Teamwork  by Claudia Duckworth

Last year, over the weekend of October 8th and 9th, 6 representatives from Pacific Wildlife Care attended the annual “Oilapalooza” in Long Beach held aboard the Queen Mary. The conference is sponsored by the Oiled Wildlife Care Network and the purpose is to make the latest information on the care of oiled birds available to the many centers up and down the California coast that may respond to an oil spill.

This was an event eagerly anticipated by those of us working with seabirds at the Morro Bay Center because of problems we had been having for quite some time getting and keeping seabirds waterproof. Birds that are not waterproof will quickly deteriorate and die. It had reached the point that we were transporting most of our seabirds to other centers. We were frustrated and demoralized. Several of us had made trips to International Bird Rescue searching for answers to our lack of success and looked enviously and wistfully at the many happy birds swimming in their outdoor pools—something we had not seen at our center for over a year.

Shortly after our return home, we began receiving Western and Clark’s grebes, the very birds that had defeated us so many times in the past year. With the leadership of the Center Director, Jeanette Stone, and a tenacious team effort, we developed a protocol for handling the birds that included consistent caging with appropriate donuts and booties on the birds, a rigorous tubing schedule, strictly timed staging for moving the birds quickly into water, revised handling techniques and a new diet. As the sick grebes continued to come in and we were handling more and more birds (up to 18 in the seabird room alone at one point) it was necessary to modify and add to the protocol. Everyone adjusted to the changes and kept going. Keeping the large, outdoor Hind Pool clean with so many birds was one of many challenges that we were able to meet.

Rehabilitating seabirds is one of the more difficult things that any wildlife center does. Success requires knowing what to do plus nurturing the team spirit to do it. Pacific Wildlife Care is fortunate to have great volunteers who will come together and work as hard as required to save animals in need. There were no soloists in this achievement, we became a choir.

Thank you to everyone involved, including phone and transport volunteers, as well as center workers. Our success would be impossible without you.

Today, we no longer have to wonder why our pool can’t be filled with waterproof and healthy seabirds. As you can see, we did it.
**Make New Friends and Help Wildlife**

The PWC Board of Directors has approved creation of “Friends of PWC”, a new opportunity to help our local wildlife. The primary focus will be to develop, produce and assist with PWC’s current fundraising events and activities.

Meetings will generally be once per month. The Friends group will elect its own leadership and plan its own agenda working with the PWC Development Director, Marilyn Fidler.

The Friend’s group’s other focus is to have fun working together. Join with a friend and/or make new friends, all in support of our wildlife.

If you’re interested in more information, please email Marilyn, mleefidler@sbcglobal.net

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**Noteworthy News – Cleve’s Wildcards**

When you care enough to send the very best notes, check out “Wildcards” created by well-known local wildlife photographer Cleve Nash. Cleve’s amazing photos are on display in the PWC center, featuring local wildlife (raptors, mammals and seabirds). Boxed sets of 10 cards and envelopes featuring Cleve’s photos are just $15. Thanks to Cleve’s generosity, 100% of the proceeds from each box are donated to PWC. Cleve’s website, www.clevenash.com provides details on how to select and order your cards. Boxed sets of Wildcards make wonderful gifts. Or, send the cards yourself when email just won’t do.
Gray Squirrel Success Story
by Jill Hillary

It was an evening in late August when my daughter, Kristine, who was visiting, found two little baby Gray Squirrels lying on the pathway beside our house in Cambria. They had fallen from their nest located high up in a tall Monterey Pine. Both were tiny, dazed and badly injured. I immediately phoned a friend who volunteers for PWC. She just happened to be at the Rehab Center in Morro Bay for a meeting and said we could bring the babies right in which we did!

Over the next several days, we waited anxiously to hear how the little ones would fare. A home rehabber had taken them home since they required frequent formula feedings. When they were stronger, they were brought back to the Center's mammal caging to continue to grow and develop until their release time. Sadly, the more injured of the two died shortly before release.

However, I was very excited to hear, that the survivor would be coming back to Cambria. He was released on Halloween. We put up his squirrel nest box in a near-by tree and I supplement fed him for a couple of weeks as he began to learn about his surroundings. He was named “Elvis” because he jumped with a wiggle. My husband, Ron, and I were thrilled to watch him climb, search for food and learn how to be a squirrel. Kristine couldn’t wait to come back for the holidays in hopes of seeing Elvis (even though I’d been sending her photos all along).

