above the needs of the others with whom we share our environment.

I encourage anyone out there who is being bothered by their wild neighbors to do a little research on the species, its needs, and its breeding season. There is an abundance of info out there to help homeowners make the appropriate and most humane decisions when their world collides with local wildlife. Please try to embrace the idea of sharing our space with others, even if they are furred or feathered.

## PLEASE READ

#### Dear Readers.

Every year, hundreds of baby cottontail rabbits are taken to wildlife rehabilitation centers. At least half, if not more, of these bunnies should have been left alone. The reason these buns end up in rehab is ignorance of the natural history and nesting habits of these common backyard critters.

Rabbits are crepuscular – meaning they are most active near dusk and dawn. The pregnant rabbit, called a doe, chooses a site to have her young in secret. She digs a shallow depression in the substrate and lines it with dried grasses and fur plucked from her breast. She gives birth in secret, and sneaks back to the nest form in secret under cover of darkness to feed her young. If all goes well, she and her juvenile young will vacate the spot in about three weeks with no one the wiser.

The trouble starts when the nest is discovered by people or their pets. In the latter case, things can go south very quickly for the bunnies. A cat that has found a rabbit nest will return to the site until all of the bunnies are killed. In a situation like this, one has little choice but to rescue the remaining bunnies in the nest and find help. Nests discovered by our canine friends can sometimes be saved by placing something over the nest – like a laundry basket or plastic milk crate. This is done during daylight hours to ward off the dog, then the barrier can be removed after dark to allow the mother access. Replace the barrier in the morning before the dog is let out.

Very often, folks come across bunnies in the nest while gardening or doing yardwork, and the first thing they do is "rescue" the bunnies by removing them from the nest because the finder has never seen a mother in the area. They are taken inside their homes where they proceed to feed them milk or infant formula. Cottontails cannot tolerate these substances and if they don't die from being aspirated by inexperienced feeders, they develop fatal enteritis and die.

Other folks do seek help before removing the bunnies from the nest and these buns might have the best chance for survival. In these cases, the finder should replace any disturbed nesting material over the nest form. It is not true that the smell of humans will deter the doe from returning. Then, as a way to be sure the doe is returning to feed her young, a marker should be placed gently across the top of the nesting material. An "X" can be fashioned from two sticks or pieces of string or yarn. Check the nest site in the morning. If the marker has been disturbed, it's a sure sign the mother has returned to the nest to nurse her young.

Rabbits are prey animals. As such, they live their secret lives and hope to find abundant clover and the chance to procreate before they wink out of existence. When well-intentioned people intervene in inappropriate ways, the stress caused by handling can cause a rabbit to drop dead.

It is a disappointing but very real statistic that > 75% of rabbits of all ages that come into rehab will not survive. Healthy baby bunnies found in their nest that are obviously being cared for should be left undisturbed. Please do your part, not only by following the advice in this column, but in telling friends and family who've found baby buns, "Leave them alone!"

## To Rescue or NOT To Rescue - That is the Question

**BABY BIRDS,** It's a fact, a large percentage of young animals rescued by well-intentioned people don't need help. Out of the thousands of baby birds we have admitted to WWI, many would've had a greater chance of survival if they were left alone or moved to a safe place.

Knowing the difference between a nestling and a fledgling is a key factor in determining whether or not to intervene. A fledgling is no longer a baby. It is a young bird in the process of learning to fly. These birds try, but don't quite get into the air. Instead, they end up on the ground, hopping and fluttering about. Nestlings, on the other hand, do not yet have flight feathers. They may be un-feathered or partially feathered with some skin visible.



Fledgling, If you see a baby bird on the ground that seems to have all of its feathers, but still looks a little downy, it is a fledgling. Unless you know of an immediate threat such as a dog, a cat, children, or a busy road, you should not approach the bird, but watch it from a distance. Watch and wait. Make sure the parents are checking on it every few hours. If the fledgling is otherwise healthy but there is an immediate threat move the fledgling to the safety of a

fledgling to the safety of a nearby dense shrub or tree. If the fledgling is wet or listless or if it is still where you placed it after several hours, call WWI for further advice.

Nestling, If you find a nestling, examine it carefully. If the bird is not injured, is alert, dry and warm, carefully pick it up and return it to the nest. Touching a baby bird will not keep the parents away, but do not handle the baby a lot. Remember, their bones are fragile. If you cannot re-nest the bird, or if you are sure the parent is dead



are sure the parent is dead or if the bird is cold, wet, and/or listless, place the bird in a small container lined with tissue, keeping the legs and wings snug to its body. Cover a heating pad (set on low) with a folded towel, then place the substitute nest on the towel and pad. Again, do not attempt to feed or water the bird as this could be fatal. Call WWI as soon as possible.



