



Message from the President

The annual Symposium will be upon us shortly, and as usual, it will be another fantastic weekend jam-packed with opportunities to network with others throughout the state. You will meet with fellow rehabilitators, students, veterinarians, educators, and wildlife enthusiasts from every walk of life. There is so much fun to be had exchanging stories and treatment options that have worked for you with others who are extremely interested in hearing what you can teach them. This also is your chance to find out what worked for them and see if you can use that knowledge the next time you have that same situation arise with a patient that is not responding well to what you have tried.

I hope everyone is seriously considering attending and taking advantage of the wonderful sessions being offered. This is a once-a-year meeting of the minds of all those who love wildlife in NC. The sessions are geared for all levels and interests, from beginner to advanced skill sets. The symposium committee works hard all year trying to find speakers in order to present a broad range of topics. Your input from the critiques and evaluation of the previous symposium last year helps guide the search for speakers for the next. All suggestions are reviewed and taken into consideration when lining up the presenters. The committee strives to reach a balance of avian and mammalian topics and offers repeats of the most popular labs.

The Ice-Breaker is the social event that is scheduled on Friday evening to kick off the symposium. It is a lot of fun and very exciting. Good food, good friends - both old and new - and a taste of things to come during the rest of the weekend.

So plan now and mark your calendar for January 24th through 26th, 2014 and be prepared to have the time of your life in Rocky Mount, NC!

Toni O'Neil
WRNC, President



This is a quarterly newsletter produced by Wildlife Rehabilitators of North Carolina (WRNC). WRNC was organized in 1999 with a mission to share information and knowledge about wildlife rehabilitation. The opinions, techniques, and recommendations expressed in the articles of this newsletter are those of the authors and do not imply endorsement by WRNC. All material in the newsletter is copyrighted and should not be used or reproduced without permission from the author.

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***WRNC 12th Annual Symposium, Jan 24-26, 2014, Rocky Mount, NC***

General Sessions Raising River Otters Birds in their Habitats Along the Crystal Coast Preventing Disease and its Spread Raising Mealworms The Songbird Rehab Dilemma and more....	Veterinary CE Credit Raptor Medicine Clinical Cases Wildlife Parasitology Lead Poisoning Emergency and Trauma Care Holistic Medicine Bloodwork and more....
Banquet Saturday January 26th at the Hampton Inn, Rocky Mount, NC	
Hands– On Labs Mammal Physical Exams Subcutaneous Fluids Avian Physical Exam Feather Imping Shell Repair and more...	Beginner Track Introduction to Wildlife Rehabilitation Wildlife Rehabilitation of Small Mammals Basic Cottontail Rehabilitation Zoonosis Fluid Therapy and more...

WRNC invites rehabilitators and associated wildlife professionals to attend its 12th annual symposium in Rocky Mount, NC January 24-26, 2014. There are more than forty sessions scheduled. In addition to general sessions appropriate for all rehabilitators, there are sessions designed for beginning rehabilitators and sessions approved for veterinary and veterinary technician Continuing Education credit. As always all sessions are open to everyone.

Your symposium registration fee covers the Icebreaker Friday evening, banquet Saturday evening, attendance at the lectures, AND your membership in WRNC for 2014. There is an additional \$5 fee for each of the hands-on labs, which you can select when you register. We have classified the workshops by level to help you make your selection. Seats in workshops are assigned on a first come first serve basis. Register early to insure placement in the workshops of your choice.

Visit the WRNC website to begin registration. After you submit you membership information, you will be linked to the Office of Continuing Education at NCSU's Vet School website to enter your registration and payment information. You may pay by check or credit card.

Please see our symposium page on our website for more information on the sessions, workshops, speakers, events and registration: <http://www.ncwildliferehab.org/conference/conf2014/conf2014.html>

Exhibitors Wanted!

Wildlife groups/centers/shelters/facilities from all over North Carolina, as well as our WRNC members personally, are invited to set up an exhibit table displaying information about your place and the work you do with wildlife. What an opportunity for free publicity!

You are also allowed to sell your wildlife-related merchandise, gift shop items, and other hand-made items (the groups last year said they did very well and made a LOT of money for their organizations.) If you did not participate last year, please consider taking the opportunity to do so at the 2014 Symposium in January and set up a table. This is a great opportunity to show the other members what you and/or your group can do.

