

# wildcare

Winter 2008

## | in this issue |

- 🐾 photo contest winners
- ✂️ sharing nature with children
- 🐾 ready, set, train!
- ✂️ the truth about trapping
- 🐾 remembering julie





Dear Friends,

Many of you know that WildCare suffered the tremendous and tragic loss of Julie Malet this past August. In her thirty years with WildCare and the Terwilliger Nature Education Center, Julie inspired thousands of children with the wonders of nature. All of us will greatly miss her spirit, humor and passion for the natural world. A tribute to this wonderful friend, colleague and mentor appears on page 8.

Thanks to all of you who participated in our member and volunteer survey last May. Your input helped us craft WildCare's strategic plan, which was approved by our board of directors in August. The board identified six strategic initiatives around which the organization will focus its resources over the next five years. It is an ambitious plan, one rooted in the commitment of our board, staff, volunteers, donors and community partners. The strategic plan and survey results are available online at [www.wildcarebayarea.org/strategicplan](http://www.wildcarebayarea.org/strategicplan).

WildCare scored a bittersweet victory in stopping the killing of the Fallow and Axis Deer in Point Reyes National Seashore. Thanks to the pressure of our elected federal officials and committed organizations and individuals, the Park has ceased lethal extermination of these incredible animals. Unfortunately the Park continues the inhumane control of the deer through invasive sterilization techniques that impose life-threatening stress and infection on these animals. We continue to monitor the situation, and urge the Park to institute more humane methods of contraception.

It's hard to believe that a year has passed since the Cosco Busan oil spill. Almost 600 birds – over twenty percent of the wildlife treated in the wake of the spill – came through WildCare's doors. As a participating organization of the Oiled Wildlife Care Network (OWCN), WildCare is committed to ensuring that volunteers are trained and ready to go in the event of another spill. In partnership with OWCN, we will be providing semi-annual trainings for those of you who are interested in oil spill response. In addition, thanks to wonderful contributors, including the John and Maria Pitcairn Foundation, WildCare will have an Emergency Response Vehicle to better respond to oil spills and other wildlife emergencies. We hope to have the van outfitted and ready to go in the first half of 2009.

We welcome new staff and board members! Terry Moore is WildCare's all-important Facilities Manager who keeps things running smoothly on a daily basis. Susanne Lyons and Cindy Testa-McCullagh joined the board of directors in October. Susanne brings her wealth of experience in directing the marketing efforts of major financial companies and her passion for animals and the natural world. Cindy is the Director of Public Affairs for the Shorenstein Company. An advocate for animals, Cindy has been instrumental in saving the lives of the remaining Fallow and Axis Deer. We welcome them to the WildCare family.

The winter rain brings new life, and transforms our unique Bay Area environment. Enjoy this special time in nature, and take pride in your contributions to WildCare to help show people how to live well with wildlife.

Sincerely,

Karen J. Wilson  
Executive Director

## | wildcare news |

Volume 12, Number 3  
Winter 2008

### Administration and Education

415-453-1000 fax: 415-456-0594

### Wildlife Hotline and Hospital

415-456-SAVE (7283)

Website: [wildcarebayarea.org](http://wildcarebayarea.org)

Email [info@wildcarebayarea.org](mailto:info@wildcarebayarea.org)

Address 76 Albert Park Lane, San Rafael, CA 94901

Office Hours 9am-5pm M-F

### Exhibit Hall, Courtyard and Clinic Hours

9am-5pm seven days a week

### Board of Directors

President Tom O'Connell

Vice President Susan Rusche

Treasurer Linda Cheng

Secretary Lisa Spencer

Julie Allecta

Joe Delaney

Dianne Fruin

Mickey Luckoff

Susanne Lyons

Joe Nation

Diana Phillips, DVM

Alan Reid

Cindy Testa-McCullagh

### Executive Director

Karen Wilson

### WildCare Staff

Jan Armstrong	Joyce Bourassa
Cindy Dicke	Marian Eschen
Alison Hermance	Jasmine Lemons
Diana Manis	Ed McKee
Livia McRee	Terry Moore
Anya Pamplona	Charlotte Patterson
Melanie Piazza	Mary Pounder
Linda Schmid	Françoise Samuelson
Paulette Smith-Ruiz	Juan-Carlos Solis
Jolynn Taylor	Pamela Westfall Bochte

### In Memory of

Elizabeth C. Terwilliger

*WildCare advocates for wildlife  
for a sustainable world.*

Cover Photograph: Laura Millholland

Production Editor: Jolynn Taylor

Website Design: Alison Hermance, Convio

WildCare's newsletter is published three times a year (April, August, November). Every effort has been made to ensure that the contents of this publication are accurate. We regret that we cannot be responsible for human error, printing mistakes, or variations in individual workmanship. Printed in USA on Orion Satin Recycled paper by Schumann Printers, Inc., Fall River, Wisconsin.



POSTMASTER send changes of address to WildCare, 76 Albert Park Lane, San Rafael, CA 94901.



