

WILD TIMES



FALL 2004 • COPYRIGHT 2004
20 YEARS CARING FOR WILDLIFE

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It's Just A

How often do we find ourselves thinking that about wild creatures that we see every day? It's just arobin, crow, sparrow, gull (fill in the blank with any common local species). Somehow, if we see them all the time, we think they are less interesting or important. It is amazing how fast that can happen. On a trip to Yellowstone a few years ago I had a mental list of the different wild creatures I hoped to see. Shortly after arriving in the park, we saw a small herd of bison in the distance and excitedly stopped to take photographs – I had never seen a bison in the wild before! A few miles further on we saw more bison, a little closer, and were able to take more photos. Then, we had to pull over to make room for three young bulls that were casually walking up the middle of the road!



In the first couple of days we saw a lot of bison!

High on my hope-to-see list was a grizzly bear, so for the rest of the week, every time I saw a large brown shape in the distance, I would get excited thinking it was a bear, only to be disappointed because it was only a bison. Only a bison! A few days earlier I had never seen one of these magnificent creatures, and now I was taking them for granted!

It is easy to slip into that mode in rehab too. It is interesting and special when we receive an animal that is a new species for us, or that we see only rarely. But the fact is that some types of wild animals are more tolerant of being around people or benefit from the changes we make to habitats, so they are relatively numerous around our homes and yards. Statistically, it is more likely that your cat will bring in a robin than a Hermit Thrush or that your dog will catch a baby cottontail rather than a snowshoe hare. So, many of the animals we care for are common species.

But, when you have the opportunity to see these animals up close, and observe them at different stages, you realize that they are all interesting. Take gulls for example. We see Glaucous-winged gulls every day, sitting at the ferry

docks, feeding along the shore or wheeling and gliding in the breeze. But if you take a closer look, adult gulls are really quite beautiful with their pure white undersides and soft gray backs. We know from experience that their beautifully colored beaks can also do serious damage to an unwary handler! This summer, we raised several gull chicks, and to their surprise, many of our volunteers were charmed by these little gray and black fuzz balls with beaks and feet several sizes too big.

If I mention sparrows, what is your immediate reaction? Most people think, “common, boring little brown birds”, because they are thinking of House Sparrows that are numerous in most towns and cities. (These non-native birds are actually not true sparrows, but are classified in the Finch family)

These sparrows are “street smart”, and can be quite entertaining to watch if you have nothing better to do while you wait for a bus or train. More importantly, if you look closely, you will find that there are all kinds of interesting sparrows out there. On the San Juan Islands, at various times of the year, we have Chipping Sparrows, Fox Sparrows, Vesper Sparrows, Song Sparrows, Savannah Sparrows, White-crowned Sparrows, Lincoln's Sparrows and Golden-crowned Sparrows. Some of these are easy to tell apart in the field, while others are more difficult, but we have cared for several of these species over the years. This has given us the opportunity to get a good look at the differences in color, shape and size, listen to the variety of sounds they make and notice different ways they behave. Somehow, sparrows are no longer just “boring little brown birds”.

Next time you find yourself thinking, “It's just a...”, take a closer look. You might enjoy a laugh at a fledgling robin attempting to pull a reluctant worm out of the ground, watch in fascination as crows drop nuts on the road so that passing cars crack them open, or realize that this sparrow looks just a little bit different.