We had over 190 people at last year's symposium - we anticipate the same again for 2014. Members and attendees are always looking for rehab items, supplies, t-shirts, books, pictures, etc. to take back home from their trip. Jewelry, craft items, etc. also were big sellers, as were baked goods.

In order to participate during the 2014 Symposium, simply complete both pages of the Exhibitors Contract and send them in to reserve a table. (Because of the overwhelming responses, we may have to limit each group to one table.) The Contract can be found on the WRNC web site: www.ncwildliferehab.org under the symposium information.

We look forward to those who participated last year to return again, and we hope to see new faces and more groups at the 2014 Symposium.

Please call me (910-326-6432) or e-mail me (Oneil9734@yahoo.com) to let me know if you or your group are interested in reserving a table for either one day or both days. I will be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Time is running out - the Symposium will be here before you know it – January 24th-26th! Information about the location (Nash County Community College) can be found on the WRNC website, too, at www.ncwildliferehab.org

Toni O'Neil
WRNC Board Member
Symposium Committee
Raffle Committee



Photo Courtesy: L. Bergman-Althouse



Meet the Candidates

2014 Board Nominees



Cathy Burns

Cathy became a Certified Veterinary Assistant through Coastal Carolina Community College (CCCC) in Jacksonville in 2007. Shortly after that she started volunteering at Possumwood Acres Wildlife Sanctuary while taking the Wildlife Rehabilitation classes offered, also, through Coastal. Upon completion of the classes she became a State licensed Wildlife Rehabilitator in 2008 for mammals and reptiles. Cathy continued to volunteer at PAWS first as a Rehabber then assisting with the education programs both on site and then off site. She now coordinates all the programs and presents most of them.

In 2012, Cathy was awarded the Golden Rule Education Award 2012 for Onslow County.

Starting in 2010, she became the Administrator of the Possumwood Acres Facebook. This has helped people realize what actually goes on at a wildlife sanctuary daily, as well as let people follow the progress of special care cases during their recovery. She feels that this brings a more personal touch to advertising the shelter's capabilities than just by what is found on the more formal web site. The Facebook account also serves to help educate people on what to do and not to do when

they find wildlife, and how to assist them until they are able to bring the animals to us.

Cathy has operated her own wildlife rehabilitation center on her property in Richlands NC since 2009. In 2012 with the completion of the required rehabilitation cages, she became a Federally Licensed Wildlife Rehabilitator

She rehabilitates small mammals, reptiles (mainly turtles), songbirds and raptors, accepting wildlife from several of the surrounding counties due to the lack of rehabilitators in this part of the state. Since starting her own center, she has taken in over 500 animals. A good portion of them have been successfully released back into the wild where they belong.

In 2012 Cathy was hired as an instructor for the Wildlife Rehabilitation courses for CCCC in Jacksonville, NC through their Continuing Education program. She has also co-hosted the Open Forum sessions at the last two WRNC symposiums.



Christina Hildreth

Christina is a Registered Veterinary Technician employed by Carolina Veterinary Specialists in Huntersville. She works as the Avian/Exotics Specialty Technician with Dr. Lauren Powers.

Christina is a 2003 graduate of West Virginia Wesleyan College with a Bachelor's Degree in Art (concentration in Graphic Design). Christina is also a 2005 graduate of Blue Ridge Community College with an Associates Degree in Applied Animal Science (Accredited Veterinary Technology Program).

Her passion has always been wildlife, whether depicting it in her artwork, or applying her veterinary skills to assist in the healing and rehabilitation of animals. It is for this reason she continues to work as a veterinary technician and do artwork on the side. Christina spent two and a half years volunteering at the Wildlife Center of Virginia. She then went to Disney's Animal Kingdom to complete a Professional Wildlife Internship at the Veterinary Hospital. After

the internship, she went on to work at the University of Florida's Veterinary Medical Center with Oncology and Nutrition Services in the small animal hospital. Christina returned to Virginia for a position as the Community Practice Service Technician for Virginia-Maryland Regional Veterinary Medical Center. Marriage relocated her to the Charlotte area in 2008. Upon moving to Charlotte, NC, she became a volunteer at the Carolina Raptor Center and then completed an internship with CRC. Christina was then employed part time with CRC until funds were no longer available. Although she works at Carolina Veterinary Specialists full time, she still continues to volunteer when possible at the Carolina Raptor Center. Her desire is for all to recognize and appreciate the wildlife around them. Christina wants to encourage others to be good stewards of wildlife so future generations can enjoy it too.