BABY BUNNIES, Wild cottontail rabbits "nest" in shallow holes dug in the ground by the mother rabbit. Nests are often found in lawns, gardens or under shrubs. The mother, called a doe, lines the shallow hole with fur pulled from her body and covers it and her babies with a mixture to the state of the st

of dry grass and twigs to hide it from predators. The doe feeds her babies 2-3 times a day, once before early morning (dawn) and a couple of times right after it gets dark (dusk). She squats over the nest so the babies can reach up and nurse her milk. The mother does **NOT** continually sit on the nest or stay with the baby bunnies. Doing so would signal carnivorous (meat-eating) birds and animals (like owls and foxes) as to where her babies are living. By staying away from the nest, the doe protects her young.

If you know where a nest is, mow around, not over, the site. If you've made your discovery after the fact, re-cover the nest with the disturbed debris from the nest top or other suitable material such as dry grass and leaves. Baby bunnies that have been removed from the nest can be returned if they are healthy, uninjured, warm, dry, and no flies are present. Replacement should be done without the presence of children or pets. Cover the nest. Use twigs or short pieces of yarn and criss-cross the pieces over the cover. Use these as markers to identify the nest site for future mowings.

Remember, the doe visits the nest at dusk, dawn, and sometimes in the middle of the night, so watching for her during the day is futile. If the markers you left have been disturbed the next day, it is an indication that she has returned to feed, and all is well.

**FAWNS**, A fawn's mother leaves her baby for long hours while she forages for food returning only to nurse. The hidden fawn has no scent and remains motionless so it is safe from predators. Should you stumble upon a seemingly abandoned fawn:

- Do not touch or move it unless it is in imminent danger or is obviously injured.
- Watch with binoculars from a distance for several hours to see if the mother returns.
- If you have concerns about the fawn's safety or wellbeing, call a wildlife rehabilitator immediately.



Please remember that White-tailed Deer are very easily stressed by captivity and contact with humans. So, please, if you find a fawn, be courteous and respectful and do not try to touch or move it.

**RACCOONS,** If you find a baby raccoon with its eyes open, that can walk around without constantly falling over, it has most likely been separated form mom. Give the mom 2 to 4 hours to find their baby. Do not attempt to rescue unless:

- it has been sitting in the same spot for hours,
- It has been excessively crying for longer than 30 minutes. Note, they will cry to help mom locate them.
- It is in visible danger, is injured, or it is walking towards you looking for food, not just out of curiousity.



If the baby runs from you, it most likely does not need assistance.

## PLEASE KEEP CATS INDOORS

Every year, WWI receives numerous calls from cat owners about animals injured by their pets. Many are admitted and most do not survive. Sadly, it is pet cats' instinct to hunt – not real hunger – that usually drives them to kill wildlife. It's a fallacy that cats need to roam outside to be happy, and the common strategy of putting bells on their collars has been found to be ineffective for alerting wildlife to their danger.

Allowing pet cats to roam outside is not just bad for backyard birds and wildlife, it's bad for the cats too. Outdoor cats are exposed to disease as well as the dangers of traffic, traps, poisons, abuse, and attacks from other animals. In fact, outside cats frequently don't live longer than five years, while indoor cats often live to be 17 or more.

## **Animal Care Volunteers Needed - Interns Welcomed!**



Volunteer feeding a juvenile Red Squirrel



Last year our admissions increased by 41% over 2020, and we experienced a similar increase in 2021. Even as we have been admitting more patients, it has been difficult to keep up with our existing staff. The pandemic has had a sobering effect on our volunteer situation, as we have been worried about taking on trainees. We are all cautiously optimistic about the coming year with respect to Covid, and we have decided to open up volunteer recruitment again. WWI also offers internships for high school and college students interested in wildlife and the environment.

Caring for wildlings can be hard work but very rewarding. Ideally, we need 40-50 volunteers to get us through baby season, which is March-September. You must be 18 years or older, and we generally ask for a commitment of one 4-hour shift per week. Of course, you are welcome to work multiple shifts if you'd like! New volunteers are paired with senior staff to be trained.

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, contact our office for more information.

# ANIMAL CARE VOLUNTEER DUTIES

- Priority is feeding, medicating, and treating all wildlings.
- Read log and charts prior to any care.
- Make diets and prepare food, documenting any food shortage in log. Morning shifts defrost food for raptors.
- Feed, medicate and treat all inside and outside wildlings per directions, refreshing and cleaning cages. Log your activities, being sure to document any behavior change.
- Do dishes and laundry, documenting any shortage of supplies.
- During "baby season" (April through Sept) nearly 70% of the work is indoor work.
- Almost 50% of your time will be spent cleaning and changing cages.
- There is written protocol for every facility usage, Intensive Care Unit, sinks, laundry, aviaries, cages, etc.
- At the end of the shift, if time allows, replenish food dishes for next shift.
- Novice volunteers will not be handling mammals or high risk wildlings. With demonstrated desire and aptitude, volunteers can increase hands-on skills over time.

