Great Horned Owl Rescue  -by Bob Peak

Most birds tangled up in fishing line are those living on or near the seashore. But in July, PWC received a call from rural Arroyo Grande (six miles inland) about a Great Horned Owl tangled in fishing line.

I arrived to find that indeed the owl was hanging by one wing from a line between two tall trees. Upon further observation, I noted that the fishing line actually started on the property below on the same hill. The owl had picked up the fishing line while grabbing a snake on the ground. It flew up and around the upper tree, where the line became entangled on the tree limb, and then it dropped the snake.

The owl had tried to free itself as any trapped animal would. I was moved by the strength of this owl and how much damage it did to the tree limb in its attempt for freedom.

I bound two poles together (mine and one borrowed from the homeowner) to make a 20-foot long pole. I then duct-taped my pocket-knife on one end, and was able to reach the line and cut it. The owl dropped safely into the net I had placed below.

Fortunately, no bones were broken. PWC was notified that the line had been removed from the property, and after his wing was healed, the owl was released back to his territory to hunt once again!
Vann Masvidal was recently hired as Pacific Wildlife Care’s Center Director / Volunteer Coordinator.

Mr. Masvidal brings ten years of previous experience in wildlife rehabilitation to our facility. His expertise in management and training of both rehabilitation staff and volunteers and his particular skills in the rehabilitation of seabirds, herons, egrets, and baby birds was what made him our top candidate for the position.

Mr. Masvidal's previous wildlife rehabilitation experience had included work at International Bird Rescue (Cordelia), the Wildlife Care Association (Sacramento), Gold Country Wildlife Rescue (Loomis) and most recently at Wildlife Rescue Center of Napa County. He is co-founder and a member of the board of directors of Bird Ally X / Humboldt Wildlife Care Center, and president of the California Council for Wildlife Rehabilitators (CCWR). He and Dr. Shannon Riggs, Director of Animal Care at PWC, were two of the authors of the book, *An Introduction to Aquatic Bird Rehabilitation* published in 2012.

He will be relocating to San Luis Obispo County from Sacramento with his family this fall and joining the staff at PWC at that time.

**WAYS TO SUPPORT PWC**

1. **Bill Pay or Monthly Subscription Membership**
   Best! Bill Pay set-up at your bank to pay every month, as there are no fees deducted
   Second best: Monthly subscription via credit card

2. **Annual Membership**
   Especially powerful when one’s finances allow an amount beyond the minimum membership level. Our MAIN source of funds (allowing us to care for wildlife)

3. **Tax Deductible Donation**
   Any donation amount counts and is tax deductible as PWC is a 501(c)3

4. **Gift Membership**
   Give one or ask for one. Perfect for upcoming holidays or any special occasion

5. **In Memory of**
   Honor a loved one or beloved pet by giving in their name.

6. **Estate Planning, Traditional IRA**
   Required withdrawal sent to PWC avoids taxes for those over 70 1/2. Talk to your estate planner or financial planner who will need our tax ID number 77-0196350
   (See page 3)

7. **Our Wish List**
   View at pacificwildlifecare.org

8. **VOLUNTEER**
   Always appreciated and needed!

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**SUMMER INTERNS RETURN HOME**

PWC was fortunate this summer to have five remarkable interns who worked at our Clinic through September. In addition to doing all the usual tasks of Clinic Volunteers (including the bustling Baby Bird Room), they worked with veterinarian Shannon Riggs on various procedures, rechecks, and surgery.

Each intern had five weekly eight-hour shifts. The knowledge gained working with us will enhance their resumes but more importantly, these interns really helped our Clinic staff get through the busiest season. Best of luck to them all!

*Pictured above (L to R) Jackie Kowalski, Alex Elias, Kaitlyn Hanley, Hannah MacTaggart & Emily Schwartz – Photos by Pamela Hartmann*

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**A LOCAL TEEN CELEBRATED HER BIRTHDAY BY GIVING BACK**

McKaila Lewis turned 14 with a fundraiser party. Instead of bringing gifts, she asked friends to make donations to Pacific Wildlife Care.

The organization gave a presentation at Lewis' party, using three owls, a falcon, and an opossum.

McKaila is starting high school next week, but she had her first fundraiser party in the first grade and has had several others since.

This year, her party raised over $800!

*From KSBY.com (posted August 15, 2015)*

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**COMPLETED CENTER PROJECTS**

Phase 2 songbird aviary (L) plus upgrades to enclosures #2 and #3 (R) located in the large seabird flight enclosure #1 – Photos by Jean Kuntze
DID YOU KNOW?

IF YOU ARE 70 1/2 OR OLDER YOU COULD SAVE ON YOUR TAXES

One of our anonymous members notified us recently that as soon as she turns 70 1/2 she will be giving Pacific Wildlife Care the amount in her Regular IRA that she is required to withdraw this year. If she were to take the dispersion directly herself, taxes would be due, but by donating it to PWC she avoids all taxes on that amount. She only needs to provide our Tax ID number to her fund manager. If you or someone you know is nearing 70 1/2, alert them to the fact that they must not make the donation before their half birthday, but they can make it as late as April of 2016 to avoid paying 2015 taxes on the required amount. PWC’s Tax ID is: 77-016350

YOU CAN FUND-OUR-VET AND SUPPORT ONGOING NEEDS

Fund-Our-Vet (FOV) Donations – Donations designated to FOV, must always be indicated as such. Some members give regularly to both operating and to FOV (either with two subscribing memberships, or bill pay) via their bank with a note to us: “$ X of donation for FOV.” Those funds are directed and kept in the account to retain our Veterinarian and Director of Animal Care: Dr. Shannon Riggs.
Yes, I would like to give wildlife a second chance!

PWC’s mission is to support San Luis Obispo wildlife through rehabilitation and educational outreach. We envision a community aware of and responsive to wildlife and wildlife issues.

Special Thank Yous

McKaila Lewis: Once again McKaila’s birthday monies supported PWC. (See story on page two)

Long-distance drivers: Melinda Alvarado, Eric Bakula-Davis for driving up to Oakland to pick up a thousand pounds of fish & Caley Richardson for driving to Goleta to release a Black-necked Stilt.

Marie Travers: for filling in while Rehabilitation Technician, Melinda Alvarado, recuperated from her knee surgery.

Summer Interns: Emily Schwartz, Jackie Kowalski, Kaitlyn Hanley, Hannah MacTaggart & Alex Elias for helping us get through our busy season. (see story & photos on page two)

Wild Birds Unlimited: Donations of wild bird seed that helped us through the busy summer months.

Membership/Donations Save Lives

Please remember PWC and the wildlife we serve in your generous “end-of-year” giving!

Visit us online at www.pacificwildlifecare.org to set up a monthly subscription or pay by credit card.

Name:________________________________________________________________________
Phone:____________________________ Email:_____________________________________
Address:______________________________________________________________________
City:_________________________________ State:______ Zip:___________ Date: _______

Please check: ☐ New Membership ☐ Renewal ☐ Donation ☐ I would like to volunteer
Please mail completed form with check to Pacific Wildlife Care, PO Box 1134, Morro Bay, CA 93443

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Thank you to all who donate to make this newsletter possible.

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