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SQUIRRELS, SQUIRRELS AND MORE SQUIRRELS

Most Pennsylvanians are familiar with the grey squirrel, which lives in both towns and rural areas. It is PA's most common squirrel. We also have fox, red and flying squirrels. (See page 2). Squirrels are rodents that are most active in early mornings and late afternoons, except the nocturnal flying squirrels.

2024 was a very squirrely season for WWI. We usually see two separate and distinct batches of baby squirrels in the Spring (around April - June) and again in the Fall (late August - October). But we had a fairly steady influx of all four species, beginning with 3 grey squirrels 3/25 and ending with 1 grey on 11/4.

For the most part, squirrel babies are admitted because their nests have been disturbed by cutting trees and moving log piles. Some squirrel kids are discovered during spring clean-up of sheds and garages. If these "orphans" are unharmed, we generally have a good success rate as long as they're three weeks and older. Complications arise when the squirrels are injured, cold or are emaciated and dehydrated. Babies that have been on the ground for awhile can become victims of flystrike. There are rehab protocols that address these situations, but not all of the compromised infants survive.

Another complication with caring for baby squirrels is the neonate, infants 1 day - 2 weeks old. They are naked and pink,

that's why we call them pinkies. As you might guess, it is extremely difficult to care for pinkies. It's hard to keep them at the proper temperature with the correct humidity. They must be fed every two hours, nearly around the clock. Even with optimum care, many pinkies don't make it. The demands of giving these infants what they need to survive in a busy rehab environment is next to impossible. Fortunately for WWI and some of the pinkie grey squirrels we admitted last year, staff member Carrie Yannacci stepped up and fostered more than one litter of these fragile kids at her home. It was an amazing feat of dedication to have hand-fed multiple infants every two hours for weeks! What a way to spend your summer. All of Carrie's hard work paid off and those babies survived.

Squirrel admissions continued all through the summer and into fall. We had so many late squirrel babies, it was necessary for us to over-winter juvenile squirrels in unheard of numbers for us. We have 4 squirrels at 2 separate remote release locations; a total of 6 squirrels in 3 outdoor enclosures here in Youngwood; and a total of 6 squirrels in large cages that have been inside our hospital all winter.

In order to keep the over-wintered squirrel kids happy and healthy until the trees leaf out, our staff have been collecting items to make enrichment projects for them. Everything from sumac flowers

and cattails to pine cones and ornamental grasses; corn stalks and bamboo trimmings; maples switches, pine straw and weed seed heads, all stuffed into a myriad of boxes and cardboard tubes in all sizes, strung on clothesline or wrapped in paper lunch bags. It's been interesting and fun to find things to keep these little rodents busy until we can release them later this Spring. We can't wait and neither can they!



Pinky Grey Squirrels



Juvenile Flying Squirrels



Baby Fox Squirrels



SQUIRRELY FACTS



FLYING SQUIRREL FACTS

Glaucomys volans

- While PA has both Southern and Northern Flying squirrels, WWI primarily sees the Southern flyers.
- The tail of Flyers is brownish above and pinkish buff below.
- These nocturnal Flying squirrels are 8-10" long with half of that being tail.
- Flying squirrels are easily recognized by the gliding membrane (patagium), which consists of a flap of skin extending from the wrist to ankle on both sides of the body.
- Flyers are grayish brown on the back and creamy white on the belly with large eyes.
- Like other squirrels, the Flyers feed mainly on fruits & seeds, especially acorns.
- Flyers are the most carnivorous member of the squirrel family, eating insects, eggs, nestlings and even small mice.

