A Season of Renewal

As we step softly into spring, hope is on the horizon. We’ve loved and lost, but we continue to learn and grow stronger from the challenges we face together. Sometimes life’s problems can seem so big, so overwhelming, it’s easy to feel helpless and alone. However, last year brought into sharp focus the impact each individual’s choices can make. For instance, we saw air pollution drastically decrease when humans began traveling significantly less. Likewise, wearing masks, to help keep each other safe, highlights our interconnectedness. When we as a global community work together and participate in small everyday acts of consideration, we make a huge difference in the world. As we walk forward into a new year, let us support each other through a time of recovery and rejuvenation.

Take a moment to enjoy the poem (right), written by a twelve year old child. It reflects the peace and beauty that can be found in the natural world. A peace and hope that we can hold in our hearts for the future. ~ Elizabeth La Madeleine

Walk Through the Forest

Walk through the forest,
Feel the gentle breeze. Look up,
See sun through the leaves.
Blue sky all around,
Sunshine softly dapples the ground.
Pine needles crunch under the shoe,
An owl sleepily calls, “Whooo, whooo.”
Take a deep breath,
Smell the fresh air.
Listen to the birdsong
Flowing through the air.
Watch the mystic cougar
Blinking amber eyes.
See the little sparrows
Flitting through the skies.
Great golden sun
Slowly sinks on the horizon.
Sunset’s colors,
Purple-bellied clouds.
Sun’s last rays,
Beauty abounds.
Cicadas serenade at whim,
Evening gently closes in.
Night time’s creatures realm has come.
Our time is tomorrow
Wait and dream
Of the sunshine’s first soft gleam.

~ Elizabeth S. (12) ~
WRCNU’s Fall Speaker Series Continues:

Due to the pandemic we have lost several opportunities to implement our normal fundraiser events (Wildlife Baby Showers, Christmas for Critters and our 3rd Speaker Series). Fingers crossed, we have set into motion our Fall Speaker Series event for the end of this year—SAVE THE DATE: **Saturday evening, November, 6th**!

Are you feeling a bit “Landlocked”?

While many people are lucky to enjoy our amazing North American coastlines, there are those of us living so far inland that it makes it difficult to see and enjoy the amazing ecosystems and wildlife along our coasts.

Make a “Save the Date” note for **Saturday Nov 6th, 2021** on your calendar TODAY and participate in WRCNU’s 3rd Annual Fall Speaker Series with guest speaker Jeff Foster. Hear Jeff speak about his amazing work with marine mammals at home and around the world.

**Jeff Foster, Marine Mammal Biologist and Rehabilitator**, has worked in all facets of the marine mammal field including capture, animal husbandry, training, rehabilitation, research and reintroduction.

Jeff oversaw the sea otter rescue along the Kenai Peninsula during the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill. He was Director of Research & Field Operations for the Keiko Project, the attempted reintroduction of the Killer Whale from the movie, “Free Willy,” and he oversaw the capture, rehabilitation and successful reintroduction of “Springer” an out-of-habitat orphan Killer Whale in the Pacific Northwest.

He is also the “Site Search, Animal Transfer & Rehab Coordinator for the Whale Sanctuary Project.”

Jeff has received numerous accolades and awards for his contributions to the marine mammal field, including NOAA’s “Environmental Hero of the Year “in 2006, received for his dolphin rescue work during hurricane Katrina and the tsunami in Southeast Asia.

His work has been featured in National Geographic, CNN, 60 Minutes, Date Line, the BBC and the New York Times.

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**Ways to support WRCNU without additional cost to you!**

Our website ([www.wrcnu.org](http://www.wrcnu.org)) is a perfect place for one-stop shopping. Go to our “Donate” page for many ideas, including links to our Amazon Wish List, Smith’s Rewards Card, Needs List, vehicle donations, etc.