## | news & notes |

### Lights Out for Birds

San Francisco is located on the Pacific Flyway, a broad migration front that extends from South America along the West coast to Alaska. Seabirds, shore and wading birds, raptors, and land birds all move through this area.

Golden Gate Park and other sites provide significant stopover habitat for night-migrating songbirds, birds that are most often the victims of collisions with buildings.

More than 200 species of birds live in or migrate through the city, some of which may be drawn into the city by lights. For those birds migrating through downtown, lights in the tallest buildings are the most hazardous. Many birds collide with glass windows and die.

WildCare is participating in Lights Out for Birds in San Francisco, a program based on ones in Toronto and Chicago ([www.lightsout.audubon.org](http://www.lightsout.audubon.org)) in partnership with American Bird

Observatory and the Department of the Environment, San Francisco.

**Lights Out for Birds in San Francisco** can benefit the environment and reduce the environmental impact of buildings by reducing the collision hazard for migratory birds, conserving energy resources and allowing greater visibility of stars in the night sky.

We are seeking volunteers who can survey downtown for dead or injured birds before 6:00am. If you would like to find out how you can become more involved in this program, please contact Jennifer Robinson at [jrobinson@goldengateaudubon.org](mailto:jrobinson@goldengateaudubon.org) or call 510-919-5873.

### Bird Feathers

Authors Dave Scott and Casey McFarland are producing a field guide to North American bird feathers. **Bird Feathers: A Guide to North American Species** will contain photographs and measurements of a systematic sampling

*news and notes  
continues on page 11*

## | local heroes |



Dr. Kenneth Bacon and Dr. Lynne Lankes of Central Marin Cat and Exotic Hospital have provided heroic care for many of our willdlife patients over the years. WildCare does not have a veterinarian on staff and is not equipped to do major surgeries. Procedures like bone pinning are beyond the scope of our medical staff so the pro bono work of veterinarians as skilled as Dr. Bacon and Dr. Lankes has saved wild lives on many occasions.

These two busy veterinarians are always ready to offer help and advice on tough cases. Just as importantly, they are willing listeners to the experience that WildCare's medical staff can provide on species that most veterinarians rarely see and have little experience with. Central Marin Cat and Exotic Hospital offers WildCare a unique partnership, combining their veterinary experience with WildCare's wide species knowledge.

Central Marin Cat and Exotic Hospital specializes in reptiles, avians and lagomorphs (rabbits), as well as felines and canines. As our intake numbers of reptile and amphibian patients increase annually (turtles hit by car, snakes entangled in garden netting, etc.), their expertise and assistance has helped us improve our successful release rate of these patients to over 97%!

Besides the help they give Wildcare, they also assist many other non-profit animal groups. Their dedication and willingness to share their time and expertise to animals in need makes them true heroes!

wildcare | paw

# Gala

February 6, 2009  
Mill Valley Community Center

An unforgettable evening to benefit our wildlife rehabilitation and environmental education programs.

Sponsorship opportunities and tickets:  
415.453.1000 x 13

Bobcat (felis rufus) photo by Trish Carney



*Bay Area Wild Animals in their Natural Settings: Early Morning Tule Elk by Christine Hansen*

---

## 2008 living with wildlife photography contest winners

**Beautiful photographs!** With nearly 100 entries from which to choose, judging our second annual photo contest was a real challenge. Each of our three entry categories, Bay Area Wild Animals in Their Natural Settings, General Nature and Living with Wildlife inspired gorgeous, compelling and striking images that showcased the beauty of the Bay Area's wild lands.

The photographs judged to be the top five in each category are listed at right. To see them all, visit [wildcarebayarea.org/photocontest](http://wildcarebayarea.org/photocontest).

Special thanks go to our hard-working professional photographer judges, Erin Lubin, Jakub Mosur and Tim Porter for contributing their time and expertise.



*Living with Wildlife: Coyote and Car by Trish Carney*



*General Nature: Creek Bed (Lagunitas Lake) by Dan Baumbach*



*People's Choice: Swallow Feeding by Christine Hansen*

Grab your camera and hit the trails!  
Plan now to enter our 2009 competition!

**Best In Show (on the cover):**

**American Goldfinch and Grasses**

Laura Milholland

**Bay Area Wild Animals in Their Natural Settings:**

**Early Morning Tule Elk**

Christine Hansen

**Mourning Dove with Flair**

Laura Milholland

**White Pelicans**

Geraldine Ga Nun-Owens

**Mother Goose with Goslings**

Ken Benjamin

**Snowy Egrets Building Nest**

Richard Silva

**Living with Wildlife:**

**Coyote and Car**

Trish Carney

**Swallow Feeding**

Christine Hansen

**A Lecture on Boats by Mom**

Laura Milholland

**Sausalito Boat Ride**

Catherine Tryon

**Deer and Riders on Horseback**

Ken Benjamin

**General Nature:**

**Creek Bed (Lagunitas Lake)**

Dan Baumbach

**Duck in Pond at Dawn**

Ken Benjamin

**Oak and Poison Oak**

Dan Baumbach

**Fog at Sunrise**

Ken Benjamin

**Corte Madera Creek at Sunrise**

Beth Slye

**People's Choice:**

**Swallow Feeding**

Christine Hansen

# sharing nature with children

by Juan-Carlos Solis, Director of Education

**I still remember** the first time I saw a child's eyes sparkle after I pointed out a Sticky Monkey Flower and demonstrated how the "lips" of the stigma close if one touches them with a fine twig (presumably an adaptation to prevent self-pollination or to improve the collection of pollen from an insect's leg). This occurred 15 years ago while I was leading my first discovery walk for children for the East Bay Regional Park District. The experience changed my life, and I have been a naturalist since then.