FOX SQUIRREL FACTS

Sciurus niger

- Adults are about 21" long, including a ten-inch tail.
- Fox squirrels are the largest tree squirrel in North America.
- Fox squirrels have grey to reddish-grey upper parts with a pale orange-brown underside.
- Fox squirrels feed on the nuts of oak, maple, hickory and beech trees; other foods include berries, flowers, fungi, birds' eggs and the sap of maple trees.
- Like other squirrels, Fox squirrels den in tree cavities or construct nests among branches.
- Small woodlots adjacent to cultivated fields are favored habitats for the Fox squirrel.
- Fox and grey squirrels seem to get along together wherever their ranges overlap. Both of these species are "scatter hoarders," meaning they bury food items over large areas to retrieve at a later time.

RED SQUIRREL FACTS

Tamiasciurus hudsonicus

- Red squirrels are half the size of greys.
- Reds are about a foot long from nose to tail-tip.
- Reds weigh less than 6 ounces.
- In summer, fur is rusty red-brown, turning greyer in winter.
- Their undersides are off-white.
- Feeding habits and denning are generally similar to Grey and Fox squirrels, although Reds sometimes nest in the holes at the base of trees.
- Unlike Fox & Greys, Reds do not bury nuts but prefer a large cache, often in a hollow log.
- Reds are territorial, often defending food sources against intrusion.

GREY SQUIRREL FACTS

Sciurus carolinensis

- Adult Greys are 18-20" long and about half of this is their broad, bushy tail.
- Most Greys are silvery-grey above and off-white below.
- Greys eat acorns, walnuts, berries, mushrooms and dogwood and wild cherry fruits.
- Greys live in nests and dens.
- Greys build leaf nests, called dreys, in trees near good food supplies in summer.
- Dreys are about 12 x16" built of twigs, leaves, bark and other plant materials.
- Tree dens are often in cavities where limbs have broken off.



CHAPTER 1, THE RESCUE: This is a harrowing tale of rescue and rehab for eight nestling Northern Flickers. In May of last year, we had a message that a tree in a yard in New Alexandria had fallen, and there were baby woodpeckers exposed in the rotted stump. Our return call went to voicemail, so we left a message offering to try to re-nest the nestlings in a bird box if there was a nearby tree. The finder called us back, but was unable to facilitate re-nesting because she was at work until after dark. Our concern was increasing. Every minute the little flickers were exposed, the greater the likelihood of predation. We made another call to the finder. Wasn't there anybody she could contact to get the birds into a safe place? The woman kindly agreed to work on it. It wasn't until the next morning that we realized we'd never heard back about the young flickers. We decided it was worth another call to try to help these awesome little woodpeckers!

We contacted the finder again to learn that the previous day, a neighbor, thinking he was doing the right thing, had carried the nestlings into the woods behind their homes and put them on a log "for the parents to find." What devastating news! Those poor kids couldn't have survived a cool night filled with so many toothsome predators! Undaunted, volunteer Carol Durco drove to the physical address and located the neighbor. He took her to the spot, and it was miraculous! All 8 flicker nestlings were there!

NORTHERN FLICKER

CHAPTER 2, REHABILITATION: Northern flickers (*Colaptes auratus*) are one of our common native woodpeckers, and like their cousins, they are cavity nesters. Woodpeckers will use an existing hole or even a nest box, but when necessary, woodpeckers have all of the necessary tools to fashion their own nest. This nesting arrangement requires the young birds to perch in the nest in a vertical position and the parents poke their heads into the cavity and stoke their kids up.

The nestling flickers that we admitted needed an arrangement similar to what they had, so we set them up in deep baskets upon which they could cling, and we fed them with a large syringe with a barrel tip. This whole experience was not our usual when it comes to baby birds. Every 30 minutes, we filled their crops with a diet containing lots of ground insects, moved them into the waiting clean basket, and 30 minutes later, started all over again. When the little flickers outgrew their basket, we moved them into a playpen and added items to encourage foraging. When the hand-feedings went from 30 to 60, then 90 minutes, we knew it was time to move them into an outside aviary so they could stretch their wings and fly. We gave the woodpeckers rotted logs and stumps, threaded berry branches

through their perches and fed them tons of live mealworms and ants. (Unlike most other native woodpeckers, flickers forage on the ground a lot, and carpenter ants are one of their favorites.)

