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**WILDLIFE  
REHABILITATORS'  
NETWORK**  
Of British Columbia

## 2011 WRNBC AGM Announced

FEBRUARY 2011						
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					

Mark your calendars! Our 2011 AGM will be held **February 18 to 20\*** in Abbotsford, BC, hosted in conjunction with Elizabeth's Wildlife Centre.

### Speakers Wanted

Our AGM is built upon members sharing expertise, ideas and information, and we are now looking for speakers! If you are interested in giving a short presentation, please contact the 2011 AGM Committee – Lani Sheldon ([lanisheldon@shaw.ca](mailto:lanisheldon@shaw.ca)) or Kimberly Reid ([kimberly78@shaw.ca](mailto:kimberly78@shaw.ca)).

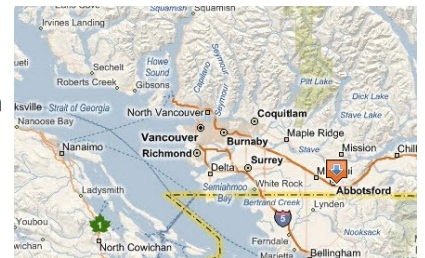
### Bursaries Available

Applications are available for download at [http://www.wrn.bc.ca/activities\\_&\\_events.htm](http://www.wrn.bc.ca/activities_&_events.htm).

Travel Bursary: **\$300** to help a member, organization or individual attend the AGM

Educational Bursary: **\$500** to help a post-secondary student with wildlife rehabilitation experience pursue a course of study in an area that benefits wildlife

Keep checking our website for updates and registration information coming soon!



\*Note this year's earlier dates

## WRNBC Wants YOU!



WRNBC is currently accepting applications for the Board of Directors starting in 2011. Directors serve two-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. For more information, please contact Angelika Langen at [angelika@wildlifeshelter.com](mailto:angelika@wildlifeshelter.com).

# Oiled Wildlife Response Updates

By Coleen Doucette, Oiled Wildlife Society, WRNBC Vice President



## Enbridge Pipeline

On July 25, 2010, the Canadian-owned pipeline company reported a rupture and oil spill near Marshall, Michigan. The first report estimated that approximately 19,500 barrels (858,000 gallons) of crude oil, which had been **pipd down from Alberta's Oil Sands**, had leaked into a creek leading to the Kalamazoo River. The oil rapidly made its way to the main river, severely affecting wildlife habitat and summer animal populations. As of August 13, 2010, the spill estimate is up to 1 million gallons.

Focus Wildlife International (FWI), hired by Enbridge to organize the wildlife response, promptly set up an emergency facility for wildlife operations.

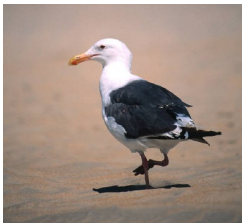
As of August 12, 2010, the animal admissions are as follows:

- 300 live
- 30 dead
- 70 released so far, with the majority of the remaining animals in the conditioning area preparing for release

Animals are still being recovered on a daily basis by field teams.

## BP's Gulf Spill

As we all know, the spill in the Gulf of Mexico will have very long-lasting impacts on wildlife. Specialized wildlife rehabilitation centres have been set up in 5 states (Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas) to support animal care for birds, marine mammals, sea turtles and other reptiles.



Although individuals and groups from BC have offered to assist with animal response, no one has yet been called upon. Assistance from BC clean-up contractors and government regulators was requested and supplied.

The total animal numbers as of August 16, 2010 are as follows:

Collected	Live	Dead	Total	Released
Birds	1,924	4,233	6,157	846
Sea turtles	507	527	1,034	130
Marine mammals	5	73	78	1
Other reptiles	1	1	2	0

## On the Home Front

WRNBC's Emergency Committee is underway preparing a proposed volunteer workforce training plan for 2011. We hope to team up with the Oiled Wildlife Society of BC to deliver a number of training workshops each year. BC locations at highest risk will be targeted first. We hope to gain both provincial and local government support to assist with funding this project. We have a very small committee and continue to look for additional help. Skills much needed are training logistics coordination and grant writing experience. If you would like to join our enthusiastic team, please contact Coleen Doucette at [coleendoucette@me.com](mailto:coleendoucette@me.com).

## In the *News*: Crabs 'sense and remember pain'

Queen's University says new research it conducted shows crabs not only suffer pain but retain a memory of it. The study, which looked at the reactions of hermit crabs to small electric shocks, was carried out by Professor Bob Elwood and Mirjam Appel. The crabs reacted adversely to the shocks but also seemed to try to avoid future shocks, suggesting that they recalled the past ones. The research is published in the journal *Animal Behaviour*. Professor Elwood said the research highlighted the need to investigate how crustaceans used in food industries are treated, saying that a "potentially very large problem" was being ignored.