News in Brief

- June 6** first seal pup of the year – a premature pup from San Juan Island.
- June 23** Arrival of 5th intern, Sara Bailey from Arizona.
- July 8** Lauren Blair from North Carolina joined us as our 6th intern.
- Aug 3** Intern #7, Alia Kroos from Washington State arrived.
- Aug 5** Adrai Siraco from Florida joined us as our 8th intern of the year.
- Aug 7** Our 6th Annual Auction for Wildlife raised over \$11,000.
- Aug 7** The winning ticket in our Belize trip raffle was drawn. The raffle raised over \$3700.
- Aug 11-14** Around 300 people visited our Education Booth at Skagit County Fair.
- Aug 18-21** Over 400 friends and neighbors came to visit our Education booth at San Juan County Fair.
- Aug 26** Our last intern of 2004, Shannon McMorrow, arrived from Florida.
- Sept 6** Education display at the "Bark in the Park" in Seattle.
- Sept 14** 11th-annual Wildlife Cruise aboard the *Western Prince* raised \$250.
- Sept 27** Volunteer Appreciation Barbeque -- to say Thank You to all our wonderful volunteers.
- Nov 1** Work party to clean, tidy, repair and build. The first of several we will have during winter and early spring.



Leach's Storm Petrel

Eagle Scout Builds New Enclosure

One of our oldest cages, known to volunteers as the Blackberry Cage, was originally built in 1988. It was used to house medium sized birds such as crows, pigeons and the occasional flicker or kingfisher. It had been repaired on several occasions, but was clearly nearing the end of its days. In spring 2004, local scout, Liam Knight approached us about building an enclosure as his Eagle Scout Project, so we immediately suggested replacing the Blackberry Cage with a bigger and better version. Liam and his fellow scouts from troop really enjoyed the first stage - demolishing the old cage. Then came the more challenging part. With help from family and friends, Liam drew up designs from our specifications and set to work on construction. Materials for the project were bought with funds donated by _____ Over the course of the next few weeks the cage gradually took shape – foundations, framing, walls and roof. By early summer we had a sturdy enclosure that was a big improvement on the previous cage.

One of the Global Works groups added wood stain on the outside and soft screening on the inside of the wire mesh to prevent feather damage. Just in time for the first inhabitants – a group of young crows that needed flight space to strengthen their muscles before release.

Our thanks to Liam, his family, friends and fellow scouts who made this great addition to our facilities possible.

Donate Your “Treasures” to Benefit Wolf Hollow

Consignment Treasures LLC opened on San Juan Island this summer, to sell furniture, appliances, tools, building supplies, cars, art etc. and benefit local charities. Consignment Treasures will sell your unwanted items, give you 50%, give 25% of the sales price to the local charity of your choice and use 25% for overhead costs. If you donate the item, 75% of the sales price goes to the charity. Want to make more room in your garage or storage unit? Call Consignment Treasures LLC at 370-5562 or send email to consignmenttreasures@yahoo.com for more information. It's easier than e-Bay!

Wolf Hollow Staff

John Hopkins, Executive Director
Serena Lockwood, Senior Rehabilitator
Nikki Ruggiero, Rehabilitator
Shona Aitken, Education Coordinator
Clare Kelm, Volunteer Coordinator
Lorraine Littlewood, Bookkeeper

Wolf Hollow Board of Directors

Julie Knight, President	Ed Kelm, Vice President
Ross Lockwood, Treasurer	Jean Taylor, Secretary
Julie Duke	Berit Keeble

Our Mission

To promote the well-being of wildlife and their habitats through rehabilitation of injured and orphaned wildlife, public education, and non-invasive research.

Wolf Hollow Wildlife Rehabilitation Center is licensed for wildlife rehabilitation under the auspices of the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and is a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. All contributions are tax-deductible to the extent permitted by law.

A Volunteer's View

Our animal care volunteers deserve a round of applause for all the help they gave us this summer during our busiest season! They fed baby song birds with tweezers, tubed baby pigeons, fed baby raccoons and fawns from bottles and baby squirrels from syringes. They came in for midnight and 4:00 a.m. harbor seal feedings and were willing to work extra shifts. They washed mountains of dirty dishes and laundry, cleaned cages and animal enclosures, and even smiled while they worked! Thanks so much!!

On September 28th we honored all our volunteers at our 3rd annual Volunteer Appreciation Barbecue. There were 46 in attendance at Susan and Bob Wingate's home where we all enjoyed perfect weather and great barbecued burgers and hot dogs as well as homemade salads and desserts.