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## **Exciting News About Future Nature & Ed Center**

We are so excited that we have received two significant grants to start to fulfill our vision of having a dedicated Nature Center on site to educate the public about our wild neighbors and the work we do at WWI.



We are grateful and proud to receive a grant from the **@Avangrid Foundation** in partnership with **@Avangrid Renewables** to be used to get our Nature Center started. We are very excited about this venture! When we're all done, we will have a place for you, members of the public, to come get a close up view of what we do here and we will be able to host small groups for education programs on-site.

We also owe special thanks to the Margaret Raphael Foundation for granting funds for our center. Ms. Raphael spent her life helping animals and supporting environmental causes. She was a longtime patron of WWI prior to her death, and she left a legacy of compassion for all living things through her foundation. Thank you's to Margaret and to Co-Trustee, Robert Dowie.

Our first step is to get a feasibility study and final building plans that will assure we will be meeting all local and statewide requirements for such a center. We have already started this process with Scottdale Builders who built our Raptor Barn.

Our goal is to have a grand opening next spring or fall depending upon permitting and construction and availability of building materials which we know can have its challenges.

We'll share more in the future.

# 2021 Annual Report (Pages 7-10)



In 2020, everything was colored through the lens of COVID. For us here at WWI, 2021 was much the same in many ways. We evaluated bringing patients in on a case-by-case basis, and we continued to limit the number of new volunteers.

As we enter 2022, it is beginning to look like we may have gotten through the worst of it – hopefully. But 2022 is going to bring a whole new set of challenges for wildlife rehabilitators.

Because COVID is a SARS variant, there has been concern that the pathogen would jump species, making it a zoonotic disease that could have a negative impact on already-stressed populations of mammals, such as bats. The PA Game Commission has been monitoring this issue, and bat guano is being tested for the presence of the virus prior to any bat's release.

There is an emerging disease that thus far has only been found in domestic rabbits – Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease – that could become dangerous to native cottontails and hares. Worst of all, there is a new strain of bird flu that is wreaking havoc in commercial poultry operations in states all around PA. The reservoir for the disease is in the wild bird population and can be spread via droppings and other secretions. Rehabbers and government agencies are holding our collective breaths as we wait to see how HPAI pans out. It may become necessary to restrict admissions of high-risk species. At the very least, we will be instituting mitigation practices to try to keep our facility flu-free. As we learn more, we will pass the information on to all of you.

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On a brighter note, it is really beginning to look like our dream of an education center is going to come to fruition. WWI was the grateful recipient of two sizable grants in 2021 to get the project started (see page 6). We are fortunate to have brought on board Scottdale Builders to manage this endeavor (these are the wonderful folks who did such an amazing job on our raptor barn).

When I look around at my super volunteer staff, I am reminded of how lucky I am to have attracted and kept such a dedicated group of folks. A significant number of us are in the 60+ age bracket, and while I doubt any of us is going anywhere soon, it continues to become apparent that the future of WWI must be placed in the hands of the next generation to keep our legacy alive. I think we have made a great start in hiring Elizabeth Ringstad as an animal care tech. I have come to consider her my protégé and I have big plans for her. We are also so fortunate to have a second WWI facility in Mt. Pleasant, operated by licensed wildlife rehabilitator, Morgan Barron. These young women, and others like them, are positioned to take wildlife rehab to new levels of professional care.

Finally, WWI continues to exist through the generosity of our surrounding communities. We are in awe at the out-pouring of love and financial support that we are so fortunate to enjoy. They say, "It takes a village," and nothing could be truer.

So stay safe, love your neighbors and be mindful of all the beauty and wonder life affords us if we only take the time to look. Beth

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# 2021 Financial Report

## (Unaudited)

#### INCOME

Animal Admissions General Donations Memorials & Honoriums United Way Education Programs	24,275 51,497 7,490 758 215
Fund Raising Appeal Letters 22,777	
On-Line Giving 1,103	
Calendar Sales 14952	
Raffles 9.740	
Open House 3,155	
Other Fundraising 4,140	
Total Fundraising	55,867
Grants	52,408
Miscellaneous Income	921
Membership Dues	10,125
TOTAL INCOME	203,556

#### **EXPENSE**

Fund Raising Expense

Insurance	5,368
Land Purchase	3,000
Miscellaneous Expenses	2,735
Office Supplies & Postage	1,829
Payroll	88,127
Program	
Animal Care 38,533	}
Public Education 4,623	}
Total Program	43,156
Utilities, Rent	14,436
TOTAL EXPENSE	\$161,830