Although the smallest and most fragile of the nestlings didn't make it, we were so pleased and excited to release the remaining seven flickers here on the property. We were treated to frequent visits for some support feedings as they learned to be self-sufficient. All in all, it was a challenge and a treat for our staff – we enjoyed every minute of it.



SPECIAL THANK YOU'S



We are blessed to have two other home chefs in **RON AND KAREN ROTHRAUFF**, who have been preparing our baby bird diet for years and delivering it to our door all summer long!!

SANDY STEN is a very crafty lady who was a valuable member of our animal care team for years when life threw her a curve and she had to quit volunteering. Fortunately for us, she has put her crafting skills to work, sewing us quilted, fleece and flannel liners made exactly to fit our carriers and cages.

LABOR OF LOVE is Seton Hill's annual Fall Day of Service and the kids came and helped us with groundskeeping.

GREEN HILL VET hosted a Christmas wish list tree in their lobby during the holidays for their clients to bring in-kind donations.

JIM VAUGHAN deserves so much credit for administrating our Daily Dollars calendars. **EVERY DAY**, he is on duty to record the daily number and mail out checks to the winners. And he's been doing this for over two decades. Thanks, Jim!!

WILDLIFE WORKS INC would like to recognize just of few more of our many devoted volunteers who have helped make 2024 another outstanding year in rehabilitating our wild neighbors and in educating the public. Also see more of our 2024 Animal Care volunteers on page 7.

OLD REPUBLIC INSURANCE, in Mt. Pleasant chose WWI to be one of their charities for 2024. The employees raised almost \$5,000 for us with multiple fundraisers throughout the year. Thanks to Melissa Nace & Kris Matiasic for nominating WWI.

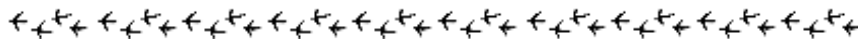
As always, we are eternally grateful to **CAROL & JOHN DURCO** who do SO many wonderful things for WWI, there's not room to list them.

TINA MOORE has been an animal care volunteer for many years. Circumstances have made it impossible for her to commit to a regular volunteer shift, so Tina found a way to help us big time this past baby season. Opossum diets are complex and are time-consuming to prepare in the large volumes we need. Tina became our Possum Chef, spending many hours at home after working three jobs to prepare multiple opossum diets for us all summer long.

CAROL MARSH, staff Brooke Baldonieri's mom, hand crocheted lovely headbands, all the way from Wales, that we sold internally for Christmas gifts as a fund-raiser.

MALIA FAFF & EMILY GOOD, students at Seton Hill College, had a bake sale to benefit WWI.

Thank you, **JOE WOLF AND STAFF AT POWEREX**, and Live Casino for hosting a bingo for WWI on February 3 that raised over \$8,000!!



SUMMER INTERNS



Courtney Geddes

Josie Marts

Ayiana Martin

Breanna Peck

In 2024, WWI had the opportunity to bring on four paid interns for the busy summer months.

Working with these remarkable young women was such a pleasure for all of us, and the extra help they provided was a real blessing.

With fields of study ranging from wildlife management to biology and pre-vet, these girls were eager students and very hard workers.

As summer went on, we learned as much from them as they did from us. Every one of them are shining examples of passion and youthful enthusiasm, and we wish them all the happiness and success in the world!

PROFESSOR POSSUM



Dear Professor Possum,

We have found bats inside our home, flying around in the dead of winter. I thought bats hibernated! We don't necessarily object to bats. We know how beneficial they are to the environment. But we have small children, and we were told by the Dept. of Health that bats found in rooms with sleeping kids or seniors should be submitted for rabies testing. This is kind of a hassle. Why are bats awake during sub-zero temps and how can we get rid of them?

Confused in Confluence

Dear Confused,

There are several reasons hibernating species of bats can have their hibernation disturbed: temperature changes, food availability and disease.