**Increase your support without additional costs:** If you shop on Amazon it’s EASY. If you have a Smith’s Market Rewards card, it’s EASY. Go to [wrcnu.org/donate](http://wrcnu.org/donate) and drop down to the “While Shopping ...” section. Click on the AmazonSmile and Smith’s Inspiring Donations logos to link your accounts to WRCNU. When you spend, Amazon and Smith’s donate to WRCNU at no cost to you!
A Welcome Addition to Our Wildlife Rehabilitation “Tool Kit”

The keys to the successful treatment of sick and injured wildlife are the ability to quickly diagnose the injuries or diseases correctly. Many times, illness and diseases may have similar symptoms and since our wildlife patients can’t tell us many details, our wildlife specialists end up being Super Sleuths.

Many raptors that we see at WRCNU are afflicted with West Nile Virus (a mosquito-borne virus) or Lead Poisoning (which may come from direct or indirect sources.) The clinical symptoms of these diseases are very similar. Clinical symptoms of West Nile Virus in birds may include: Loss of coordination, Head Tilt, Tremors, Weakness and Apparent Blindness. Clinical symptoms of Lead Poisoning in birds may include: Inability to stand - may appear “drunk” as lead in the system may cause brain swelling that interferes with vision and nerve function, Respiratory Distress, Muscle Weakness, Paralysis of Wings and Legs, Vomiting and Seizures.

As the treatments for both diseases are very different, we need to quickly ascertain which one the patient has. A generous gift from a supporter last year has allowed us to take our investigation and analysis to a new level - we were able to purchase an in-house lead testing kit!

The former process for testing for lead poisoning included taking the patient to our veterinarian, drawing blood and then submitting the blood sample for testing to an outside lab. Typically, we would wait anywhere from 3 - 14 days until the test results came back in. During the “wait” we are administering costly medications to combat both diseases.

Now, with our onsite testing kit, we can have test results on lead poisoning in minutes. This saves the birds the stress of being transported, saving them from taking unnecessary medication (and saving us $$ and time), and allows almost immediate administration of the correct medication and care protocols. One more tool in our rehabilitator’s Super Sleuthing kit!

Thank you, Supporters – your generosity has taken our diagnostic abilities to the next level!

Due to the symptoms this patient (a young Bald Eagle) was displaying when it arrived at WRCNU, the normal protocol would be chelation injections (*) twice a day until the results of the lab test came back.

Thanks to our new testing station, this youngster didn’t have to endure the unnecessary stress and handling for these injections. Furthermore, WRCNU saved your donated funds and our wildlife specialists were able to focus on the more likely cause of her injuries, which appear to be caused by physical trauma/impact. (*Note: chelation drugs bind to lead and other heavy metals to allow the body to pass the toxins)

References:


West Nile Virus Bulletin Cornell University – College of Veterinary Medicine Animal Health Diagnostic Center
Volunteer Highlight

Due to COVID-19, we decided to put all our faith into our battle tested and most trustworthy volunteers—we did not take on any new volunteers in 2020. As difficult a year as it was, we could not have done it without YOU, the literal CORE of our operation. THANK YOU for your dedication, sacrifices, and for trusting WRCNU to also keep you safe while helping us keep our doors open for our wildlife patients.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2020 Volunteer Crew</th>
<th>Staff</th>
<th>Board of Directors</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alison</td>
<td>DaLyn</td>
<td>Alison</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bonnie</td>
<td>Erin</td>
<td>David</td>
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<td>Chris</td>
<td>Rhett</td>
<td>Buz</td>
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<td>Debbye</td>
<td>Shannon</td>
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<td>Rachel, L</td>
<td>Sydney</td>
<td>Shellie</td>
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<td>Steven</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Tais</td>
<td>Stacie</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rachel, A</td>
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<td>(moved July 2020)</td>
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</tbody>
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2021 Wildlife Patients

Above, a young Bald Eagle is prepped for an expensive CT Scan.

Right, a Barn Owl released at sunset.

Below, A Ruddy Duck released.

Above, a Ring-necked Duck released in February.

Highest Patient Numbers Ever!

2020 brought us 3,471 patients, mostly passerines (hummingbirds to ravens—see graph below). Out of the 596 waterfowl patients, we received 472 Mallard ducks, mostly ducklings separated from their mothers and often due to improper human interaction.