## Board of Directors

Beth Shoaf, Executive Director Marcia Osborne, President Jim Vaughan, Sec/Treas. Shannon Kozakiewicz Judi Wilson

## Advisory Board

Pat Davis Paula Petrulak Dr. Robert Wagner, VMD

Beth Shoaf, Sr Rehabilitator Morgan Barron, Rehabilitator Monica Leuthold. Office Manager Carol DaRold, Facility Director & Animal Care Technician

Elizabeth Ringstad, Animal Care Technician Michael Smith, Groundskeeper

## Volunteer Office Staff

Allison Checkeye, Webmaster Julie Cursi, Webmaster Melissa Morris, Office Assistant Pat Fennema, Telephone Liason Sue Wiseman, Newsletter Editor

## Farewell Pat

We hate to have to say goodbye to any of our staff when the time comes for them to move on.

This is especially true in the case of volunteer, Pat Fennema. Pat has been a veritable superwoman on the phones during our off hours. This means 7 days a week, 3-8 PM weekdays and all day Sat. and Sun. And Pat has been doing this for 8 years! The only times she has taken a bréak is when she is on route in an airplane for family visits. This is no mean feat, especially during baby season. The volume of off-hours calls can be insane.

In January, Pat had an opportunity to go back into nursing, something she's really wanted to do since the shortage of health care workers caused by Covid. While we are going to miss her terribly, Pat is excited, and we are excited for her. And so we say "Farewell and good luck, Pat," you've left some big shoes to fill.

## Friends Indeed

How can we say thank you enough for all that Carol and John Durco have done for WWI over the years. There simply aren't words to convey our gratitude for their generosity. Their financial support and excellent advice have been an important part of the WWI machine since Carol started volunteering here in 1995. Carol and John we love ing here in 1995. Carol and John, we love you guys! Thank you for *everything*.



## Mammals

Virginia Opossum, 92 Eastern Mole, 1 Little Brown Bat, 2 Eastern Cottontail, 210 Eastern Chipmunk, 13 Groundhog, 5 Grey Squirrel, 109 Fox Squirrel, 8 Red Squirrel, 47 S. Flying Squirrel, 9 Beaver, 1 Deer Mouse, 15 White-footed mouse, 5 House Mouse, 11 Red Fox, 4 Raccoon, 129 Striped Skunk, 7 White-tailed Deer, 62 **TOTAL MAMMALS 730** 

## **Native Birds**

Canada Goose, 33 Wood Duck, 2 Mallard Duck, 51 American Black Duck, 1 Ring-necked Duck, 1 Lesser Scaup, 1 Long-tailed Duck, 1 Ruddy Duck, 1 Turkev. 5 Ruddy Duck, 1 Turkey, 5 Horned Grebe, 2 Great Blue Heron, 2 Turkey Vulture, 3 Bald Eagle, 2 Sharp-shinned Hawk, 1 Cooper's Hawk, 5 Broad-winged Hawk, 2 Red-tailed Hawk, 16 American Kestrel, 7 Merlin, 1 Merlin, 1
Peregrine Falcon, 1
Common Gallinule, 1
Rock Dove, 16 Mourning Dove, 50 Yellow-billed Cuckoo, 1

## **2021 REHAB STATISTICS**

Great Horned Owl, 12 Barred Owl, 3 Eastern Screech-Owl, 18 Chimney Swift, 3 Ruby-throated Hummingbird, 6 Belted Kingfisher, 1 Red-bellied Woodpecker, 5 Red-bellied Woodpecker, 5 Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, 1 Downy Woodpecker, 2 Northern Flicker, 5 Pileated Woodpecker, 1 Eastern Phoebe, 1 Red-eyed Vireo, 2 Blue Jay, 7 American Crow, 2 Purple Martin, 2 Tree Swallow, 4 Barn Swallow, 7 Tufted Titmouse, 2 Barn Swallow, 7
Tufted Titmouse, 2
Black-capped Chickadee, 5
Carolina Wren, 5
Eastern Bluebird, 9
Wood Thrush, 1
American Robin, 62
Gray Catbird, 3
Northern Mockingbird, 1 Cedar Waxwing, 2 Chipping Sparrow, 5 Song Sparrow, 2 White-throated Sparrow, 1 Dark-eyed Junco, 2 Northern Cardinal, 18 Rose-breasted Grosbeak, 3 Red-winged Blackbird, 2 Common Grackle, 5 Brown-headed Cowbird, 1 Baltimore Oriole, 3 House Finch, 9 American Goldfinch, 7 unknown hatchling, 3
TOTAL NATIVE BIRDS 439

