

The Ohio Rehabilitator

Issue One—2018



The Newsletter of the Ohio Wildlife Rehabilitators Association

Inside This Issue

Call for Papers & Educational Grants	1
President's Message	2
Workshop Details	3
NWRA Updates	4
Animal Placement and Thank you	5
In Memory: Maribeth Taylor	6

IMPORTANT DATES

September 1:

- Conference Registration Opens

September 15:

- Grant application deadline

October 20:

- Deadline to reserve room at discounted rate
- Award Nominations Due
- 2019 Board Nominations Due

November 2-4

- 26th Annual Conference

November 3:

- Annual Members Meeting

OWRA's 26th Annual Conference: Fur, Feather, Scales & Tales

Special delivery from OWRA!! Your conference registration should be arriving in the mail any day. Online registration will open on September 1st for our 26th Annual OWRA Conference: Fur Feathers, Scales and Tales. This year's conference will take place November 2-4, 2018 at Cherry Valley Lodge in Newark, OH. As always, this once a year opportunity is sure to provide you with up-to-date knowledge and skills, networking with other wildlife rehabilitators, and a fun weekend in the process. The conference will feature twenty-seven presentations, four pre-conference workshops, and much more!

This year we are pleased to welcome back Dr. Reich, DVM from the University of Illinois College of Veterinary Medicine as well as the expertise of Dr. Lynn Dunlap, DVM, Dr. Melinda Marks, DVM and Dr. Diane Huang, DVM.

Remember that spaces are limited for our workshops so register early! All OWRA member will receive priority registration from September 1-15! Full conference details and online registration can be found at www.owra.org/events.



OWRA Educational Grant

OWRA's mission is to promote wildlife conservation by providing resources to wildlife rehabilitators, educators and the community. Each year, money raised through the conference raffle goes into this fund, providing financial support to individuals that may otherwise not be able to take advantage of continuing education opportunities.

A limited number of grants are currently available to help pay conference registration fees and hotel accommodations. These grants are available to members as well as non-members. For more information on grants & policies, please go to www.owra.org/grants. **The deadline for conference grant applications is September 15, 2018.**

For questions regarding OWRA grants, email grants@owra.org. If you do not have access to the internet, please call Laura Collins at 440-725-0854 to request a grant application be sent to you.

OWRA is Proud to be allied with EarthShare Ohio

Funding received through Earth Share, through its workplace giving program, helps in ways such as reducing conference costs for our members and bringing in quality speakers for the conference. If you would like to have the opportunity to involve your workplace in environmental giving, please contact Becky Crow at (937) 698-6493 or email her at vicepresident@owra.org.



OWRA BOARD

If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, contact an OWRA board member.

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President's Message**Dear Members,**

As your 2018 President, I am honored and excited to have the opportunity to build on the great foundation we have in the Ohio Wildlife Rehabilitators Association—the fundamental wildlife rehabilitation and nature-related educational outreach organization for all entities who strive to maintain professionalism and provide exceptional care for Ohio's native species and their habitats. Not only have our membership, annual conference, and specialized training workshop numbers grown since our founding 25 years ago, we have also consistently been recognized as an esteemed collaborator with Ohio Division of Wildlife on Ohio wildlife rehabilitation standards and regulations.

These accomplishments would not have been possible without the continued efforts of our valued members and dedicated leadership. With that, I ask you to join me in thanking Becky Crow, my predecessor and immediate past President, and founding President Betty Ross, for their effectiveness in making our organization a success.

I have worked as a wildlife rehabilitator for nearly 20 years, first as a sub-permit and a wildlife rehabilitation specialist staff member, and currently as director for my own 501c3/non-profit, Clover Field Wildlife Care, Inc. in Stark County.

In 2000, I became an OWRA member and have recognized that this organization has been my lifeline to the wildlife community. I truly appreciate this organization's welcoming and engaging environment, wealth of resources for rehabilitation and education, professional development, networking and socializing, and commitment to conservation and to the community.

If you have not explored all that OWRA has to offer, I invite you to visit our website www.owra.org to stay informed about laws and regulations, emerging diseases, animal placement, upcoming events, and more. I would also ask you to learn about the ways that you can become more involved such as attending events or serving on a committee. Our annual conference committee is working hard to ensure another outstanding conference on November 2-4, and we would welcome volunteers to assist with the multitude of tasks. As an incentive and a way to help with conference costs, OWRA offers discounted conference rates to individuals who commit to helping during the conference weekend.