Animal Foods Served Up at WRCNU

When you are in the hospital you may not enjoy your hospital food, but guaranteed it is fresh, not expired, it is food that is “good for you” and will help heal your illness.

Our patients are no different: only high quality wholesome foods, like those they would receive in the wild and often much better. Food is our single highest budget item each year.

The Irony Of It All

We are constantly publicizing how “over worked we are” and asking you to help us reduce our workload and so...

“Please we've got here is (a) failure to communicate” our real meaning.

Lately we have had an influx of people who have stated they know how incredibly busy we are and so they were trying to help by “rehabbing” the animals themselves. Unlicensed Individual + Animal in Distress = DISASTER!

The problem with attempts to treat the patient yourself is that it will actually make our job even harder. Here’s Why:

First, you must be licensed to treat any native wild animal—that’s the law. Now that the animal has been getting treatment by an inexperienced individual for several days, it “seems to be going downhill fast”, so they turn to us after the animal has not eaten in days, it seems to be dying, OR maybe it was a baby and so now it is sadly imprinted on their human caretaker.

At this point, more often than not, there is nothing we can do to save the animal—broken bones are healing out of alignment, infections from disease or open wounds are out of control, stress from improper handling and interaction with this wild animal has taken its toll, it is likely starving and dehydrated, A.K.A. “emaciated”—except humane euthanasia.

The most important thing the public can do to “Help Us” is to take our recommendations for “Prevention” seriously. Implementing recommended preventive measures should eliminate most problems/conflicts that bring wildlife to our door. When you actually have a sick, injured or orphaned animal, then...

...PLEASE “BOTHER US” ASAP!!!

Give us a call; give us a fighting chance to help the patient as soon as you find it—this is its only hope and why we are here.

IF you really want to help us, then contact us immediately; place the animal in a dark box with a towel on the bottom; keep it closed, dark, warm; DO NOT give water DO NOT give food and follow the rehabber’s directions to get the patient into us quickly.
Join our group of WRCNU Sustainers

In uncertain times, you can be part of the growing number of supporters who help remove the uncertainty. YOU can become a WRCNU Sustainer. Here’s how it works:

1) Monthly donations. Starting as low as $8/month to “The sky is the limit!” Make these donations by check, credit/debit card or through your PayPal account.

2) Annual Donations. Donate a total of $100 (or more)/annually in consecutive years. Your second annual minimum Sustainer donation will make you a “WRCNU Sustainer”!

The Easiest Way? ... is Through Automatic Recurring Payments! You’ll never miss it!

We are happy to help you setup Automatic Recurring credit/debit card donations. OR ... you may setup recurring donations through your bank’s “Bill Pay” account. Once set up, your bank will send us a check each month. Yet another way, is to setup recurring payments through your PayPal account.

Annual Sustainer Donations: Annual Donations may be in small amounts or all at once.
- Example—to meet the minimum annual donation of $100 you might wish to make ONE donation, or smaller donations of $10, $15, etc. throughout the year.
- The important part is that your support meets the “Sustainer minimum” for at least two years and then for each consecutive year you wish to remain a WRCNU Sustainer.

For more Info go to www.wrcnu.org/become-a-sustainer or email us at info@wrcnu.org

Golden Eagles:
($417/month; $5,000 and up annually)
Bean, Pam
Blacksmith Foundation
Broussard, Craig / Hilton, Loretta
Davis, Larina & Robert
Davis Meats
Ford, Chris & Mary
Hansen, Amber
Moss, Arthur & Ruth
Ogden City
Speers, Jennifer
The Farber Baggenstos Family Fdn
The Walbridge Fund, Ltd
Tracy Aviary
U of U "Mouse House"

Ospreys:
($100/month; $1,200 - $4,999 annually)
DeBord, Thomas & Mamie Sum
Evenden, Jeanne
Finch, Timothy
Foley’s Mixed Martial Arts Trng Cntr
Hanewinkel, William
Kagan, Cynthia
Kroger (Smith’s)
La Madeleine, Elizabeth & Kyle
Lee, Arlea
Lybarger, Laurie / Price, Shannon
Matro, Nancy & John
Melling, Nancy & George
Murdock, Angela (Meowser Inc.)
PacifiCorp / RMP
Page, Audrey & David
Pretti, Ted
Romeshburg, Charles & Sandra
Skidmore, Kayla
Skidmore, Quinn
Smith, Leonard & Elyse
Smith, Liz
Stokes, Jessica & Cory