**Introduced Birds** European Starling, 23 House Sparrow, 83 **TOTAL INTRODUCED BIRDS 106** 

## Domestic Birds

Pekin, 2 Coturnix Quail, 1 Cayuga Duck, 6 Khaki Campbell, 2 **TOTAL DOMESTIC BIRDS 11** 

## Reptiles

American Toad, 4
Northern Green Frog, 1
Snapping Turtle, 7
Midland Painted Turtle, 2
Eastern Box Turtle, 13
Northern Ringneck Snake, 1
Garter Snake, 1

## Non-Native Reptiles

Red-eared Slider, 1

## **TOTALS**

WILDLINGS ADMITTED, 1,316 WILDLINGS RELEASED. 529 NONTREATABLES, 464

RELEASE RATE 2021 - 67%\* AVG COST PER WILDLING, \$45

Does not include "nontreatable" wildlings that died within 24 hours

# +++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++

## Animal Care Volunteers, Year Started

Caitlin Allen 2020 Demi Ashton, 2021 Brooke Baldonieri, 2009 Dan Barron, 2020 Morgan Barron, 2015 Tara Bajek, 2020 Krystal Blake, 2021 Suzanne Borza, 2011 Allison Checkeye, 2009 Evan Clark-Deaver, 2018 Julie Cursi, 2018 Carol DaRold, 2005 Carol Durco, 1995 Pat Fennema, 2014 Kari Fenner, 2021 Danielle Ferraro, 2021 Nicana Garman, 2019 Kayla Gericht, 2021 Maddie Gericht, 2021



Sonya Gower, 2017 Zac Haras, 2020 Nicole Hinerman, 2015 Alex Hoza, 2021 Cindy Hrovoski, 2020 Gabby Jablonski, 2019 Trish Jones, 2017 Stephanie King, 2005 Nick Kozinko, 2015 Monte Kunka, 2021 Jill Leasure, 2005 Jill Leasure, 2005
Hannah Leszczynski, 2014
Monica Leuthold, 2012
Sherry Lloyd, 2021
Ashley Marker, 2020
Delaney Martin, 2019
Brian Martz, 1996
Joelle Miele, 2016
Olivia Moore, 2018
Tina Moore, 1996
Vince Murphy 2020 Vince Murphy, 2020 Marcia Osborne, 2004 Mike Pascarella, 2021 Mary Pescatore, 2018 Grace Reidenbaugh, 2021 Elizabeth Ringstad, 2016 Jaime Rininger, 2009 Julie Simon, 2008 Sandy Sten, 2005 Joanne Thornburg, 2019 Pam Valla, 1995 Kathy Welsh, 2016 Kelly Wentz, 2021 Dana Williams, 2020



## **2021 EDUCATION PROGRAMS**

WWI's "Wild Neighbors" education program is available to any group. The program may include a slide show, rescue "do's and don'ts" and the natural history of our wild neighbors. Educational animals are sometimes included. Our programs were limited due to Covid-19 restrictions. Here were our 2021 programs:

Brownie Troups 52160 & 53022 (20) Turtle Creek Watershed Association (25) Franklin Regional Middle School (150) Norwin Public Library (35)

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Indirect Donors Baird, Rose (UPS)
Brady, William (UPS)
Fisher, Karen (UW)
Leszczynski, John Joseph (UW)
Love, Robert (UPS)
Show, Patricia (UW)

If you donated to WWI in 2021 and your name is not listed or is listed incorrectly please contact us.

## 2021 MEMBERS

Paid between 10/1/20- 9/30/21

#### Individual (\$15)

Inqiviqual (şi Bach, Heather & Larry Berry, Julie Bish, Donald Chalot, Annette Clark, Kathleen DiClemone, Rick & Cheryl Crise Frost Benzo, Susan Griffin, Mark Gunther, Donna Henry, Dorothy Horwatt, Sandy Hunter, Patriola Kiefer, Kerry Krushinski, Marilyn Lowery, Janet McDonough, Amanda Moore, Janice Moore, Katherine "Dolly" Newhouse, Shirley & John Nutter, Connie & Dale Quast, Fred Robert Shover, Karen F. Wood, Anne Yeager, Corday Bach, Heather & Larry

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Family (\$25)
Bahnak, Linda & George
Battistella, Suzanne
Bires, Rachel
Bredis, Wendy & Gerald
Brightwell, Mary Alice
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Conway, Lester & Sue
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Greene, Patricia & David
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Kemper, Judy & Rick
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Sponsor (\$50) Anderson, Dave Anderson, Kathy Bish, Donald Anderson, Kathy
Bish, Donald
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Chess, Clinton
Cooper, Herbert & Julia
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Gunther,
Kaleida, Ken & Donna
Gunther,
Genevieve & Al
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Kruithoff, Toni & Joseph
Laufenberg, Susan
Levandosky, Sandy
Loughran, Sally
Matthews, Mark & Kim
McElravy, Joann
Muir, N. G. Bridges & D.L.
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Patron (\$250, C. Richard McCauley Funeral Home Cantaral, Robert, Sherry, & Ashley Gardner, Rebecca & George Socher Gardner, Leigh Osborne, Marcia