## discover the bay area

At the time I didn't know I had begun an endless and rewarding quest to interpret the natural world and unveil its countless secrets. I also discovered I was living in the middle of a remarkably rich biodiversity hotspot, comparable to the tropical forests of Costa Rica in South America and Madagascar in Africa.

This incredible diversity is in part due to the rugged topography and variable climate that combine to form many microclimates, all of which support a large variety of habitats and species. In addition, Northern California enjoys a well established park infrastructure with thousands

of miles of trails that allow the close exploration of all Bay Area ecosystems.

Even a simple day hike can produce an extensive wildlife list. For example, during a two-hour hike around Spring Lake Regional Park in Sonoma County, you may go through three or four habitat types, and encounter over 60 species of birds, 50 species of plants, five species of reptiles, and tracks and scat from at least ten different mammals – including bobcats and river otters.

## make a difference

Our children are our future. With the many threats to our environment we hear about daily, it has never been

more urgent than it is now to connect children to nature. Our children will inherit the world we create today. How will they treat this world – as a precious resource to treasure, or as a commodity to be consumed and discarded?

WildCare's Nature Guides give something back to the world. Through our field trips, schoolchildren discover the natural world that surrounds them. It is home to several creatures that are found only in California, and nowhere else in the world! Nature Guides take schoolchildren into nature and help WildCare shape the new generation of environmental stewards we so desperately need.

## become a naturalist

If you want to learn more about the rich natural world we live in, there is no better time than right now. WildCare's Nature Guide training begins in February – the perfect time of year to prepare for spring walks. This naturalist training uses Elizabeth Terwilliger's interactive teaching techniques, and starts you on your



Photo by Holly Manley



Photo by JoLynn Taylor



Photo by JoLynn Taylor

Photo by Anita Bock

## Ring Mountain

Little known Ring Mountain is an easy walk from Paradise Drive in Corte Madera, and boasts some of the best views in Marin. Among its attractions is a Miwok grinding site hundreds of years old, and a new species of plant discovered there in the 1970s – the Tiburon Mariposa Lily.

## Bothin Marsh

Near Highway 101, Bothin Marsh in Mill Valley is completely different at high and low tides. This wheelchair-accessible salt marsh is full of interesting flora and fauna, including the endangered Salt Marsh Harvest Mouse.

## Spring Lake

If your backyard is closer to Santa Rosa, Spring Lake offers a variety of rich habitats—oak woodlands, freshwater marsh, grassland and lakeshore. Birds, mammals, plants, and even scorpions and reptiles are all here to experience.

own road to discovery of the plant and animal life that abounds in Marin. You'll learn the basic natural history of all of the five sites shown below, then choose one to specialize in. You'll learn about Native American uses of plants, local mammals, butterflies and wildflowers. You'll take bird and plant walks, and discover what to look for in different microclimates.

Whether your interest began with wildflowers, birds, mammals or butterflies, you will soon discover the interrelation of all living things. WildCare Nature Guide training is hands-on, interactive, and designed to instruct anyone how to share nature with children. As Terwilliger Nature Guide Sarah Wong puts it, "It is the best deal out there for a comprehensive and rewarding naturalist training. I love leading Field Trips!"

### field trips for nature guides

Nature Guides share what they know with children, but that doesn't mean they stop discovering more for themselves! This winter two field trips for WildCare volunteers provide an opportunity to do just that! Read about the Sandhill Crane migration and Wildflower Walk on page 11!



Clockwise from top left: California Quail found in China Camp, photo by Juan-Carlos Solis; Banana Slug at Muir Woods and Widow Skimmer at Spring Lake by Anita Bock; Native American grinding stone at Ring Mountain by JoLynn Taylor.



Photo by Anita Bock

### China Camp

China Camp offers a stunning array of native wildflowers in spring, and the chance to see the real estate constructed by one of our most interesting small mammals, the Dusky-footed Wood Rat.



Photo by Anita Bock

### Muir Woods/Muir Beach

Cool, shady redwood groves and wheelchair-accessible paths bring the world of the ancient redwood giants close to home in Muir Woods. Muir Beach is a rich Pacific Coast seashore, a habitat for hundreds of species of birds and a beachcomber's dream.

## Nature Guide Training

January 17 - March 28, 2009

Come and make a difference! Discover the secret life of nature in Marin and Sonoma, and learn Elizabeth Terwilliger's interactive techniques to inspire children. Explore the variety of habitats at one of the five sites at left.

A series of five Saturday morning classes for just \$75 includes the Terwilliger Nature Guide Training Manual and a one-year WildCare membership.