Gradually, as he became more confident and self-sufficient, we saw him less and less. After a prolonged absence, I grew worried fearing that a hawk had carried him off. When Kristine returned for Christmas, Elvis had been gone for 15 days. On the 24th, he arrived on our deck to greet her. It was our little Christmas miracle! We are happy to know that we played a small part in saving little Elvis, a very special and personable Gray Squirrel.
### New Members: September - December

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<tr>
<th>Betsy Amato</th>
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<th>Corina Leister</th>
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<td>Frank Ausilio</td>
<td>Norris Essex</td>
<td>Paula Lowe</td>
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<td>Jo Ellen Eustis</td>
<td>Stephanie Luebbers</td>
<td>Nancy S. Ross</td>
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<td>Karen Beatty</td>
<td>John Fleming</td>
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<td>James &amp; Catherine</td>
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<td>Frank Mangione</td>
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<td>Ben Gilbert</td>
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<td>Tiff Buckman</td>
<td>Saul &amp; Carol Goldberg</td>
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<td>Amanda Burgess</td>
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<td>Bryan Mealy</td>
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<td>David Hammack</td>
<td>Sharon A. Miles</td>
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<td>Kari Hochschtertor</td>
<td>Landing Moonstone</td>
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<td>Brooklyn Clemens</td>
<td>Phoenix Hocking</td>
<td>Diane Morris</td>
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<td>Jodi Isaacs</td>
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<td>Louise Dickenson</td>
<td>Erika Kagawa</td>
<td>Allyson Noland</td>
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<td>Carla &amp; Daniel Keen</td>
<td>Heather O’Connor</td>
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<td>Jillian Dubois</td>
<td>Carol Kirkpatrick</td>
<td>Dr. Bradford</td>
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<td>Carissa Dwelly</td>
<td>Brian Landis</td>
<td>&amp; Virgi Parkinson</td>
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**PWC’s Education Committee and wildlife ambassadors presented over 95 educational talks to schools and organizations in 2011!**

- **Visiting Wildlife Vet, Shannon Riggs, sutures a bird patient**
- **Three orphaned raccoon siblings**

- **Terry Cook with Red-tailed Hawk “Buddy”**
  - photo by M. Bakula
- **Kathy Duncan with opossum “Olivia”**
  - photo by Beverly Gingg
- **Jeri Roberts with Peregrine Falcon “Morro”**
  - photo by Beverly Gingg
Calendar

January 7 - Center Volunteers, Seabird training
January 11 - Center Volunteers, Seabird training
January 21 - Volunteer Opportunities Orientation
January 28 - Transporter training
January 22 - Phone Volunteer training
January 25 - Baby Bird Care training
February 4 - Volunteer Opportunities Orientation
February 4 - Transporter training
February 5 - Phone Volunteer training
February 5 - Center Volunteers: Baby Mammal Care training
February 8 - Center Volunteers: Baby Mammal Care training
February 11 - Baby Bird Care training
March 7 - 5:30-7 PM Volunteer Opportunities Orientation
March 10 - 10-11 AM Transporter training
March 11 - 10-Noon Phone Volunteer training
March 25 - WINDOWS into WILDLIFE Annual Fundraising event

Fourth Annual
Windows into Wildlife
Sunday, March 25th
2-5 PM at the Avila Beach Golf Resort
Elegant hors d’oeuvres
Music - Wine - Beer - Auction
Wildlife Ambassadors

Register at PWC web-site

PWC’s busy season begins, so Volunteer Opportunities Orientations will be held every other month through fall.

May 16 - 6-7:30 PM Volunteer Opportunities Orientation
May 19 - 10-11 AM Transporter training
May 20 - 10-12 Phone Volunteer training

Eagle Scout Builds & Donates Opossum Cage

Kade Huber has built a new opossum cage for PWC. He built the cage using recycled wood from SAES Pure Gas in San Luis Obispo as his Eagle Scout project.

Kade removed the nails and created a practical cage with the help of other scouts in Troop 5 (sponsored by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints). The finished cage is 3 ½’ by 11’. (see photo)

Kade learned about PWC about three years ago when he attended an evening of owl demonstrations given by a PWC education volunteer at Wild Birds Unlimited in San Luis Obispo.

Kade has a great love of animals, so doing an Eagle Scout project that benefits animals was a great fit for him. He was excited to bring the cage to PWC. It was put to good use right away! Thanks Kade!
See inside for a brand new FUN way to support PWC!

Membership/Donations

“Yes, I would like to give wildlife a second chance!”

- Benefactor $2500
- Patron $1000
- Sponsor $500
- Contributor $250
- Supporter $100
- Advocate $50
- Student/Senior/Volunteer $25
- Other _______

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: o New o Membership Renewal o Donation o I would like to volunteer

Please mail completed form with check to: Pacific Wildlife Care, P.O. Box 1134, Morro Bay, CA 93443

Special Thank Yous

Sheila Blake - Van rental and transport to International Bird Rescue (IBR)
James Dorr - donated ophthalmoscope
Wanda Good - donated medical supplies
Kade Huber - opossum cage (see story/photo page 3)
Virg’s Landing - cooperation on Fish Waste Project
Lela Wright - making new bird perches

Board Officers
President: Dave Klinzman
Vice President: Bob Peak
Secretary: Ken Highfill
Treasurer: Bonnie Lewis

Board Members
Center Operations Chair: Jeanette Stone
Public Relations Chair: Kelly Vandenheuvel
Educational Chair: Kathy Duncan
Membership Chair: Marcelle Bakula
Website Chair: Meg Crockett
Member at Large: Marlys McPherson

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