If temperatures fluctuate, bats will wake up and move about. When temps are warm enough for insects to be flying, they will feed opportunistically or even move to another roosting site. Hibernating bats can rouse to get a drink or urinate. Starvation can cause bats to awaken.

The other reason is disease, specifically white-nose syndrome (WNS). WNS is a fungal infection that grows on hibernating bats, irritating and possibly dehydrating them so they wake up. Being aroused from hibernation costs the bats a lot of energy, which makes them lose body fat and can lead to starvation.

If you find that you have a bat colony in your home, let them stay if it is winter. Once the bats awaken in spring, one-way doors can be installed to allow the bats out but not back in. Openings in the roost area can then be sealed off. Bats have their pups in June, so eviction should begin well before that.

Having a bat colony at your place of residence can be a great thing! Bats consume tons of insects and are some of the world's best pollinators. Contact a wildlife expert for help removing the bats and check out info from the Bat Conservation Trust.



Dear Professor Possum,

I live in a very rural area of Westmoreland county, and we have our fair share of wildlife as neighbors. Once every couple of years, we see one of the local deer herd that is injured, usually limping or not using a leg at all. We are a bunch of animal lovers and this just breaks our hearts because we want to help it. What can be done to help injured adult deer?

Softy in Seward

Dear Softy,

Older deer that are weaned, even with spots, are almost impossible to rehabilitate. Older fawns that are nursing are difficult at best. Older fawns and adults can die of stress, also called capture myopathy, so chasing them around to catch them does more harm than good. The general rule of thumb for adult deer or weaned fawns is - if they can walk away, even with an injured leg, let them. Deer can sometimes survive with 3 legs.

If they are suffering or cannot walk, call the Game Commission to evaluate and possibly put it down. The Game Commission does need 2 or 3 calls about an animal to make sure the animal is still there before sending an officer out to that location. Their contact number is 1-866-PGC-HUNT.

Usually if people can get an older deer into their vehicle, the animal is already in a very serious condition and may be dying. It is extremely dangerous to put any deer, even older fawns, into a vehicle. If they wake up and start moving around, both the deer and the vehicle's occupants can be seriously injured. These animals should only be transported by experts who will use deer transport boxes that are specially built to be solid wooden walls, with small holes for air and tight so the deer don't hurt themselves. Please understand that it simply is not feasible to transport deer much older than fawns. Small orphaned fawns that are found next to a dead mother or injured in the summer months can go to rehabbers only if they are found outside of a DMA.* Please remember it is normal to find a fawn alone. The doe is foraging nearby. If the fawn appears healthy, bright-eyed, and there are no flies or ants on the baby, leave them alone. Mother can do a much better job than a human caregiver.

*DMA = Disease Management area is where Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) has been found. CWD is caused by prions, which are abnormally folded proteins that accumulate in the brain, causing neurologic problems and eventually death. Once an area is contaminated, other deer can become infected through saliva, urine and feces. It does not show up when the animals are young. There is no preventative, no treatment and if a deer or similar species contracts CWD, they will eventually die. It's horrible. **(See map on back page)**

If the deer is in a CWD area or DMA, it is illegal to feed the deer. Additionally, rehabbers whose facility lies within a DMA are not allowed to accept fawns for rehabilitation. If your property does not lie within a DMA, you can feed the deer. Deer chow or rabbit pellets are better alternatives to corn and grain.

Reminder...ANY DEER from DMA or CWD areas CAN NOT be rehabilitated. And it is illegal to feed them. This is a very difficult situation for rehabbers in the summer months when we get calls about orphaned fawns. Calls about fawns found within a DMA are referred to the Game Commission. We personally hate those calls because we want to help the animal. But we must follow the rules if we want to continue to rehabilitate. The game officers don't like it either, but they also need to follow the law.



To Rescue or NOT To Rescue - That is the Question

BABY BIRDS, It's a fact, a large percentage of young animals rescued by well-intentioned people don't need help. Out of the thousands of baby birds we have admitted to WWI, many would've had a greater chance of survival if they were left alone or moved to a safe place.