Email [marypounder@wildcarebayarea.org](mailto:marypounder@wildcarebayarea.org) or call to register at 415-453-1000, ext. 16.

# remembering julie

**Julie Malet** was a constant and natural source of warmth, light and love. She seemed destined to share herself and her talent for making people feel comfortable in nature through WildCare, even though it wasn't called WildCare when the two first became acquainted.

What she did is what WildCare still strives to do each day – to make people, especially young people – feel themselves to be a part of nature, understand their place in it, and make their place in the world.

Julie learned from Elizabeth Terwilliger, one of the earliest and most effective environmental educators of the 1970s, but she began her own journey of discovery as a volunteer for the Terwilliger Nature Education Center in 1980. Soon she was a TNEC staff member, and when TNEC merged with the California Center for Wildlife in 1994 to become WildCare, she worked for the then-new organization, too.

Although she acquired a multitude of responsibilities because she was so smart, so dedicated and so willing to work, what Julie did all along was let children know they had a place in nature. She seldom worked solely with children's programs, but her heart was there. She had a big heart, and we'll all miss its irreplaceable beat.

Children, especially, knew that Julie channeled some life force that attracted them. They knew that if she said something about a bird they could believe it.

On Friday, August 15, Julie was in high spirits as she left work to enjoy

a happy road trip with her sister, and long weekend in Oregon with her family. She spoke of her excitement at the prospect of spending some time with her new nephew. We lost Julie to a tragic automobile accident on the way to Oregon that night.

As WildCare volunteer Maggie Rufo so eloquently put it, "The birds, all wildlife, and the children of Marin have lost a true friend."

Giving was what Julie did best. We are all so grateful that she did it with and for WildCare. Goodbye Julie.



*Julie Malet was a very special woman; we, her children, have known this all our lives. The flood of support and sympathy that came with her untimely passing showed us just how special she was to her family and hundreds of others she treated as family. To all those who have expressed their sympathy, sent memorial gifts to WildCare, and shared their remembrances, we are sincerely grateful. We all miss our mom dearly; she left us too soon. Thank you.*

*Tommy, Mark and Nicole Numainville*

# patient gallery

## California Brown Pelican

(#1176) was found by U. S. Park police on Alcatraz Island on July 27. Weighing a little over six pounds, his intake blood work indicated severe dehydration and emaciation. Fecal tests revealed a roundworm infection. The bird was very subdued, covered in mites, and had blood and abrasions on its beak and head. He was given fluids and stabilized before being transferred to International Bird Rescue and Research for rehabilitation, where specialized equipment for waterbirds is available.

Patient #1176 was one of 32 Brown Pelicans admitted to WildCare this year, a record number in WildCare's history. Most of the birds were suffering emaciation or had been tangled in fishing line.

Brown Pelican populations crashed as a result of DDT use in the 1950s, and the species was listed as endangered in 1970. This listing (along with a recovery plan) allowed the population recover. However, pelicans depend on anchovies and sardines, which have recently declined due to over-fishing. Many of the birds that come to WildCare do so as a result of competition with humans for fish.

## Black-tailed Deer (#0395)

was found on April 17 in Novato by Charles McCabe.

Charles was running when he heard a noise in the grated storm drain. The noise was coming from a 6-lb fawn that was trapped there. Somehow it had slipped through the four-inch space next to the curb. Charles had to use heroic strength to lift the heavy grate to reach the fawn. Once free, he began to follow Charles, and it was apparent he had lost his mother. After an unsuccessful attempt to reunite the fawn with the doe, we placed him in foster care with our fawn specialist, Susan Sasso. He was successfully released on September 14 with five other orphaned deer.

## Audubon's Cottontails

(#1273-1274) were accidentally transported when their nest, built in potted plants, was shipped to Sloat Garden Center in Greenbrae from Visalia, California on August 8. Just two weeks old when the three little rabbits were discovered, Sloat employee Sharon McGettigan brought them to WildCare.

Rabbit foster care specialist Mary Pounder took them into care, and by August 13 they were thriving.

Also known as Desert Cottontails, the species is not native to Marin, and California Department of Fish and Game regulations require that they be released in their native habitat. With permission granted by CDF&G state Wildlife Rehabilitation Coordinator Nicole Carion, Mary contacted a wildlife rehabilitation organization near their territory, and volunteers from Fresno Wildlife Rehabilitation agreed to release the cottontails in Visalia on August 23.

## Cherry-headed Conure

(#4364) was found below a palm tree at Fort Mason on August 28. The fledgling parrot was being attacked by crows. Park staff brought him to WildCare. After an examination, the bird was transferred to songbird foster care specialist Veronica Bowers.

In the wild his parents would continue feeding him for several weeks while teaching him about life within the flock. In Veronica's care, he was fed by tube and offered fruit and shelled nuts to encourage him to eat. After several weeks of foster care, the little bird was ready for release, and Veronica consulted Telegraph Hill parrot specialist Mark Bittner, who suggested releasing him at Ferry Park in San Francisco in the evening, when all the parrot families gather there. When she released the parrot on October 5, Veronica was able to observe him sitting with two adults for 30 minutes before the entire flock flew off.

