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**WILDLIFE
REHABILITATORS'
NETWORK**
Of British Columbia

WRNBC AGM Registration Now Open!

MARCH 2012						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Enclosed you will find your 2012 WRNBC AGM registration form (also available on our website), along with accommodation and symposium information. This year's event proves to be full of valuable information and informative speakers.

Sneak Peek:

- Representative speakers from government (Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations) on Schedule C wildlife
- A session on bird aging and sexing
- An update on exotic animal and animal cruelty legislation
- A talk by provincial veterinarian Helen Schwantje
- A tour of MARS, the host centre
- and MUCH more!

Reserve your spot today!

**2012-2013 WRNBC Board of Directors:
Voting Information Enclosed**

We are pleased to welcome Christina Carrières and Melanie Gordon to the WRNBC Board of Directors for the remainder of the 2011-2012 season. Newly appointed, both hail from the BC SPCA Wild Animal Rehabilitation Centre (Wild ARC) in Metchosin. They bring considerable experience, insight and enthusiasm to your board! Please read the enclosed biographies for Christina and Melanie, as well as for the board members up for re-election at the 2012 AGM.

Nominations will remain open until the AGM. Directors serve one-year terms on committees (AGM, Elections, Newsletter, Fundraising, Education, Website, Emergency Preparedness and others) and on the executive team of WRNBC. Board members can serve from all communities across the province but must be available to teleconference for meetings.

If you are interested in joining our dynamic board, please contact Angelika Langen at angelika.langen@wrnbc.org for more information!

Meet
Your Neighbours!

Vancouver Aquarium Marine Mammal Rescue

By Marcy Potter, WRNBC Treasurer and Membership Secretary



Having been a rehabilitator who has dealt with birds and terrestrial urban wildlife, this summer I had the privilege to volunteer with new types of creatures (to me, that is!) at the Vancouver Aquarium Marine Mammal Rescue (MMR). Seals, porpoises and a sea lion... oh my!



MMR admitted 158 orphaned seals this year, as well as two harbour porpoises and the infamous Flash Gordon – the first California sea lion MMR has rehabilitated. More recently, the centre has dealt with three sea turtles that washed up on BC shores, cold and stunned.



Lindsaye Akhurst, the centre's manager, has been with MMR for almost six years. With many unique stories that stand out, one of her most memorable was Daisy, a harbour porpoise admitted in 2008. Flash Gordon, another unforgettable patient for Akhurst, was captured earlier this year when he was spotted with a fishing flasher hanging out of his mouth.



The bulk of the time is spent dealing with the orphaned seals. Maternal separation is the most common reason pups are brought in, and when they arrive, they are generally dehydrated and hypoglycemic. When first admitted they are quarantined, stabilized, hydrated and treated.

Formula is then introduced and the seals are tube-fed four to five times a day. Eventually, they are weaned onto whole herring. An incredible fifteen tons of fish are used by MMR in a single season – from March to December.

As you can imagine, many volunteers are required to help with food preparation and endless cleaning. For the seals alone, MMR needs four volunteers per shift with four shifts every day!



Like most wildlife rehabilitation centres, MMR is a non-profit organization. They are always looking for financial and in-kind donations. Their website includes a wish list and ways you can help. Visit www.vanaqua.org/act/direct-action/marine-mammal-rescue/how-you-help to learn more.

Rehabilitation is such a rewarding experience, and being able to contribute to the care of these amazing mammals has truly been one of my life's highlights!



Wild-ONE Admissions Database Software

The Wildlife Center of Virginia has piloted a new reporting software for recording and submitting admissions data from wildlife rehabilitation centres. The best part is – it's FREE! The Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations is currently considering adopting this software to enable standardized reporting province-wide.

From the Wildlife Center of Virginia:

“We know that wildlife rehabilitators have access to the highest abundance and diversity of wildlife species of any government, academic or non-profit organization in North America. That provides wildlife rehabilitators with a unique “window” on wildlife health and invaluable information that no other group can provide.

Unfortunately, medical records from these rehabilitators are not currently kept in a standardized format and therefore cannot be compiled and compared across regions or throughout the country. That is about to change.

The Wildlife Center of Virginia has created a new user-friendly online medical record system that will allow standardized information to be recorded on each patient and will assist rehabilitators with patient management. That new system is called WILD-ONE (a.k.a. Wildlife Incident Log/Database and Online Network).

WILD-ONE has been designed specifically with the rehabilitator's needs in mind – from the home-based rehabilitator to larger, professionally staffed centers. The database has many built-in tools to help with patient admission, treatment and rehabilitation. Using the advanced search functions, all major fields may be queried, separately or in combination.

In addition, by the end of 2011, WILD-ONE will be able to automatically generate all the information required for annual wildlife rehabilitation permit reports, saving hours or even days of time.”

Visit www.wildlifecenter.org/wp/wild-one for your free download!



Have a great case study to share? Spread your expert knowledge! We want to hear from YOU! Email your submissions to info@wrnbc.org for our quarterly newsletter.



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Upcoming Courses

International Wildlife Rehabilitation Council



<http://theiwrc.org/continuing-education/online-training/>

Oil Spill Volunteering	Online	On-demand
Pain Management	Online	On-demand
Parasitology	Online	On-demand
Wound Management	Online	On-demand

NWRA Symposium 2012

Baton Rouge, LA

March 13-17, 2012



www.nwrawildlife.org

The theme for this year's National Wildlife Rehabilitators Association symposium is "Saving Wildlife and Wild Places". The host is Wings of Hope Wildlife Sanctuary, a rehabilitation centre located in Livingston, Louisiana.

The symposium will feature a special four-hour seminar on reuniting and fostering wildlife. The session will be led by multiple speakers, and will cover both birds and mammals. Included are biological and psychological aspects, tools for assessing and decision-making for a particular animal, and information on reuniting or fostering raptors, ducks, geese, song and shore birds, fawns and even 'nuisance' wildlife.

New this year is a "Happy Feet" workshop, concentrating on bandaging, splinting, sandaling and treating common foot injuries in mammals and birds, including de-gloved paws, curled toes, bumble foot and other foot problems.

Symposium attendees can sign up for a scenic two-hour boat tour of Cypress Island Preserve for a chance to glimpse egrets, herons, spoonbills, vireos, stilts and anhingas amongst Louisiana's famous bayous and swamps.

What has your Board of Directors been up to?

- Planning your 2012 AGM in Courtenay, BC!
- Coordinating recruitment and nominations of new board members
- Finalizing your requested changes to the WRNBC Minimum Standards document
- Meeting with the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations for discussions on Schedule C wildlife, permitting and reporting requirements, and regional wildlife rehabilitation concerns – to be presented at the 2012 AGM

Current Board Members

Angelika Langen, President - angelika.langen@wrnbc.org

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Help us save paper and reduce costs! If you would prefer to receive your newsletter by *email only*, please contact our Membership Secretary, Marcy Potter, at marcy.potter@wrnbc.org.