On November 1st we held our first work party of the season. 20 volunteers worked hard at such tasks as digging ditches, putting up gutters, cleaning intern housing, repairing or replacing catches on outdoor animal enclosures, and eating lunch! The weather was relatively cooperative; it was cold, but at least it didn't pour down rain and wasn't windy.

We'll be having other volunteer opportunities coming up soon: another work party and a

Clare Kelm

Prescott Grant 2004

In mid October, we were delighted to learn that we had been awarded a \$99,980 grant through the John H Prescott Marine Mammal Rescue Assistance Grant Program, (a federal program administered by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)).

This grant will fund the construction of dedicated harbor seal food storage/preparation and intensive care areas, provide training for rehab staff, fund a research project and support and enhance ongoing harbor seal rehab operations.

This is the same program from which we received grants in 2003, to enable us to carry out major upgrades to the water treatment system for the seals pools, construct an addition to house X-ray and other equipment, and carry out staff training and a research project.

From previous newsletters and our web site, you know that these projects were completed in time for our 2004 seal season. We'll keep you posted on how things progress with the new projects.

Director's Corner

What a ride!!! I thought I was listening when the staff tried to explain what to expect when "baby season" arrived but I just didn't get it. As a result, I have a new level of respect for the dedication and work ethic of everyone involved in animal care here at the facility. Throughout the summer and into the fall, from early in the morning to late at night, staff, volunteers and interns put in excruciatingly long hours to care for hundreds of animals. It really was a non-stop effort and I admire and salute you all!!!

Now that things have slowed down, perhaps it is time to put some of the things we accomplished into perspective.

- From May 1 to October 31, 2004 we treated more than 988 animals including 9 baby owls, 1 bald humming bird, 24 raccoons, 17 possums, 18 cottontails, 23 squirrels, and more than 30 harbor seal pups. That is something to be proud of!!!
- We gave the seal pool water treatment system a real workout reaching full capacity at the end of July or early August. At one point we had twenty-three seal pups in the pools at one time. Needless to say, we found out what the system could and couldn't do. Perhaps the designers from Southern California didn't factor in the waste producing potential of our fat northern harbor seals? As a result, we are already planning significant system upgrades during the off-season.
- With the help of two very generous donors and M&W Auto Sales, we finally replaced "Junior" our aging pickup truck/response vehicle. We were able to locate just what we needed and everyone is pleased with the "new" truck with the yellow strobe light on top. If you can think of a good name for the vehicle please send it to us. We'll send the winner one of our new Wolf Hollow denim work shirts.
- The auction was the best ever!!! Jean Taylor and her volunteers did another really fine job. We owe all of them all a big debt of gratitude for their hard work.
- The raffle was also a big success! Thanks to the Silversteins for helping to make it all possible. Tickets were purchased from as far away as Florida and Hawaii. Congratulations to the winners, Carolyn and Steve Hudson of Friday Harbor. We hope they have a great time in Belize! Sorry everyone couldn't win but several of you have expressed an interest in going on a group trip to Belize or some other similar location. If you are interested contact me at Wolf Hollow.
- We received a Prescott Grant and a grant from the Horizon's Foundation for construction of a seal food prep/critical care facility and relocation of the seal nursery.
- We retired our mortgage!!! We are very grateful to Salquists for making it happen!!!

All in all I think it could be said that this year has been a big success with some things each of us can be proud of. But we aren't done yet. We still have animals in care and expect many more before the end of the calendar year. And, we have already started the planning and budget process for next year. As always, we are extremely grateful for the support that you give us when there are so many other worthwhile non-profit groups out there. Thank you for your continued generosity and service.

Warm regards.