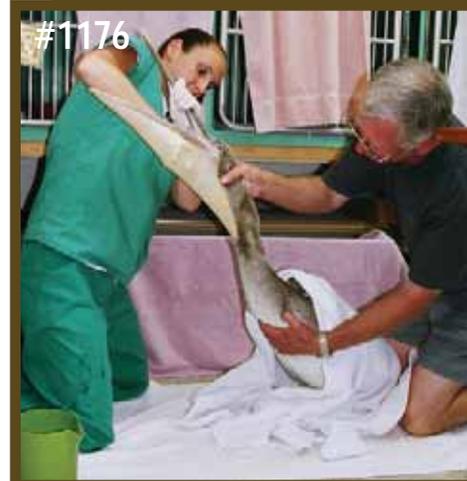


Photo by Alison Hermance



Photo by Trish Carney



Photo by Mary Pounder



Photo by Veronica Bowers

# ready, set, train!

photos by Kelle Kacmarcik

**WildCare's impact** can only be as good as the people who work to further its mission. This winter, WildCare staff is redesigning the core educational programs for volunteers in both the hospital and nature education programs. This spring we'll be offering updated classes and continuing education opportunities for the people who make WildCare's success possible – our volunteers.

## 2.5 cc PO BID

If that heading looks incomprehensible to you, you're not alone. New volunteers arriving in WildCare's wildlife hospital see notations like this on patients' medical charts every day, and reading charts is one of the skills a volunteer needs to develop most. But with more than 200 different species of wild animals in our care, learning this and myriad other details of the care, feeding and treatment for our patients can be a real challenge!

## new series of hospital classes

Starting in January 2009, WildCare introduces a new and comprehensive Volunteer Training Series for all incoming volunteers (current volunteers are welcome to attend the classes too). This series, comprised of 16 hours of instruction, will give newcomers to wildlife rehabilitation a fascinating, practical and hands-on grounding in wildlife care.

Each class will begin with a lecture by a wildlife rehabilitation expert. Whether students are learning the basic

anatomy of birds and songbird care in our Birdroom, or studying the thermoregulation requirements of baby mammals, these lectures will feature useful and practical information. X-rays of actual WildCare patients will be used to analyze animal anatomy. Video of feeding techniques and hospital treatments will help volunteers visually understand our patients and the endless ways WildCare volunteers and staff provide for their needs while they are in care.

## hands-on experience

Each lecture will be followed by a practical skill-building session in the wildlife hospital. Trainees will experience hands-on food preparation, sterilization protocols, weights and measures, and cage set-up and cleaning processes, among many other skills. We have designed these practical labs to make new volunteers comfortable, effective and efficient on their very first day as active volunteers in the wildlife hospital.

And "2.5 cc PO BID?" After attending the "Clinic Mammal Care" class

you'll know that means "2.5 milliliters by mouth, twice a day." Imagine all the new things to learn!

## hospital training schedule

Anyone 18 years or older who would like to learn more about volunteering is invited to attend a free orientation on January 24, 2009, from 1-2:30pm. Attendees who choose to commit to a volunteer shift will then sign up for a series of four classes that will be offered over the next two months. Several choices of times for each class will be available to fit a volunteer's schedule. A training fee of \$40 covers the cost of the classes and includes a free one-year WildCare membership.

Classes will cover zoonoses and basic clinic skills, birds and avian rehabilitation, mammals and rehabilitation care, and safe handling and restraint of wildlife. See the back cover for a complete list of times and classes.

To register, visit [wildcarebyarea.org/volunteer](http://wildcarebyarea.org/volunteer) or call 415-453-1000, ext 21.



Healthy recovery for wild animals in the clinic depends upon the quality of care they receive.



Well-trained volunteers deliver that care, preparing food, keeping the dishes and laundry



moving, and restraining patients for treatment. Training in safety and hygiene protects patients

## | news & notes |

from page 3

of flight and body feathers from 400-500 North American bird species.



Photo by Kelle Kacmarcik

Possession of native bird feathers is illegal except by individuals or agencies that hold permits from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. WildCare holds such a permit, and will be collecting feathers of local species to participate in this effort to produce a comprehensive field guide to bird feather identification for North America. A field guide of this type does not currently exist for this continent, and is a much-needed addition to bird-related resources currently available to the scientific community and the public.



Photo by JoLynn Taylor

### Watch out for Wildlife

Fall and winter can be a dangerous time for wild animals on the roads. With short daylight hours, drivers need to be extra cautious – certainly for little ghouls and goblins on Halloween, but for deer, raccoons and other wildlife as well. Experts estimate that up to 1.5 million wildlife-vehicle collisions occur in the United States every year, and 85% of deer-motorcycle collisions result in a human fatality.

Roads are also a leading cause of decline for some species. According

to Defenders of Wildlife, 50 percent of all endangered Florida panther deaths result from vehicle collisions.