Knowing the difference between a nestling and a fledgling is a key factor in determining whether or not to intervene. A fledgling is no longer a baby. It is a young bird in the process of learning to fly. These birds try, but don't quite get into the air. Instead, they end up on the ground, hopping and fluttering about. Nestlings, on the other hand, do not yet have flight feathers. They may be un-feathered or partially feathered with some skin visible.



Fledgling, If you see a baby bird on the ground that seems to have all of its feathers, but still looks a little downy, it is a fledgling. Unless you know of an immediate threat such as a dog, a cat, children, or a busy road, you should not approach the bird, but watch it from a distance. **Watch and wait.** Make sure the parents are checking on it every few hours. If the fledgling is otherwise healthy but there is an immediate threat move the fledgling to the safety of a

nearby dense shrub or tree. If the fledgling is wet or listless or if it is still where you placed it after several hours, call WWI for further advice.

Nestling, If you find a nestling, examine it carefully. If the bird is not injured, is alert, dry and warm, carefully pick it up and return it to the nest. Touching a baby bird **will not** keep the parents away, but do not handle the baby a lot. Remember, their bones are fragile. If you cannot re-nest the bird, or if you are sure the parent is dead or if the bird is cold, wet, and/or listless, place the bird in a small container lined with tissue, keeping the legs and wings snug to its body. Cover a heating pad (set on low) with a folded towel, then place the substitute nest on the towel and pad. Again, do not attempt to feed or water the bird as this could be fatal. Call WWI as soon as possible.



BABY BUNNIES, Wild cottontail rabbits "nest" in shallow holes dug in the ground by the mother rabbit. Nests are often found in lawns, gardens or under shrubs. The mother, called a doe, lines the shallow hole with fur pulled from her body and covers it and her babies with a mixture of dry grass and twigs to

hide it from predators. The doe feeds her babies 2-3 times a day, once before early morning (dawn) and a couple of times right after it gets dark (dusk). She squats over the nest so the babies can reach up and nurse her milk. The mother does **NOT** continually sit on the nest or stay with the baby bunnies. Doing so would signal carnivorous (meat-eating) birds and animals (like owls and foxes) as to where her babies are living. By staying away from the nest, the doe protects her young.

If you know where a nest is, mow around, not over, the site. If you've made your discovery after the fact, re-cover the nest with the disturbed debris from the nest top or other suitable material such as dry grass and leaves. Baby bunnies that have been removed from the nest can be returned if they are healthy, uninjured, warm, dry, and no flies are present. Replacement should be done without the presence of children or pets. Cover the nest. Use twigs or short pieces of yarn and criss-cross the pieces over the cover. Use these as markers to identify the nest site for future mowings.

Remember, the doe visits the nest at dusk, dawn, and sometimes in the middle of the night, so watching for her during the day is futile. If the markers you left have been disturbed the next day, it is an indication that she has returned to feed, and all is well.

FAWNS, A fawn's mother leaves her baby for long hours while she forages for food returning only to nurse. The hidden fawn has no scent and remains motionless so it is safe from predators. Should you stumble upon a seemingly abandoned fawn:

- Do not touch or move it unless it is in imminent danger or is obviously injured.
- Watch with binoculars from a distance for several hours to see if the mother returns.
- If you have concerns about the fawn's safety or well-being, call a wildlife rehabilitator immediately.



Please remember that White-tailed Deer are very easily stressed by captivity and contact with humans. So, please, if you find a fawn, be courteous and respectful and do not try to touch or move it.

RACCOONS, If you find a baby raccoon with its eyes open, that can walk around without constantly falling over, it has most likely been separated from mom. Give the mom 2 to 4 hours to find their baby. Do not attempt to rescue unless:

- it has been sitting in the same spot for hours,
- It has been excessively crying for longer than 30 minutes. Note, they will cry to help mom locate them.
- It is in visible danger, is injured, or it is walking towards you looking for food, not just out of curiosity.