#### Youth (\$5)

Economakis, Anthea Meyer, Leo

#### Lifetime (\$1,000)

LITETIME (3)
Louise Anderson
Ethel Benzer Bail
Milton Clawson
Linda & Bernie Cramer
Bob & Cindy Harlan
Powerex Employees
George Smeltzer
Charlotte Stephenson
Kathi Zaidan



## Fall Open House

#### Thank You Sponsors

Green Hill Veterinary K Vet Animal Care Tick Tock Bar & Café

#### Thank You Donors

Nature's Way Artisans of Hands & Heart Harmony Haus Senior Living Petagogy Bella Unique Boutique Mancuso's Shoe Repair St Emma's Monastery
Lisa Vezzanni

## Thank You Volunteers

Melissa Morris Mary Pescatore Joanne Thornburg Carrie Yannacci Ashley Marker Judi Wilson Sandy Sten Jess Evanchak Mai Bryna

And all our bakers, crafters and helpers

#### In-Kind Goods Donors

#### **GROUPS & BUSINESSES:**

GROUPS & BUSINESSES:
Brownie Troop #52160
Brownie Troop #53022
Buff's Collision Repair
CARA: Crafters & Artisans for Rescued Animals
Daniel's Excavating
Franklin Regional Middle School
Giant Eagle Eastgate
Giant Eagle Hempfield
Giant Eagle Nuntingdon
Gbg Central Catholic 7th Graders
Green Hill Veterinary
K.Vet Animal Care Green Hill Veterinary
K.Vet Animal Care
Moon Veterinary Hospital
Norwin Public Library
Uphill Dressage, Tami Heckman
Walmart N. Huntingdon
Wmld/Fayette C.A.R.T.

#### INDIVIDUALS & FAMILIES:

Amy & Dana Kaylor Amy Thomas Andrea Morris Anne Richardson Barbara Clark Betty Simons Brandi Wees Christine Bain Connie Griswold

## Other 2021 Friends

Dean Harkins Deb Milito Family & Friends Denise Housel Don Young
Doug & Lisa Speck
Erik Davis Family Eileen VanFleet Glenn & Melissa Tunney Jamie Howser Jennifer Hildenbrand Karen, Hannah, & Pam Ile Karen Oliver Karen Pushic Katrina Patchan Ken Presley Kristy & Scott Mathews Kristy & Scott Mathews
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Nicolus DeOcampo Paul Adams Rebecca Henrie Rebecca Russell Sandra Johnson Sandy Balling
Sandy Leuthold
Sandy Steele
Sandy Sten
Sanford Bendix Savanna Zerfoss Scott McMullen Susan Fenton Tanya Criscione Victoria Molchan Vince Clemens William & Darcy Firmstone

## In-kind Services

Brown's Tree Service Cramer Janicki Dr. Robert Wagner, VMD Green Hill Veterinary K.Vet Animal Care Rich Lawson Ron & Karen Rothrauff Roy & Associates Todd Vezzani Maintenance

## Fundraising Volunteers

Adam Kupec Craftique Collections Greensburg Newstand Heather Flanegan Joelle Meile Kris Azzarello Linda Conyette Lori Bell Marlene Maggio Mike DiFranco Nancy Gaffron Natalie Peskie Penelope's Regina Deloria\* Rita DeBlock Sharon & Steve Friedel Stout's Discount Carpet Suzanne Weightman \*Facebook B-day Fundraiser

### Special Projects

Gbg Central Catholic 7th Graders Into the Streets Lindsay Callaro Family

## **MEMORIALS**

#### In Loving Memory

Antony Milito Betty White Betty White BLM Bobbie Pecscatore Cathie Donohoe

Christine Dupre Dana K Houseman Dennis Smeltzer Dennis Strosko Dick Kaminski

Donald Hayward

Gifter

Piper, Cathy
Simone, Robert & Rhonda
Stover, Karen F.
Donohoe, Cathie & Tom
Durco, Carol & John
Chedister, Deborah
Clohessy, Joyce
Kline, Caryl Jean
Osborne, Marcia
Snyder, Joanne
Venezia, Rich
Wiseman, Sue & Dale
Hurley, Annamarie Denis
Keegan, Nancy
Ackerman, Margaret
Strosko, Patricia
Osborne, Marcia
Gardner, Rebecca &
George Socher
Burlas, Tom & Patricia
Feightner, Charles & Jane
Gjebre, Washington & Dorothy
Hayward, Sally