Meet the Candidates

2014 Board Nominees



Michelle Richards

My name is Michelle Richards. I currently work at a Doggie Day-care, Grooming and Boarding Facility in Onslow County. This past year I studied to be a Dog trainer with the Animal Behavior College and recently completed the certification process. I have been involved with wildlife rehabilitation for six years and truly have not found anything more rewarding. I worked at the Outer Banks Wildlife Shelter (OWLS) in Newport for almost four years and have facilitated educational programs along with four week-long summer camps. I am always learning and fascinated by the creatures on God's great earth. I am very much into my faith and involved in my church as my husband and I are soldiers in the Salvation Army. I feel that working with animals is my calling and that God has blessed me with the compassion and drive to help His

creatures. I am open to new things and ideas along with having some of my own that I would love to share. I feel compelled to help mankind as well and serve as a missionary to Haiti, still assisting the residents and victims of the earthquake they suffered a few years ago. I fully enjoyed attending the classes and working the Sales and Book Tables at the WRNC Symposium in Raleigh last year and hope to make annual attendance a tradition.

I am 30 years old and a proud former Marine wife to Donald Richards. We have been married 5 years this January. We live and own our home in Jacksonville, NC where we have an acre of land that backs up to a creek and accommodates a beaver's dam on our property. I am currently state licensed to provide wildlife rehabilitation and am working on obtaining my federal permit. My husband and I are avid animal lovers and have 6 dogs, 2 cats and a bird that are our kids.



Mathias Engelmann

I spent the first 16 years of my life in Germany and then "migrated" with my family to the United States. My interest in biology began in high school but I had no experience with wildlife or birds and really did not think about a career. During my freshman year at UNCC I discovered Carolina Raptor Center, housed in the basement of the Biology Building. I had my first close-up look at owls and hawks and I was hooked immediately. It started out as a volunteer job between classes but soon turned into a full-time passion.

During the early years I learned much from the all-volunteer staff at CRC. Learning and teaching has always been a key part of the organization's mission. I attended scientific gatherings, collected articles on anything raptor-related and completed internships at other facilities. But the real learning happens with every new patient and with every conversation. On any given day I might be examining new patients, training volunteers, consulting with rehabilitators, assisting our staff veterinarian in medical procedures, scrubbing a dirty kennel, working with veterinary students from across the country, building a flight cage, or cutting up rats to feed to our patients.

Teaching is probably the most important part of my job. I believe that by sharing knowledge and by giving others the opportunities I enjoyed we can have the greatest impact on wildlife and habitat. While rehabilitation is a worthy and rewarding cause, it is our job to create enthusiasm for conservation among as many people as possible. We need to recruit the next generation of conservationists even if they never touch a wild animal themselves.

31 years later I still have the same passion and enthusiasm for raptor rehabilitation and the many aspects of my job. The variety and the new challenges are what keep me going. No two days are alike and you never stop learning. I consider myself very lucky to have found a career that has given me so many opportunities.

For the past 21 years I have been happily married to a very understanding wife who has taught me that balance is important to a healthy life. Linda and I reside in a log home with six indoor-only cats. We spend our days off enjoying nature, hiking, camping, canoeing and traveling. This and taking nature-related photographs help me unwind and recharge.

*Meet the Candidates**2014 Board Nominees***Joni Gnyp**

I was born and raised in Minnesota, and grew up in Apple Valley, Minnesota. I attended a Lutheran grade school and high school. After high school, I went to the University of Minnesota for my undergraduate degree and North Carolina State University for my Veterinary Degree.

I was very blessed with knowing that I wanted to be doctor since I was very young...really since I can remember. I was also a very "animal crazy" girl, but was particularly horse crazy. Both my parents and sister loved animals, and I grew up with dogs, cats, birds, fish, and just about anything that I found and could take home. Unfortunately, we lived in the suburbs and that was not conducive to a horse. I begged for years until at age nine my Grandma broke down and negotiated with my parents. If she bought the horse, would they pay the board? If only they knew what they were getting into! The horse passion was fed and I had the great privilege of being able to spend my weekends and any free time with my horse. School and horses were my focus.