For safety's sake, drive with caution in wildlife areas, and ask your friends and family to do the same. WildCare's Director of Animal Care Melanie Piazza advises, "Turn down the dashboard lights in your car – that allows you to better see the reflective glow of an animal's tapetum lucidum from their eyes when they're on the roadside. It really works! I do it all the time."

### name that character

Character names on page 13 in order are: 1. Virginia Opossum; 2. Mission Blue Butterfly; 3. Western Fence Lizard; 4. American White Pelican; 5. Burrowing Owl; 6. Common Blue Darner; 7. California Red-sided Garter Snake; 8. Toyon; 9. California Ground Squirrel; 10. Madrone.



Photo by David Taylor

### WildCare at the California Academy Of Sciences Opening

WildCare's education department organized a weekend of fun and outreach at the opening of the new California Academy of Sciences on September 27 and 28. Staff and volunteers greeted thousands of visitors in Golden Gate Park while people waited in long lines to enter the new building. Young and old, Asian, Latin and Eu-

news and notes  
continues on page 12



Oakland Star Tulips on Ring Mountain photo by Ron Wolf

### continuing education

WildCare's new Director of Education Juan-Carlos Solis has planned some exciting continuing education opportunities for nature guides and hospital volunteers next year.

On Saturday, January 10 (weather permitting), he will lead a group to the Woodbridge Ecological Reserve, also known as Isenberg Sandhill Crane Reserve, in California's Central Valley. Sandhill Cranes are one of only two species of cranes found in North America; these graceful birds migrate there in October and stay through February. This will be a great opportunity to see several other species of migrating water fowl as well.

On Saturday, April 4, he plans a morning outing to visit the wildflowers on Ring Mountain with Wendy Dreskin, botanist with the California Native Plant Society. This excursion will offer the rare opportunity to spot the endangered Oakland Star Tulip.



and volunteers. For a little volunteer enrichment, there is always something to learn from nature.

## | volunteer spotlight |



Lucy Burlingham has been a quiet presence at WildCare since 1995 when she began working a shift in the birdroom – where all new volunteers started in those days. Her calm competence made her a favorite with everyone she worked with, and over the years she's helped WildCare nearly everywhere she was needed.

She began fostering baby raccoons her first year, and in the next few years raised more than 40 baby raccoons for release. Then she discovered squirrels, and never looked back. Lucy has been the squirrel team leader since 2002. She's raised hundreds of squirrels herself, and coordinates the squirrel team, matching groups of squirrels to each team member's capabilities. She trains new team members, scouts and arranges suitable release sites, installs release nest boxes, monitors the animals' development schedules, arranges babysitting and handles most medical cases personally.

Direct animal care isn't Lucy's only contribution. In her thirteen years here, she has helped coordinate clinic volunteers, trained people in the birdroom, helped with data entry in the clinic, fielded phone calls, and still babysits raccoons.

Currently, Lucy is helping development staff prepare deposits, enter membership donations and produce letters of thanks to donors.

She occasionally writes articles for our newsletters, and as of this writing, she has 18 squirrels in care.

## | news & notes |

from page 11

ropean languages of all descriptions were heard at WildCare's booth each day, starting early – at 7:30am on Saturday – and not winding down until Sunday evening. Taxidermy specimens from WildCare's collection, and Wildlife Jeopardy made it a festive and fun weekend.

### the ORCAWALE cruise

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration ship *McArthur II* left San Francisco on September 17 for the third leg of the ORCAWALE cruise, a marine mammal assessment survey of U.S. West Coast waters. The objective of ORCAWALE (Oregon, California, Washington Line-transect and Ecosystem Survey) is to estimate the abundance and to understand the distribution of dolphins and whales off the west coast.

WildCare volunteer Arlene Davis writes, "Shannon, who runs the volunteer NOAA program I am part of, is on this trip and has been writing a blog of her experiences." Read it at <http://farallones.org/oceanblog/>



### It all comes back to you

The world has changed a lot in the past century. From individually packaged food servings to disposable diapers, more garbage is generated now than ever before. This garbage goes mostly to landfills, where it is compacted and buried. As the waste stream continues to grow, so will pressure on our landfills, our resources and our environment.

America Recycles Day is November 15. Recycling is one of the easiest ways you can help slow climate change and global warming. By recycling at home, you help significantly lower carbon emissions associated with extracting virgin materials, manufacturing products and waste disposal. For more information visit [www.nrc-recycle.org/americarecycles.aspx](http://www.nrc-recycle.org/americarecycles.aspx).

## Leave a Legacy for Wildlife

Please consider putting WildCare  
in your will or estate plan.

Call Jan Armstrong at 415-453-1000 ext. 13.



### Hungry Owl Project Field Trips

In March, April and May, HOP hosts three field trips at the Marin Art & Garden Center, each trip for 3 groups of 10 to 20 students. \$100 per group.

Learn about beneficial predators with hands-on fun! Meet live birds of prey.

To schedule your group or to sponsor a class visit: [www.hungryowl.org](http://www.hungryowl.org).

# Name that Character

You can learn to identify lots of things in nature by their characteristics. Write the name of the animal after the description of its characteristics. Find the answers on page 11.