Gjebre, Washington & Dorothy Hayward, David Hayward, Sally Kelly, Arthur & Helena Koshewa, Susan Lynch, Sara & James McCaver, Bob & Jean Ober, William & Carol Sandolfini, James & Rosanne Sherry, Lillian Stitt, James & Florence Stover, Barb & Jeff Symonds, Stuart & Mary Trinity United Church of Christ Whigham, Ron & Sally

#### In Loving Memory

In Loving Memory

Dorothy Henry
Ed Karinchak
Edward J. Fabian
Glenny Mowry (son)
Gerald W. Jackson Sr.
Jack Persin
John S. Searcy
Jack (my dog)
Napolean

Gardner, Rebecca &
George Socher
Johnson, Sandra
Keegan, Nancy
Kister's Barber Shop
Kuehl, Tom & Janet
Morich, Vince & Shannon
Moyer, Mauritta
Osborne, Marcia
Potochnik, Sharon
Seech, Jamie
Smith, Sandy & Susan Turell
Spallino, Judith
Studley, Joy & Nick
Thornburg, Joanne
Watkoski, Joseph & Linda
Singer, Keith & Sue Ann
Wilson, Judith
Ashton, Lauri
Potochnik, Sharon
Sasso, Linda & Gene
Sillaman, Carol
Ashon, Lauri
Scalzott
Sonny, Chouk, The Pett
William E. Ofcansky

Gifter

## **HONORIUMS**

#### In Honor of

Angela Pompa's Birthday Beth Luther Dave & Gigi Patrignani Rich & Marcy McLean Pat Arndt Dr Karen Deifine & Patkindt Drifine & Sue Mazur wedding Mary Ann Morgan Sandy Sten Donald J. Martin Rebecca Gardner's B-day Melissa Tumney Marcia Osborne Doug Replogle Maddy Sheedy Christina Eyth Dr. Craig Hill Ed Christofano (Hayden's Pharmacy)

#### Gifter

Baith, Lorraine & John Chambers, Linda Dorobish, Rita & Michael Dorobish, Rita & Michael Johnson, Diane F

Karst, Amy & Josef Keene-Barbus, Ethel Keene-Barbus, Ethel Luther, Beth Martin, Susan Osborne, Marcia Patrignani, Dave & Gigi Reigh, Kathleen Replogle, Sylvia, Harry & Doug Sheedy, Christine & Michael Shenk, Debra Stripav, Lori Stripay, Lori Woodward, Jay & Sue

Winter/Spring 2022 Words from the Wild Page 11

## Ways to Support WWI

□ GENERAL OPERATIONS □ ADOPT-A-WILDLING □ \$1,000, Eagle, Great Horned Owl, Osprey	To make a donation, complete this form and send it with your check or money order, payable to Wildlife Works, Inc., to PO Box 113, Youngwood, PA 15697.	
□ \$250, Barred Owl, Red-tailed Hawk, Great Blue Heron □ \$100, American Kestrel, Cooper's Hawk, Screech-Owl □ \$50, Gray Squirrel, Flying Squirrel, Woodpecker □ \$25, Canada Goose, Hummingbird, Opossum □ \$10, Box Turtle, Songbird, Cottontail Rabbit	Name	
	Address	
	City, State, Zip	
	Phone(s)	
MEMBERSHIP	Email	
<ul> <li>☐ Youth, \$5</li> <li>☐ Family or Classroom, \$25</li> <li>☐ Associate, \$100</li> <li>☐ Patron, \$250</li> <li>☐ Sustaining, \$500</li> <li>☐ Lifetime, \$1,000</li> <li>Memberships paid after Oct 1 are good for the next year.</li> </ul>	All contributions are tax deductible.  Thank you for your support!!!!	

## MORE WAYS TO HELP

USE AMAZON SMILE- Amazon Smile donates a portion of your qualified online purchases to WWI. You must open your online account through smile.amazon.com, not amazon.com. Then select Wildlife Works as your charity. Total raised since 2015 is \$1,878.

**CONSIDER A LEGACY,** Please consider remembering WWI in your will. Future bequests can be invaluable for WWI to help us continue to grow to meet the ever-increasing numbers of wildlings in need and to assure the future of WWI.

**SHARE WWI WITH A FRIEND,** A main source of support is individual donations. Please share this newsletter with others.

**FIND A HOME FOR A WWI DONATION Can,** WWI donation cans allow the public to donate their change. Since 2002, WWI received **\$4,382** from donation cans. If you know a business or an event that would support WWI, please call us.

**BIRTHDAY AND CHRISTMAS GIFTS,** If friends and family insist on buying gifts you really don't need, suggest a donation to WWI in your name. We'll gladly send them an acknowledgement.