### Shell shocked

Hermit crabs have no shell of their own so inhabit other structures. As part of the research, wires were attached to shells to deliver small shocks to the abdomen of some of the crabs. The study revealed the only crabs to get out of their shells were those which had received shocks, indicating that the experience was unpleasant for them.

Hermit crabs are known to prefer some species of shells to others and it was found that they were more likely to come out of the shells they least preferred. The main aim of the experiment was to deliver a shock just under the threshold that causes crabs to move out of the shell, to see what happened when a new shell was then offered. Those responsible for the study said crabs that had been shocked but remained in their shell appeared to remember the experience of the shock. They said these crabs quickly moved towards the new shell, investigated it briefly and were more likely to change to the new shell compared to those that had not been shocked.

Professor Elwood, who previously carried out a study showing that prawns endure pain, said: "There has been a long debate about whether crustaceans including crabs, prawns and lobsters feel pain. We know from previous research that they can detect harmful stimuli and withdraw from the source of the stimuli but that could be a simple reflex without the inner 'feeling' of unpleasantness that we associate with pain." This research demonstrates that it is not a simple reflex but that crabs trade-off their need for a quality shell with the need to avoid the harmful stimulus.

### Crustaceans

"Trade-offs of this type have not been previously demonstrated in crustaceans. The results are consistent with the idea of pain being experienced by these animals." Queen's said the findings of both studies were consistent with observations of pain in mammals. However, Professor Elwood said that in contrast to mammals, little protection is given to the millions of crustaceans that are used in the fishing and food industries each day. "Legislation to protect crustaceans has been proposed but it is likely to cover only scientific research," he said.



"Millions of crustaceans are caught or reared in aquaculture for the food industry. There is no protection for these animals – with the possible exception of certain states in Australia – as the presumption is that they cannot experience pain. With vertebrates we are asked to err on the side of caution and I believe this is the approach to take with these crustaceans."

Story from BBC NEWS: [http://news.bbc.co.uk/go/pr/fr/-/2/hi/uk\\_news/northern\\_ireland/7966807.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/go/pr/fr/-/2/hi/uk_news/northern_ireland/7966807.stm)

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## Upcoming Courses

### Vancouver Avian Research Centre

Bird Monitoring and Banding Workshop Burnaby

September 10-12, 2010



[www.birdvancouver.com](http://www.birdvancouver.com)

The Bird Monitoring and Banding Workshop is a three day introductory course consisting of presentations, specimen study, field mist-netting, banding and processing. This workshop has been developed for people with little or no bird banding or bird-in-the-hand experience, and provides a fantastic opportunity to see birds up close and personal, to learn about their plumages, molt sequences and life habits.

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### CanWest Veterinary Conference

Victoria

October 2-5, 2010



[www.canwestconference.ca](http://www.canwestconference.ca)

The Alberta and British Columbia Veterinary Medical Associations (ABVMA and BCVMA) are hosting this seventh joint CanWest Veterinary Conference. CanWest provides continuing education opportunities for Western Canada's veterinary community. Attend the conference to learn about the latest in clinical knowledge, as well as the newest technological advances in the field.

## What has your Board of Directors been up to?

- Working within the Oiled Wildlife Trust in recent meetings with stakeholders and regulators, developing wildlife response guidelines for BC
- Planning oiled wildlife first responder training with the Oiled Wildlife Society of BC
- Starting to plan the 2011 AGM!
- Planning meetings with government regional representatives
- Reviewing and updating our bylaws and guidelines for protocol of care
- Updating our website – **check it out!**

## Current Board Members

Angelika Langen, President - [angelika@wildlifeshelter.com](mailto:angelika@wildlifeshelter.com)

Marcy Potter, Treasurer & Membership - [marcy.potter@gmail.com](mailto:marcy.potter@gmail.com)

Meghann Cant, Director-at-Large - [mbcant@yahoo.com](mailto:mbcant@yahoo.com)

Coleen Doucette, Vice President - [coleendoucette@me.com](mailto:coleendoucette@me.com)

Lani Sheldon, Secretary - [lanisheldon@shaw.ca](mailto:lanisheldon@shaw.ca)

Kimberly Reid, Director-at-Large - [kimberly78@shaw.ca](mailto:kimberly78@shaw.ca)

**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@gmail.com](mailto:marcy.potter@gmail.com).