John Hopkins

Two Big Projects

In last fall's newsletter we were pleased to tell you that we had been awarded two grants through the John H Prescott Marine Mammal Rescue and Assistance Program, to upgrade our facilities and treatment capabilities for marine mammals. Since then, a huge amount of work has gone into bringing these two projects towards completion.



Pouring concrete for equip. shed

The first grant was awarded to enable us to redesign and upgrade the water treatment system for our seal pools. At the peak of the season, we can have more than 20 Harbor Seals in these pools - a challenge for any water treatment system! To maintain clean water in the pools, we were having to completely change the water every few days. The grant enabled us to design a system specifically to meet our needs, using new improved technology to achieve our goals of maintaining a healthy environment for the seals while reducing operating labor and water consumption.



Pump / filter shed with biofilter



New filters and ozone contact chamber

Throughout the spring and summer we received interesting boxes of all shapes and sizes and had special deliveries of huge tanks. A shed was built to house pumps, ozone generators and filtration equipment, ditches were dug for dozens of feet of plumbing and huge tanks were installed. Now all these pieces are coming together to produce a complete water treatment system. It will be exciting to see how it all works during next summer's seal season.

The second grant covered seal rehab costs and enabled us to purchase equipment and carry out staff training to improve our quality of care for marine mammals. In spring we invited



Volunteers digging ditches

several experts in marine mammal care to visit and share their expertise with us, and our rehab. staff visited The Marine Mammal Center, in California. We have also purchased equipment including a computer,



Foundations for addition

an anesthesia machine and an X-ray machine and film processor. Part of the grant enabled us to build an extension to our main building to house this X ray equipment. During the planning process we decided to build a larger extension to accommodate an additional cage room and indoor mew. The funding for this part of the work was provided by other foundations. This project also involved lots of work in construction of the addition, painting, installing utilities and finishing the interior. By the time



Painting the new addition

you read this, the work should be completed, just in time for delivery of the X-Ray equipment.

The John H Prescott grants enabled us to carry out these projects, but it would not have been possible to complete then without the support of a number of foundations, businesses and individuals who helped out in so many ways. Our thanks to Horizons Foundation, San Juan Community Foundation (Women's Fund) and Orcas Community Foundation for grants to complete the building addition. To John Smoczyk, Jim & Denise Volkmann, Tork Juul, Frank Guard, and OPALCO for working with us on construction and utility installation and to the many volunteers who spent hundreds of hours helping with every step of the projects. These wonderful volunteers are too numerous to mention here, but we would like to offer a special thank you to Skip Kimble and Ed Kelm for the huge amount of time and effort they have contributed to these projects.

In upcoming newsletters and on our web site we will soon have photos of these projects, completed and in use, to share with you.



Our new "West Wing"

Wildlife Cruises...

...From Friday Harbor

Thank you to the Van Leuvens for 9 wonderful years of donating the *Western Prince* for the annual wildlife cruise.

This was the 10th year and the new owners, Ivan and Jackie Reiff, have continued the tradition.

It was a great cruise this year with a big thank you to Charlotte Slack the naturalist and Geri Smith who handled the reservations and served as hostess for a wonderful array of donated edibles.

Berit Keeble

...From Anacortes

The *Island Explorer II* set sail from Cap Sante Marina on September 27th for Wolf Hollow's first ever benefit Wildlife Cruise out of Anacortes.

This sunset cruise, sponsored by Island Adventures, Inc., took a scenic tour of the west side of Fidalgo Island and Deception Pass. Our onboard naturalists pointed out the many seabirds that frequent our area, the sunset was spectacular and a great time was had by all who attended. Many thanks to Shane Aggerguard and his crew for making the cruise possible, and to Seabear Smoke House, Penguin Coffee, Cheese-cake Creations and Island Outfitters for their donations which made for great treats and door prizes.