California Red-sided Garter Snake



Mission Blue Butterfly

1. It's true that I keep my babies in a pouch on my stomach, but it's a myth that I sleep hanging upside down by my tail. I'm a \_\_\_\_\_

2. As an endangered species, I can only be found in a few places in California. One place is the Marin Headlands, often eating the Lupine. I'm a \_\_\_\_\_

3. "Bluebelly" is what most people call me. Did you know that I help reduce the amount of Lyme Disease in California? I'm a \_\_\_\_\_

4. Usually I am found in California only during the winter months, hunting in a group by dipping my beak underwater and scooping up fish. I'm a \_\_\_\_\_

5. I am the only one of my kind that is diurnal, even though you will usually see me only at dawn and dusk. I'm a \_\_\_\_\_

6. My cousins and I are called dragonflies, and we like to eat flying insects, especially mosquitoes. That's how we got the nickname "mosquito hawks." I'm a \_\_\_\_\_

7. Unlike most of my kind, my babies are born alive, not from eggs. Also, I can live either on land or in water, and am usually found near water. I'm a \_\_\_\_\_

8. Better known as California Holly, I am a favorite snack for local wildlife. Hollywood was originally named after me. I'm a \_\_\_\_\_

9. Rattlesnakes don't scare me! I shake my tail as fast as possible to look bigger and end up scaring the Rattlesnakes away. I'm a \_\_\_\_\_

10. I'm sometimes called the refrigerator tree. My red bark peels off to show light green wood underneath. I'm a \_\_\_\_\_



California Ground Squirrel



Pacific Madrone



Toyon



Virginia Opossum



Burrowing Owl



Common Blue Darter



American White Pelican



Western Fence Lizard



*"Teach children to love nature; people take care of what they love."  
-Elizabeth Terwilliger*

A great crowd of environmental education advocates came to WildCare on September 19 for the presentation of our 2008 Terwilliger Environmental Award to Joe Mueller, developer and director of the Natural History Program at the College of Marin.

Long before he began to teach at the College of Marin, Joe loved nature and the ways it resonates with people. In the late 1980s Joe was a supervisor at the Marin Wildlife Center, now WildCare.

Joe has always been passionate about sharing nature with all who will listen. He attended the College of Marin and Sonoma State University, graduating with a Masters of Science in Marine Biology. He has also worked as a freelance naturalist, has taught at schools, the California Academy of Sciences, Marin Discoveries, Point Reyes National Seashore, and the now-closed Bolinas Marine Laboratory. Recently he has been a popular speaker at WildCare's Hungry Owl Project events.

Joe continues to share nature with those who will help sustain it for our future, and reminds us of Mrs. T's words, "Knowledge dispels fear and opens our eyes to the exquisite, intricate life that pulses around us. We only save what we love and only love what we understand."



*Joe Mueller and Lynn Ellen Terwilliger  
Photo by JoLynn Taylor*

# bat mythbusters

Bats are ancient mammals that are shy, gentle, intelligent and often misunderstood. They are the only mammals that can fly, and most are nocturnal, so there is plenty of misinformation about them. Test your own batting average!



## 1. fact or myth? Bats are blind.

**Myth!** Bats rely on sound (echolocation) to hunt, but are not blind. Laboratory tests have proven bats are able to distinguish shapes and colors.

## 2. fact or myth? All bats are rabid.

**Myth!** In California, skunks and bats are the two primary rabies-vector species, but less than one-half of one percent of bats are rabid. However, because any mammal (including people) can catch rabies, no bat should be touched with bare hands or skin.

## 3. fact or myth? Bats attack people and drink their blood.

**Myth!** Only three species of bats feed on animal blood. These vampire bats prefer to drink blood from sleeping birds and are only found in Latin America.

## 4. fact or myth? Bats are flying rodents.

**Myth!** Bats and rodents are both mammals, but bats belong to the order *Chiroptera* and are more closely related to primates. The order *Chiroptera* has been around since the time of the dinosaurs, and bats developed flying strategies similar to that of pterodactyls.

## 5. fact or myth? Bats get caught in people's hair.

**Myth!** Bats that swoop near people are usually after insects such as mosquitoes. Some bat species can eat half their weight in insects in one night.

## 6. fact or myth? Bat species are in decline throughout the world.

**Fact!** Bat populations are declining. Bats are among the slowest reproducing animals on earth. Most bat species have only one live young per year. Half the bat species in the U.S. are listed as rare, threatened or endangered.

*Evening with Owls*

**An after-dinner affair with savory and sweet treats, wine, and live owls!**

**Thursday evening, November 20th, 6:00 to 9:30, \$75 per person**

**Presented by The Hungry Owl Project**

**This event sells out!**

**Contact us for reservations:**  
[www.wildcarebayarea.org/eveningwithowls](http://www.wildcarebayarea.org/eveningwithowls)

# the truth about trapping

by Jasmine Lemons, Wildlife Solutions Specialist

*"I want to trap an animal that is on my property and take it into the wild..."*

It sounds like a humane approach, doesn't it? Tragically the truth of the matter is that moving a suburban animal into the "wild" may be a death sentence. Moving one animal into another's territory may spread disease, cause territorial conflicts, and, in the case of relocating a mother, leave orphans that are sure to die without her. Not so humane after all. Also, as it turns out, illegal.