**MEMORIALS AND HONORIUMS,** Remember and honor those you love through a gift to help wildlife. Families and individuals will be sent an acknowledgement card and individuals and donors will be recognized in our Winter/Spring newsletter (see page 7).

**RECYCLE INK CARTRIDGES,** Drop off your empty ink cartridges today. Since 2005, WWI has earned **\$1,319** by recycling these items.

**FUNDRAISING,** We are always looking for volunteers to sell raffle tickets, calendars, and other fundraising items.

**UNITED WAY** – Participate in the United Way payroll deduction campaign at your workplace by writing in #223-199 Wildlife Works Inc.

**EAGLE SCOUT PROJECTS,** WWI is happy to accept Eagle Scout projects.

**STOCK DONATIONS,** WWI has an account set up to receive donations of stocks that we can turn over to help increase our income.

**FACEBOOK DONATE BUTTON** - Instructions are on the internet. Be sure to select Wildlife Works for your charity. No fees are deducted! And it is a great way for others to honor you on your birthday or special occasions. You will know who donated, but Wildlife Works will not. So we cannot recognize their gift or add them to our mailing list. You would have to let us know if they wish either.

## **COMING IN 2022**

**ANTHROCON EVENT** - You may remember that the Anthrocon folks had chosen WWI to be the charity of the year at their 2020 Pittsburgh convention. Thanks to Covid, the event was cancelled, but the fine folks from Anthrocon sent us a sizeable donation "to tide us over" until the following year. 2021 ended up being no better for a national convention, so the Furrie folks held an on-line auction to benefit WWI in lieu of their in-person event. Things are looking good for the convention for 2022, and WWI is again their chosen charity of the year. The event is planned to take place July 1-3 at the convention center downtown, so come and visit the WWI booth and get the full Furrie experience!



## SAVE THE DATE

Oct 8 - We are having a dinner/dance/bingo at the Youngwood Firehall. Watch our Facebook page or website for more info.

#### **WISH LIST 2022**

If you, your school or organization would like to donate supplies or have a "Collection for Wildlife," it would help tremendously. You can purchase the items below or purchase these items from our wish list on Amazon.com. The link is on our website wildlifeworksinc.org. You can have them shipped directly to us.

Unsalted peanuts in the shell
Bird seed
Black oil sunflower/Scratch feed
Cob Corn
Canned corn
Paper towels
Unscented facial tissues
Chlorine Bleach
Laundry detergent
Dishwashing Detergent
Gift Cards (grocery, office
supply and pet stores)
Postage stamps



WILDLIFE WORKS, INC. P.O. Box 113 YOUNGWOOD, PA

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

#### **IMPORTANT**

We are continually updating our mailing list. If we have not heard from you in the last 6 years your contact info will be removed unless vou contact us.



WWI'S MISSION is to rehabilitate injured, ill and orphaned wildlife and educate the public on how to better co-exist with wildlife. WWI primarily serves Westmoreland County but also accepts raptors from surrounding counties.

**VOLUNTEERS** - There are 50-60 WWI volunteers, the majority of whom are animal care volunteers. Animal care volunteers are active every day of the year. In peak baby season, volunteers contribute approximately 50 hours daily!!!!

Additionally, the volunteer base includes several veteranarians and other professionals greatly adding to the high level of professionalism of WWI. In addition to caring for animals and educating the public, volunteers also raise a significant portion of the budget through events, sales, solicitations and program income. Without the dedication of these individuals WWI would not exist.

**STAFF** - There are currently five part-time paid positions at WWI: an Office Manager, one Facility Director, one Animal Care Technician, one Groundskeeper, and one Senior Rehabilitator. These positions provide essential support for year-round uninterrupted operations. Beth Shoaf, the senior rehabilitator, and rehabilitator Morgan Barron are licensed by the PA Game Commission and the US Fish and Wildlife Service.

FACILITY - WWI operates from the Youngwood home-based facility of Beth Shoaf, a facility in Mt Pleasant and several other satellites in Westmoreland County.

**ADMISSION HOURS** - Are by appointment only and are dependent upon availability of staff. The office is open 10AM-3PM Monday through Friday. Please leave a message during off hours. Your call will be returned as soon as possible.

NOTICE OF NON-PROFIT STATUS: WWI is a registered 501(c)3 non-profit. The official registration and financial info of WWI may be obtained from the PA Dept of State at 800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.



See article on page 1. The above owl is Owl #1.

## WWI STATISTICS

12/93-12/21 Wildlings Admitted - 15,488 12/93-12/21 Released - 7,797

2021 Wildlings Admitted -1,316\* Released 569 \*Includes nontreatables (35% of admissions!)

Avg Annual Admissions (last 5 yrs), 880 Avg Cost/Wildling (last 5 yrs), \$33.79

2004-2021 Education Programs - 299 Estimated # Individuals Reached 20,600

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