In Memory Of
WRCNU wishes to honor 2020 donors who have given in the name of family and friends who have passed away:

“Beverly Jean Coleman”
- Dawn Flynn

“Loel Dean”
- Lorl & Dixon Kapple

“Aaron Douglas Hunt (’63-’82)”
- Stewart, Jean

“Dr. Owen Linsley, DVM”
- Jill Daly
- Jeff Grunow

“Melvin”
- Gary Gugler

“Phyllis Pretti (’35-’19)”
- Pretti, Ted

“Gracie Randolph”
- Robin Griffith

“Clay Reynolds (’93-’20)”
- Carina Campobasso
- Michelle Laraway
- Jan Noffsinger
- Cheyenne Ray
- Lynn & Rory Reynolds
- Johanna Skaff
- Dona Tanner
- Elise Tanner

“William Schneiter”
- Kristine Knowlton

“Priscilla Schwalter”
- Robin Griffith

“In Memory Of”
WRCNU wishes to honor 2020 donors who have given in the name of family and friends who have passed away:

“Miyagi” was the first Eagle released by WRCNU back in 2009
North American Beavers:  
($35/month or $420 - $599 annually)

Cupal, Deborah, Dr. (Four Paws)  
Frame, Kelli  
Gregoire, Dan & Elizabeth  
Jones, Dave & Roxanne  
Justice, Michael & Christy  
Karmazyn, Joel & Coralee  
Klancic, Jill (Pet Expectations)  
Marthaler, Pamela  
Miller, Marjorie & Rod  
Peck, Stacie  
Quigley, Samuel & Colleen  
Rees, Timothy  
Schmidt, Jennifer  
Shaun, Michael & Darla  
Smith, Jolynn  
Summers, Kent & Kay  
Torstenson, Kristi  
Warren, Lee & Georgia  
Watkins, Susan

Great Horned Owls:  
($50/month; $600 - $1,199 annually)

Ahrens, Craig  
Allred, Susan  
Bayer, Virginia / Hartland, Wendy  
Berceau, Michiko & Tony  
Boe Debyee  
Copeland, Milada  
DeCarla, Tina  
Edwards, David & Lisa  
Galli, Robin  
Grunow, Jeff / Daly, Jill  
Henricks, Claudia & Ralph  
Hestand, David & Shelly  
Hunter, Doug & Tana  
Kaufman, Ulla & Jim  
Marthaler, Buz & Daryn  
Marthaler, James & Marjie  
Naethe, Bonnie  
O’Kelley, Kim  
Palau, Shelli  
Palmer, Pamela & Glenn  
Perry, Mareea  
Revolution Gear & Truck Parts, LLC  
Saxon, Aaron  
Scadden, Callin & Dakota  
Scott, Sherri  
Seikel, Paula & Tony  
Smelzer, Margot  
Stewart, Jane & Thomas  
Talenah, Heather  
Weeks, Andrea  
Woodring, Shannon

Ravens:  
($20/Month or $240-$419 annually)

Ahrens, Glen  
Allaire, John & Patricia  
Aller, Keri  
Bargisley, Mary  
Batista-Rodriguez, Alicia  
Bean Family Foundation  
Bowman, Elizabeth  
Bradford, L’aura / Larabee, Valerie  
Branson, Sunny  
Buckleys, Isis  
Callister, Kathleen  
Cowart, Phil & Kate  
Curts, Julia  
Eardley, Don & Connie  
Evans, James & Diane  
Furlong, Juanita & William  
Goff, Tressa  
Hardy, Holly  
Harrison, Tracie  
Hill, Bruce & Sherri  
Hirschi, Richard  
Jenkins, Robert & Lori  
Knable, Helen  
Linton, David / Reid, Jane  
Martin, Dennis  
Matheny, Pam  
Melville, Karen / Heisler, Edward  
Murdock, Kaye  
O’Connor, Clyde & Viki  
O’Neill, Sheila  
Plocharky, Marcia  
Rees, Kathleen  
Rice, Dee  
Rosier, Charles  
Sarno, Carol  
Schlange, Chaz & Shay  
Sharp, Thomas & Nicole  
Shaw, Nancy  
Sterret, Rebecca  
Stout-Letz, Laurie  
Stroyles, Bo & Helena  
Taylor, Jeane  
Trussell, Susan & David  
Vesper, Jennifer  
Welch, Damion  
Wendolowski, Audrey  
Wickliffe, Robin & Chris