If the baby runs from you, it most likely does not need assistance.



PLEASE NOTE - WWI does not accept fawns or RVS for rehab.

PLEASE KEEP CATS INDOORS

Every year, WWI receives numerous calls from cat owners about animals injured by their pets. Many are admitted and most do not survive. Sadly, it is pet cats' instinct to hunt – not real hunger – that usually drives them to kill wildlife. It's a fallacy that cats need to roam outside to be happy, and the common strategy of putting bells on their collars has been found to be ineffective for alerting wildlife to their danger. Worldwide, free-roaming cats kill billions of animals every year.

Allowing pet cats to roam outside is not just bad for backyard birds and wildlife, it's bad for the cats too. Outdoor cats are exposed to disease as well as the dangers of traffic, traps, poisons, abuse, and attacks from other animals. In fact, outside cats frequently don't live longer than five years, while indoor cats often live to be 17 or more.

2024 Annual Report (Pages 6-10)

Dear Friends,



I was overwhelmed by the response to my letter in October. So many of you reached out with love, concern and well wishes, both for me and for Wildlife Works. Additionally, many of you sent us donations that were beyond generous, and I was reminded yet again of the many blessings we enjoy here. We get to do important, life-saving work surrounded by incredible staff and held up by our communities' support. It is a magical thing, and we need to keep it alive and healthy into the future.

A number of folks responded with great suggestions and offers of help, and for that, I am so grateful. It helped to get some wheels turning, both in my head and in real time.

We received a few grants at year-end that will make a paid-internship program possible this summer, with some

leftover for our next business needs. We have been in touch with the Community Foundation of Westmoreland and we are waiting for feedback from potential consultants. It's clear we need to work on a strategic plan for the future that will include revenue sources that would guarantee a full-time salary for a rehab coordinator to come on board.

We also need to get more members of the community involved as advisors and potential board members. For those of you who responded with expertise and willingness to help, we'll be reaching back out to you to see what we can accomplish together.

The 2025 season is upon us. Pinky squirrels were just recently admitted to another center mid-state. So, they're here! Soon, a lion's share of my time will be spent on animal care chores. But with a good crew of interns and my awesome core staff, I should be able to continue on the administrative journey that's ahead of us.

Wishing everyone a bright and beautiful Spring and a super Summer.



Board of Directors

- Beth Shoaf, Executive Director
- Marcia Osborne, President
- Jim Vaughan, Sec/Treas.
- Shannon Kozakiewicz
- Judi Wilson

Advisory Board

- Pat Davis
- Paula Petrulak
- Dr. Robert Wagner, VMD

Staff

- Beth Shoaf**, Sr Rehabilitator
- Morgan Barron**, Rehabilitator
- Monica Leuthold**, Office Manager
- Carol DaRold**, Facility Director & Animal Care Technician
- Nicole Hinerman**, Animal Care Technician
- Sam Testa**, Groundskeeper

Volunteer Office Staff

- Julie Cursi, Webmaster
- Melissa Morris, Office Assistant
- Sue Wiseman, Newsletter Editor
- Allison Checkeye, Phone Liason
- Judi Willson, Phone Liason



Important Announcement

As of the first of 2025, WWI no longer has a satellite facility in Mt. Pleasant. Rehabilitator Morgan Barron will continue to operate at her current location as Forest Friends Mt. Pleasant, specializing in fawns and RVS. **PLEASE NOTE** - WWI does not accept fawns or RVS for rehab.

As a young professional woman, Morgan has made the decision to scale back her rehab activities in order to pursue other interests. We continue to be rehab collaborators and friends.

Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza

Although there seemed to be a lull, the latest strain of HPAI has never completely burned itself out. In fact, there is evidence that the virus has jumped species into mammals, including humans.