OWRA is comprised of facilities and individuals who want to make a difference. We are passionate about our work and none of us are afraid to roll up our sleeves and work hard to accomplish great things. As your new president, I am committed to seeing that the goals we set, we achieve together.

Thank you for your continued support of OWRA.

Truly yours,
Kristen Beck

OWRA Recognized by Ohio Division of Wildlife

On March 6th OWRA was the recipients of the 2018 Ohio Division of Wildlife Diversity Partners Award. This award recognized our organization and members for our role in fostering a learning and networking opportunity for wildlife rehabilitation, and recognized the contributions that our members have made to orphaned, injured and sick native wildlife. We are truly honored to be the recipients of this award. Pictured are Board President Kristen Beck, Co-Conference Chairs and Board Members Amy LeMonds and Manon VanSchoyck with Executive Administrator, ODNR Kendra Wecker.



Schedule an OWRA workshop today!

It's never too early to start planning our spring workshops! OWRA offers two workshops open to both members and non-members.

Introduction to Wildlife Rehabilitation (IWR) is an 8-hour course provided by OWRA. It is approved by the Ohio Division of Wildlife and fulfills the requirement for obtaining a Category 1 Wildlife Rehabilitation Permit. IWR covers topics regarding regulations, answering wildlife calls, hygiene, intake and evaluation, and the basic care of Category I species.

Our Rabies Vector Species (RVS) training is a 4-hour class and approved by the Ohio Division of Wildlife. This workshop, or equivalent, is required by ODW in order to accept rabies vector species. Topics covered include: rabies overview, protocols, testing considerations/requirements, hygiene & disinfecting recommendations, and more!!

These workshops are scheduled upon the request of groups of 8 or more OR on an as need basis in districts that have had multiple inquiries and requests from individuals. OWRA seeks classroom space that can accommodate a minimum of 25 individuals. For additional details or to request a workshop contact the following:

Introduction to Wildlife Rehabilitation: Kristen Beck, iwr@owra.org

Rabies Vector Species Training: Barbara Ray, education@owra.org

The IWR and RVS Workshops will be offered on November 2, 2018 in Newark, OH. Visit www.owra.org/events for full details and online registration.

Updates from the National Wildlife Rehabilitators Association

Click on links for more information

Disease Updates



Canine Distemper in Raccoons in Ohio

The Youngstown, OH area is experiencing a canine distemper outbreak in raccoons. The animals are displaying abnormal behavior, are out in the daytime, and are approaching humans. Canine distemper also can infect skunks, foxes, and wolves.

<http://www.ibtimes.com/zombie-raccoons-carrying-distemper-virus-behaving-bizarrely-ohio-2668850>

New Publications

US Eastern Bats: A Dichotomous Key, design and Illustration by Ian R. Hays, Bat Survey Solutions.

This 8-panel chart includes:

- Key Introduction and Identification of Eastern US Bats
- US Range & Habitat
- Handling and Measurement

<https://nwrwildlife.site-ym.com/store/ViewProduct.aspx?id=11165457>



Rabies Alert - Incidents in 4 States

Alabama (Montgomery county): raccoon, human exposure
 Massachusetts (Middlesex county): fox, human exposure
 New York (Westchester County): coyote, human exposure
 South Carolina (Pickens county): goat, human exposure

These states were identified in a ProMED alert as having had recent incidents of animals testing positive for rabies. Remember, anyone possibly exposed to rabies **must** seek medical attention immediately. The preventative vaccines **do not** work after symptoms of rabies begin in humans, so the sooner treatment begins, the better the odds of survival without any adverse medical problems. It is also best to make sure that all pets, as well as livestock, are current with rabies vaccinations. Rabies in these animals is almost always due to a wild animal bite or exposure.

Wildlife in Education: A Guide for the Care and Use of Program Animals, 2nd edition, 2018.

Compiled and edited by Gail Buhl, Jenny Schlieps, and Lisa Smith. The NWRA website has a full Table of Contents, including a listing of Chapters and what material has been added and/or expanded in this 2nd edition.

<https://nwrwildlife.site-ym.com/store/ViewProduct.aspx?id=3439179>

2018 Annual Members Meeting

Our Annual Members Meeting will take place on Saturday, November 3 at 1:00pm. This meeting will take place during the lunch hour of our Annual Conference. During this time, your board of trustees will share what has been happening this year, things to look forward to and the chance to offer suggestions for the betterment of your organization.

Animal Placement and Updates

Animal Placement Service

OWRA offers its membership a service to help place non-releasable animals and to locate suitable candidates for education/display. To place an animal in the placement service, request a species, or for more information about the service, contact Cindy Alverson at: animalplacement@owra.org or (513) 509-2469 or write: 961 Barg Salt Run Rd., Milford, OH 45150.