During my last year of my undergraduate degree, I was the proud but very unknowledgeable owner of a green iguana. Unfortunately, with my lack of owner knowledge, my iguana developed metabolic bone disease secondary to inadequate diet and lighting. A veterinarian in my area diagnosed the disease and taught me how to give SQ injections and tube feed him. Sadly he died...but his illness launched my passion into veterinary medicine. With this career I could still work with people which I enjoyed, but I could practice medicine on animals. I never looked back!

Today, I am blessed with a wonderful husband, Martin, who manages our veterinary practice. I have two wonderful children, Justin and Sophia, who are enthusiastic animal kids. I work full time in my mixed animal veterinary hospital in Rocky Point, and I operate a small, but thriving Raptor Rehabilitation Center out of the veterinary hospital. The Cape Fear Raptor Center provides surgical and medical care to raptors that benefit from specific treatments that are limited to a veterinary setting. My vision for the future is to be a resource to local rehabilitator's who have raptors that have extensive injuries with the goal to treat and repair, and then return them to the original rehabilitator.

In my "free time" I train and compete with German Shepherd Dogs with my husband in the sport of Schutzhund (European Police Dog sport) and practice falconry as a licensed falconer along with my husband. I have a Quarter Horse named Pitch who carries me on many mountain adventures. We also have a large loft of racing pigeons that call our property home.



Meet the Candidates

2014 Board Nominees

Elizabeth Hanrahan

Elizabeth Hanrahan began working in wildlife rehabilitation in 1985 while serving as Executive Director of the Hall County, Georgia, Humane Society. She received her initial training from veterinarians and has taken classes through IWRC, NWRA, Carolina Raptor Center and the Wildlife Center of Virginia. In addition she frequently presents papers, workshops and classes and has published for NWRA, IWRC, and WRNC and has taught at three campuses of College of the Albemarle.

Elizabeth has practiced wildlife rehabilitation in New Bern and Edenton, NC for 14 years and on Ocracoke for 9 years. Ocracoke Wildlife Rehabilitation serves an area from the Outer Banks to the Virginia State line. Ocracoke Wildlife Rehabilitation specializes in birds, turtles and the occasional snake. There are no native squirrels or opossums on Ocracoke Island. The average number of wildlife in rehabilitation at OWR is 290 to 345 animals per year.

Volunteer activities included Sea Turtle rescue and transport, a first responder for the Marine Mammal Stranding Network, a SEANET volunteer by conducting bi-weekly beached bird surveys

and identify and records information on bird mortality on Ocracoke. Elizabeth is a board member of the Ocracoke Foundation, a certified Environmental Educator and teaches summer E.E. classes at the Ocracoke Waterman's Exhibit and in the outdoor classroom at Ocracoke NCCAT.

She has a B.S. in Business Administration, a M.Ed. in Marketing Education and an Ed. S. in Vocational Education Administration. Elizabeth supports Wildlife rehabilitation by providing private birding and eco tours on Ocracoke as well as teaching basic wildlife rehabilitation classes at three campuses of College of the Albemarle. She and her husband, Dr. Calvin Hanrahan, a Physical Therapist, have two grown sons.

Elizabeth is a past WRNC Board member and two term past President of the Wildlife Rehabilitators of North Carolina (WRNC).



Voting for the incoming 2014 Board of Directors of Wildlife Rehabilitators of North Carolina will occur during the Banquet on Saturday January 25th as part of the 12th Annual Symposium in Rocky Mount, North Carolina.

Call for Symposium Volunteers

Interest in helping out with the symposium? Volunteers are needed for set-up Friday January 24th, raffle preparation Saturday January 25th and break down on Sunday January 26th. Get involved and get to know your board! For more information contact Toni O'Neil at oneil9734@yahoo.com or Jean Chamberlain at jchamberlain1@windstream.net



Cage and Chimney Swift Tower Grants Available!!!

CAGE GRANTS AVAILABLE, APPLY NOW—Termite damage? Wood rot? Falling trees during the yearly storms? Roof needs repairs? Outgrow what you already have? Sizes no longer adequate for what you rehab?