## know the laws

In California, wildlife is considered property of the state. Licensed trappers in California like me have to be familiar with the laws that govern the handling of wildlife. The state law relating to trapping is T 14 CCR Sect. 465.5: "A trapper must either euthanize a trapped animal or release it immediately on site."

This means all people licensed by the state – that is, legally allowed to trap wildlife for profit or for other people in California – are given two choices: release the animal within 100 yards of capture, or humanely euthanize the animal.

Homeowners also have those two choices. As a property owner, you don't need a license to trap a nuisance wild animal on your property. But you are not allowed to relocate it. A Nuisance Wildlife Control Operator (NWCO) who tells you that he is going to relocate the animal may be counting on the fact that you don't know the laws – or may be working through a parent organization in a state where relocation is still legal. Several things are wrong with this picture: if he does relocate the animal, he is breaking the law; if he stays within the law and euthanizes the animal, he has lied to you, and an animal has died unnecessarily.

## why the laws benefit wildlife

For wild species that have adapted to living among people, the wild isn't such a friendly place. In the wild an animal may need many square miles of territory to fulfill its needs, in urban areas, a few square blocks may be sufficient.

Suburban habitats offer backyard ponds, pools, fruit trees, gardens, a plentiful rodent population, and all sorts of options for shelter – habitat far more supportive for wildlife than what we think of as "natural" wild habitat.

Many mammals learn the ropes from their mothers before they are ready to be on their own. Juvenile raccoons, for example, might travel with their mothers and siblings for a full year. If something happens to the mother, the orphaned young will die of starvation. California State laws are in place to protect wildlife from these issues.

Relocation of raccoons is thought to be the cause of the wide spread

of raccoon rabies on the East Coast. Luckily it is not an issue in California yet, and the California State laws may help prevent such spread. That benefits both wildlife and people.

## why the laws benefit us

Relocation doesn't solve a nuisance wildlife problem, because the attraction (the food source, usually) is the problem, not the animal. If the animal **were** the problem, relocating it would just move the problem from one person to another. So trapping and relocating just perpetuates an ineffective cycle.

Luckily there are workable alternatives. WildCare's humane Wildlife Solutions service closes the loop in a way that provides a long-term solution.

Backyard wildlife provides many benefits. If we can learn to live and let live, wild species will be more than happy to lead private lives, and will manage their own populations naturally.



*Trapping and relocating a wild animal is cruel and illegal. To solve a wildlife conflict, call WildCare's humane Wildlife Solutions for advice and low-cost, long-term assistance, or visit our website for more information.*

## I schedule of events I

Winter, 2008

### Museum and Courtyard Programs

#### Wildlife Ambassadors\*

Ambassadors in WildCare's Courtyard  
Pool Bird feeding daily  
at 12:30 & 4:30pm FREE

### Nature Education Programs

Call 415-453-1000 ext. 19 to register.

#### Holiday Nature Camp

December 29-31, January 2, 9am-3pm

#### Terwilliger Nature Guide Training

Saturday mornings, 9am-1pm \$75

January 17      January 31

February 21    March 7

March 28

#### Nature Education Field Trips

Sandhill Cranes and Waterfowl Tour  
Saturday, January 10, 10am-8:30pm

Spring Wildflowers on Ring Mountain

Saturday, April 4, 9:30am-12:30pm



### Events

#### WildCare Gala

Friday, February 6, 7-11pm  
Call 415-453-1000 ext. 13



### Wildlife Rehabilitation Programs

#### New Volunteer Orientation

Orientation for Adult Volunteers FREE

January 24, 1-2:30pm

Call 415-453-1000 ext. 21 to register.

#### Classes for Volunteers

Series of four classes, \$40

Class fee includes one-year WildCare membership

101—Basic Clinic Skills

Saturday, January 31, 1-5pm

Tuesdays, February 3 and 10, 6-8pm

Saturday, February 7, 1-5pm

102—Birds

Saturday, February 14, 1-5pm

Tuesdays, February 17 and 24, 6-8pm

Saturday, February 21, 1-5pm

103—Mammals

Saturday, February 28, 1-5pm

Tuesdays, March 3 and 10, 6-8pm

Saturday, March 7, 1-5pm

104—Captive Care for Wildlife

Saturday, March 14, 1-5pm

Tuesdays, March 17 and 24, 6-8pm

Saturday, March 21, 1-5pm

### Hungry Owl Project

Marin Art and Garden Center

Call 415-898-7721 to register.

#### Evening with Owls

November 20, 6-9:30pm, \$75

### Wildlife Conferences

#### California Council for Wildlife Rehabilitators Symposium 2008

Tenaya Lodge, Yosemite

November 21-23

415-541-5090 www.ccw.org



#### National Wildlife Rehabilitators Association Symposium 2009

Hilton Chicago Indian Lakes Resort

Bloomington, IL

March 10-14

320-230-9920 www.nwrawildlife.org