Check back frequently for an updated Animal Placement Service listings on the OWRA website at www.owra.org/placement.

Animals Needing Placement

- Eastern Box Turtles
- Aquatic Turtles: snapping and red-eared slider
- Red/Silver Fox
- Eastern Gray Squirrel
- Virginia Opossum

Animals Wanted

Birds of Prey

- American Kestrel (5)
- Eastern Screech-owl (8)
- Turkey Vulture
- Long-eared Owl (2)
- Saw-whet Owl (4)
- Short-eared Owl (2)
- Snowy Owl (5)
- Barn Owl
- Northern Harrier
- Rough-Legged Hawk (s)
- Peregrine Falcon (2)

Birds (Other)

- Songbirds/Passerines
- Gulls: Bonaparte's, Great Black Backed
- Belted Kingfisher
- Rose-breasted Grosbeak (F)
- Bitterns (American or Least)

Mammals

- Bats
- Grey Fox (2)
- Woodchuck
- Striped Skunk

Herps

- American Toad
- Map Turtle
- Salamanders
- Brown Snake
- Native snakes

Call for Nominations

Nominations to the board of the Ohio Wildlife Rehabilitators Association are now being accepted. There are three positions to be filled. We want a state-wide board for OWRA to be a group of individuals deeply committed to native wildlife and wildlife rehabilitation. Here is what we are looking for: 1. Attendance at all board meetings unless the absence is excused by the rest of the board. 2. A willingness to commit significant amounts of time. 3. Acceptance and completion of defined responsibilities – officer position, committee chairs, major projects. 4. An understanding of the fiduciary responsibility of a board member; maintaining people's trust and confidence when required, thoughtful and impartial decision-making, fiscal responsibility and administrative oversight of projects. Board members whose terms are expiring are also eligible to be nominated and run again. All applications will be reviewed and approved by the nominating committee. The nominating committee consists of four persons, two board members and two non-board members. The head of this committee is Judith Vaughn. After the nominating committee agrees upon a slate of candidates, the names of the candidates and their qualifications will be reviewed by the board. When the board approves the candidates, their names will be presented before the membership during the annual members meeting and added to the ballot. Persons who have questions or who wish to send applications or nominations to the board should contact Judith at jvaughn@owra.org. The deadline for nominations is **October 20, 2018**.

Remembering Maribeth: 21 Years and Counting

By Sharon Doerge

What do you get when humor, being a straight shooter, courage, persistence and a dash of spunk are combined together?

The enjoyable result will be OWRA member Maribeth Taylor from Huron County.

Maribeth's love of animals spans back to her early childhood in Maine. At the tender age of 10 she found her first wildlife patient, an injured goldfinch. Growing up with the story of Snow White and all the innocence surrounding wildlife, Maribeth believed the bird would recover. Alas, that patient found its final resting place beneath her grandmother's peony garden. However, a lifelong seed was planted with that initial experience.

Surviving a life changing medical event, Maribeth was determined to devote life to her first passion; animals. Eventually, she crossed paths with a wildlife officer who encouraged her to obtain a wildlife license. At that time the permit was called a "raise and release." Cages were built upon her wooded property and the first of many birds arrived. Thus, 21 years ago, her state and federal licensed non-profit, God's Little Critters was born. While birds were one of her favorite species to rehab, all native Ohio wildlife was accepted. In Maribeth's words, "After all, even the seemingly insignificant are all God's creations."

She returned all calls to analyze and advise the finder as to what is best for the animal, which may include not interfering. Educational programs were also a part of Maribeth's avocation. She visited schools, public groups, and nursing homes. One appearance at a nursing home involved an elderly woman who was no longer able to sit up in bed and frequently went days without opening her eyes. The nurses advised Maribeth of the complication and indicated there was no point in interacting with the patient. With her owl in hand, the duo did indeed stop by, and with soft encouraging words from Maribeth, the woman responded by actually sitting up and saying she had always wanted to see an owl before she died.

Working hand in hand with law enforcement and fellow OWRA members, Maribeth strived to make a difference for each animal that reached her facility. While her days were filled with phone calls, feedings, traveling, paperwork (including monthly raptor food bills of \$1,300) and sometimes painful decisions, she remained grateful that she could be outside, breathe in the fresh air, and enjoy helping people and wildlife. Young at heart, Maribeth is still counting on.

In loving memory of Maribeth Taylor.

Photo credit: Ellen Simmons

Norwalk Reflector

