On Friday afternoon May 6, the Hotline volunteer called about a fledgling Great Horned Owl on the ground at Family Partnership Charter School/Morro Bay Montessori. The caller and two of the children who found the owlet led us to the bird, which had gone under a chain link fence into the schoolyard. My husband, Dave captured the owlet and delivered it to the Center. It was examined and kept for a day. After the owlet was cleared to be re-nested, I arranged with Bob Peak, our re-nesting specialist, to meet at the school on Mother’s Day afternoon. The very excited children who had found the owl showed up with their parents. Bob gave us a brief talk about owls, but because the owls’ parents’ nest in the eucalyptus tree was too high for re-nesting, he placed it in a nearby pine tree. He played a taped distress call so that the parents would hear it. We spotted one of the parents high up in the eucalyptus. Everyone was thrilled that this owlet would soon be reunited with its parents.

Dave and I went back to check on the owl at dusk that evening and we watched the owl climb back down from the tree and scoot under the fence again. It was too dark to try and re-capture it so we came back the next morning, found the owl in the schoolyard, re-captured it and brought it back to the Center. Later, Bob put it back up in one of the pine trees, and next day we saw it was in the eucalyptus tree.

On Friday, another call came in about the owlet. This time it was near the front gate to the playground. We picked it up and took it into the clinic once again. Later in the day we put in back into the pine tree. It climbed up higher this time and there was wonderful news the next day! The owlet was finally reunited with a sibling and a parent in the eucalyptus tree.

However, the beat goes on: another owlet, perhaps the sibling, has arrived at the Center!
Long-time wildlife activist Melinda Alvarado will not be seen at PWC as often as she has been over the past 25 years. But it’s not retirement and she is not backing away from her well-honed skills vis-à-vis rehabbing eagles, hawks, bats, owls, raccoons, rabbits, fawns “and just about everything.”

Melinda still goes into the Center “Quite a bit. I bring animals in, I transport animals, I reunite animals, and I go in Sunday mornings to work in the baby bird room. I am available to fill in whenever it’s needed.”

Melinda has home rehabbed as many as 120 injured or orphaned critters in a single year in her Nipomo home. She remembers having “…… seabirds in one bathroom, raccoons in another, and animals in every nook and cranny in my house.”

She recalls a remarkable raccoon moment. “Raccoons are really smart,” she said. After she released a raccoon into the wild, it returned, injured.

Melinda wasn’t positive it was the raccoon she raised, but when she approached him, “He actually touched my hand,” which raccoons don’t generally do. “He knew me, and for him to come back after being injured, just blew my mind.”

Spending fewer shifts at PWC boils down her need to focus on her “number one priority” – her daughter Ivy, who is engaged in a rehabilitation effort of her own. Ivy is learning to walk on her own following a serious healthcare setback a few years ago.

“She’s making amazing progress,” Melinda explains. “She’s starting to use a cane and starting to walk without a cane. I’m really excited.”

There is a lovely constant in the Melinda Alvarado / PWC story. When you see her at the Center, her beautiful daughter will also be present, with a warmhearted smile that could charm the meanest coyote in the county, injured or not.
**A BIG WELCOME TO THE NEW CLINIC STAFF**

Brook Segall

Brook Segall was originally from San Jose, but migrated to San Diego where she obtained a degree in biological anthropology with honors from UCSD.

She worked at Project Wildlife as a wildlife technician. There, she also served as the interim volunteer coordinator.

Brook trained at the San Diego Natural History Museum under the curator of birds and mammals to become a bird skin preparer.

In her free time, you may find her at the Morro Bay Museum of Natural History where she curates the bird collection and trains others for bird specimen preparation.

At PWC, she hopes to build upon and share skills with other rehabilitators and foster appreciation and respect for wildlife in our community.

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Elissa Blair

Elissa has been involved with wildlife rehabilitation since August of 2012 when she began volunteering at the Humboldt Wildlife Care Center with Bird Ally X spending the past 2 years as staff, where she oversaw clinic operations up to two days a week. She has worked with a variety of wildlife including aquatic birds, raccoons, opossums, songbirds, and raptors.

She recently received a Bachelor of Science degree in Wildlife from Humboldt State University. Elissa is also a pre-trained volunteer with the Oil Wildlife Care Network and on the Advocacy Committee for the California Council for Wildlife Rehabilitators.

In April 2016, she began working at Pacific Wildlife Care full time as a Rehabilitation Technician. She hopes that her time at Pacific Wildlife Care will help her grow as a rehabilitator and allow her to provide the best care possible for local injured and orphaned wildlife.

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**Welcome New Members & Donors** (January–April 2016)

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<tr>
<th>Leah Aasen</th>
<th>Nicole Durschi</th>
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**PWC NEWS**

We are delighted to officially announce the launch of our newly designed website! Please take a look around and let us know what you think.

[www.pacificwildlifecare.org](http://www.pacificwildlifecare.org)

One of our goals is to provide clear instructions on what to do if an injured or orphaned wild animal is found. Please visit our “Need Help?” section for frequently asked questions, directions, and advice.

The new website is full of helpful resources as well as memorable stories, and Facebook postings on the sidebar of every page.

New features include: an Event Calendar, News/Articles of interest about PWC and a subscription-based service to receive information as it is developed. All the latest web technologies have been utilized in making this site a center piece of the PWC’s community outreach program.

It’s also friendly to hand-held devices, so be sure to use your smart phone and/or tablet to view the new website.

Thanks for hundreds of volunteer hours creating our new look: Dave Klinzman, Jeanette Stone and Joanne Aasen

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**2016 VOLUNTEER SPRING FLING**

A Big Hit!

Volunteers enjoy lunch and camaraderie ...
Would you like your donation doubled? (See page 2)

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

Ferrini Heights Community – holding a community garage sale and donating proceeds to PWC

Roger Grizzle, Grizzle Construction; Richard Kelly, A Live Wire Electric & Bob Bruington, Bruington Plumbing – work on water re-circulation, pelagic pool & semi-aquatic habitat

Mike Larsen, Santa Maria Masonry – loan of a reach lift

Tera Galanti – putting up a beautiful PWC display at S.L.O. County Library

Membership/Donations Save Lives

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

- Benefactor $3,000  - Supporter $150
- Patron $1,500  - Advocate $60
- Sponsor $600  - Student/Senior/Volunteer $30
- Contributor $300  - Other _____________

- I would like information on adding Pacific Wildlife Care to my will or trust.

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:  q New Membership  q Renewal  q Donation  q 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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