These are common problems with our outdoor pre-release cages. Another thing to consider is that several dimension sizes have been changed in the new "Minimum Standards" guideline (fourth edition: 2012). Double check to make sure your caging complies with these requirements.

As a member of WRNC (no matter where you live) you are eligible to apply for the Cage Grant. (See http://www.ncwildliferehab.org/programs/CageGrant_ModificationSep2013.pdf) This grant covers building a brand new cage, repairing an old one, or putting on an extension to an existing cage that is no longer large enough to meet the standards.



Maybe you have simply outgrown what you previously did, and now find yourself needing two squirrel cages instead of one. This is the time to apply, and then have time in the spring for the work to be done before the babies arrive.

If you have any questions, please contact Toni O'Neil at oneil9734@yahoo.com to find out more about this grant.

DEADLINE FOR CAGE AND CHIMNEY SWIFT TOWER GRANTS IS JANUARY 5th ANNUALLY

LAST CALL FOR CHIMNEY SWIFT TOWER GRANTS — The deadline of 05 January 2014 to apply for a Chimney Swift Tower Grants will be here in a jiffy! The wonderful holidays keep us all very busy, but we don't want anyone to miss out on the opportunity for monetary assistance available through WRNC to effect much needed alternative habitat for Chimney Swifts in our North Carolina Communities

Construction of alternative habitat for our feathered environmental partner, the Chimney Swift, encourages them to return and thrive in our state. If you or your organization have noticed the loss of Chimney Swift habitat (possibly due to the capping of chimneys) or a decrease in numbers of Chimney Swift presence, you or someone you know may also see the need and choose to construct and maintain a Chimney Swift tower to entice the residency of Chimney Swifts, acrobatic insectivores who vacuum the sky at dawn and dusk ridding our areas of pesky flying bogs, especially the dangerous mosquito.

WRNC offers a \$300.00 grant and the Paul & Georgean Kyle book, "New Habitat for America's Mysterious Birds (A Construction Guide)" to assist you or your group in the undertaking of this valuable conservation project. Please refer to WRNC's website at <http://www.ncwildliferehab.org/> for details of eligibility and application requirements.

For further questions feel free to contact the WRNC Chimney Swift Tower Grant Coordinator, Linda Bergman at 910-346-8345 or lbergman@ec.rr.com.





Submit, questions, comments, and articles to:

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Calendar of Events

- **International Wildlife Rehabilitation Council**
Continuing Education, Online Courses (ongoing)
<http://theiwrc.org/continuing-education/online-training>
- **Oil Spill Conference**
Seminar, Jan 18-19, 2014, Newport News, VA
www.sacredfriend.org/newsandevents.html
- **Wildlife Rehabilitators of North Carolina**
12th Annual Symposium, Jan 24-26, 2014, Rocky Mount, NC
<http://www.ncwildliferehab.org/conference/conf2014/conf2014.html>
- **National Wildlife Rehabilitators Association**
2014 Symposium, Mar 11-15, 2014, Murfreesboro, TN
<http://www.nrwildlife.org/content/symposium-2014>

Visit us on the web: www.ncwildliferehab.org
Follow us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/wrnc

Announcements

Renewal Time

- **WRNC Membership Renewal**— don't forget to renew your membership! If you are attending the annual symposium in January, membership renewal is included. If not, you can renew at http://www.ncwildliferehab.org/membership/member_application.php. Membership has its benefits: access to past issues of the WRNC Newsletter, networking with fellow rehabilitators and so much more....
- **Wildlife Rehabilitation Permit Renewal**— remember, permits must be renewed annually. Call North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commissions at 1-888-248-6834 and select the License Section.
- **Wildlife Captivity Permit Renewal**— non-releasable wildlife can NOT be kept permanently in captive care without a permit and confirmation of proper use. To apply for a Captivity Permit go to: <http://www.ncwildlife.org/Portals/0/License/Documents/WildlifeCaptivityPack.pdf>. Animals must be acquired lawfully and not be kept as a pet solely because they are non-releasable. To be eligible for permit renewal you must complete a Captivity Report Form <http://www.ncwildlife.org/Portals/0/License/Documents/CaptivityReport.pdf>.