Shelley McGuire



Welcome Nikki

Nikki Ruggiero joined us as Wildlife Rehabilitator in October 2003. Her previous rehab experience was with the Wildlife Care Association (WCA), a network of home rehabilitators in Sacramento, CA. She was a member of WCA's medical advisory team for 6 years and their Corvid Species manager, which involved coordinating the care of over 1200 crows, magpies and jays annually. At Wolf Hollow, she is looking forward to working with deer, otters, seals and other animals that she has not had the opportunity to rehabilitate before. Welcome on board Nikki!

Thanks Dana

Dana Rice left Wolf Hollow this summer, after working as Wildlife Rehabilitator with us for 4 years. We were sorry to see him go and would like to thank him for all his hard work in animal care, seal pool maintenance and as video-producer-in-chief. Thanks Dana.

Do You Drive a Large Pickup Truck?

During summer and fall we need to pick up several hundred pounds of boxed frozen herring and orders of animal food from the mainland on a regular basis. If you have a suitable truck (it is easier without a canopy) and would be willing to haul these supplies for us, please give us a call at 360-378-5000. We will be happy to pay the ferry ticket!

Can You Spare a Share?

Did you know that donations of appreciated stocks or other securities to Wolf Hollow can help you realize tax savings? If you have some shares to spare for wildlife, speak to your tax advisor about the tax advantages, and call us at 360-378-5000 to get our DTC number and brokerage account information.

Paint Brushes and Berry Buckets!

The girls of Scout troop 1949 have helped us out a lot in the past couple of years. In late summer and fall they picked buckets and buckets of ripe blackberries for us to freeze in preparation for next season's hungry young birds. They also gathered many pounds of apples from local orchards just when we needed them to feed young deer, squirrels and other critters. Last spring they exchanged their berry buckets for paint brushes and spruced up our little "World Headquarters" of-fice so that it would look its best for our Open House.





"Tuzigoot" the Harbor Seal pup

Wolf Hollow Wildlife Rehabilitation Center

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*Happy Holidays, from your
 friends at Wolf Hollow*

Holiday Gift Idea

Looking for a special gift for a child who likes animals? We have just the thing! "Flicker's Round Trip" is a very special children's book that tells the true story of a young Northern Flicker (a type of woodpecker) who is found lying injured on the ground, is taken to Wolf Hollow for care, then returned home to be released into the wild. It is written and beautifully illustrated by local author Ann Hanson.

This book provides a wonderful way for children to learn about the process of Wildlife Rehabilitation through the personal tale of one very special bird.

Ann is generously donating a portion of the proceeds from the sale of this book to Wolf Hollow.

Cost is \$12.95 (plus \$1.60 postage and packing if you need us to mail it to you.) To order the book, visit our web site at www.WolfHollowWildlife.org to print out an order form and mail it to us, or call us at (360)378-5000 and have your credit card information ready.

Statistics thru Oct 2003

Number of animals admitted

Birds	580	62.4%
Mammals	346	37.2
Amphibians/Reptiles	4	0.4
Total	930	

Causes

Orphaned/Separated	273	29.4%
Unknown	191	20.5
Cat Attack	151	16.2
Hit by Car	88	9.5
Dog Attack	57	6.1
Nest Destroyed	70	7.4
Hit Window/Building	30	3.2
Shot	14	1.5
Other*	56	6.0

Results

Released	371	39.9%
Died	235	25.3
Euthanized	179	19.3
In Treatment	92	9.9
Dead on Arrival	47	5.1
Transferred	6	0.6

*Includes: Stuck in Door, Caught in netting, Fell in Water, Trapped in Building, Hit Powerlines, Hit by Train, Caught in Fishing Gear, Stuck in Car Wheel, Covered in Sap, Tangled in String, Attacked by Robins, Fell Off Building!

Members Receive: *Wild Times*
Notice of special events
Annual Members Meeting



Here's my contribution to help the wildlife!!

- New Member Renewal
- Individual / family \$25 - 99 Benefactor \$100 - 249
- Sponsor \$250 - 999 Patron \$1000+

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