Chickadees:  
($8/month, $100-$179 annually, or undisclosed CFC donations / Others)

Becker, Susan  
Benson, Donelle  
Berthrond, Candace  
Bevan, John  
Brinkman, Lisa  
Carmichael, Gordon  
Cassity, Lee & Diane  
Christensen, Alex / Novak, Jessica  
Coleman, Lianna  
Cooper, Susan L.  
Countryman, Diane  
Cragun, Tracey  
Croft, Christy  
Devey, John & Marie  
Dummer, Jennifer  
Eddy, Deborah  
Elmer, Karen & Bob  
Evans, Tara & James  
Fish, Carlton  
Forman, Janet  
Fritz, Ray & Clara  
Garner, Robert & Linda  
Gilbert, Dawn  
Gledhill, Doug  
Grathwohl, Jeffrey  
Hagen, Mardee  
Hall, Christopher & Sherrie  
Haltiner, Maurine  
Haycock, Mariedee & Steve  
Hendrix, Richard & Cori  
Hogan, Tracey  
Isbell, Kira  
Jensen, Lynda & Ed  
Johnston, Linde  
Johnston, Kiersten  
Kappler, Lori & Dixon  
LeFevre, Nancy  
Madlang, Frank & Rudy  
Marin, Debra / Behring, Michael  
Marken, Eric  
McChristal, James  
Miklavcic, Beth  
Miller, Carolyln  
Neill, SaraLee  
Neumann, Kathryn  
Neuvar, Elizabeth  
Nielsen, Ruth  
Ogata, Wendy  
Paige, John & Shelley  
Pardoe, Todd & Debi

Flying Squirrels:  
($15/month or $180 - $239 annually)

Ashston, David  
Baker, Linda  
Bennett, Mike & Mary  
Bloom, Ellen  
Bryner, Jenny & Michelle  
Carter, David & Louise

Synergy Partners:

Barlow Service Experts  
Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge  
Brookside Animal Hospital  
Eye Care for Animals  
Great Basin Wildlife Rehab/Ed.  
GSL Audubon  
HawkWatch International (SLC)  
Lafeber (Emerald)  
Parrish Creek Veterinary Clinic  
Second Chance Wildlife Rehab.  
The Humane Society of the U.S.  
Tracy Aviary  
Weber State University  
Western Wildlife Conservancy  
Wild Friends—Best Friends  
Wild Utah Project

In Honor Of:

WRGNU wishes to honor 2020 donors who have given in the name of family and friends:

"April Beard" - Alan Beard  
"Jerry Bergosh" - Robin Griffith  
"Tana Miller" - Dawn Gilbert  
"Haley Olson" - Palfreyman Family  
"Makenna Sinclair" - Bonnie Lee  
"Alison Schenk" - Natalie Massarotti
The Foot of a Bald Eagle

Birds have many amazing adaptations, from feathers (insulation, camo, display, flight, etc.) to beaks/bills adapted specifically for the many varying diets of each species, to the many different styles of legs/feet.

The feet and talons of the many raptor species are probably the most awe-inspiring of these adaptations.

The strength of an eagle’s feet can literally crush bone. “Lightening-speed fast” and powerful, once engaged they do not disengage until the raptor decides to let go.

Notice the rough foot pads on the bottom; these help add a layer of protection, but also help them securely grip their favorite prey ... the slippery slimy fish Bald Eagles love to eat.