There have been some significant die-offs in wildlife, including snow geese, in PA in the last two months. A small number of Canada geese recently tested positive from Derry reservoir, right here in Westmoreland county. It's important to know that songbirds have not been affected by HPAI. The PGC recommendations for the public: report if there are 5 or more dead anything or any dead waterfowl. Any mammals or birds that eat waterfowl that are acting strangely, should also be reported to the Game Commission. If it becomes necessary to handle any dead wildlife, please use protective equipment. The PGC number is 1-833-742-4868.

Animal Care - Carol Durco Celebrates 30 Years



My career as a volunteer at WWI began when I saw the organization featured in the Focus Magazine, a supplement to the Tribune Review; that was in 1995.

I remember calling and speaking with Beth about the possibility of becoming a volunteer. She didn't sugar coat it. She said it's not always easy, sometimes it's messy but we'd love to have you come and give volunteering a try.

Well, 30 years later, I'm still a weekly volunteer. I remember learning something new about the animals almost every time I went. I carried the knowledge home and improved my immediate environment to be more wildlife friendly.

Along with educating myself, I enjoy doing the occasional program educating school children and the public about our importance to our community. Also trying to educate people about the importance of wildlife.

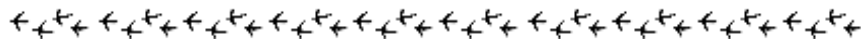
The experience can be at times, heart breaking – like when a beautiful wild creature comes in and we cannot rehabilitate the animal to return to its environment, which is our ultimate goal for every patient that comes to the facility. It's especially heart wrenching when their demise was caused by something a human did. But there are few life experiences that outweigh the joy that seeing an animal return to its wild environment brings. Like when you release a Broad-winged Hawk back to its territory after being rehabilitated. Or releasing a nest of songbirds after having them from babies to fledglings!

I have been an animal lover all of my life, my time spent at WWI has made my love, appreciation of and respect for our wild neighbors grow a hundred-fold. I hope to be able to volunteer for many more years.



HELP WANTED ANIMAL CARE VOLUNTEERS

- ✦ Priority is feeding, medicating, and treating all wildlings.
- ✦ Read log and charts prior to any care.
- ✦ Make diets and prepare food, documenting any food shortage in log. Morning shifts defrost food for raptors.
- ✦ Feed, medicate and treat all inside and outside wildlings per directions, refreshing and cleaning cages. Log your activities, being sure to document any behavior change.
- ✦ Do dishes and laundry, documenting any shortage of supplies.
- ✦ During "baby season" (April through Sept) nearly 70% of the work is indoor work.
- ✦ Almost 50% of your time will be spent cleaning and changing cages.
- ✦ There is written protocol for every facility usage, Intensive Care Unit, sinks, laundry, aviaries, cages, etc.
- ✦ At the end of the shift, if time allows, replenish food dishes for next shift.
- ✦ Novice volunteers will not be handling mammals or high risk wildlings. With demonstrated desire and aptitude, volunteers can increase hands-on skills over time.



Current Animal Care Volunteers, Year Started

Brooke Baldonieri -2009
Tara Bajek -2021
Dan & Lisa Barron -2020
Jennifer Bird - 2022
Suzanne Borza -2011
Cassandra Bromke - 2024
Kristy Caldwell -2023
Eve Carter - 2023
Gina Cottone - 2023
Carol DaRold - 2005
Monica Demko - 2024
Jean Dougan - 2024
Carol Durco -1995
Alyssa Emanuel - 2023
Lacey Errett - 2024
Jennifer Gallegos 2024
Courtney Geddes – 2023

Cathy Gerdich – 2022
Kayla Gerdich – 2022
Laney Gerdich – 2022
Mandi Gerdich - 2022
Heidi Henderson -2024
Lauren Henschel - 2022
Nicole Hinerman -2015
Cynthia Hrovoski -2020
Jill Jassmann-Sharlock -2024
Trish Jones -2017
Stephanie King -2005
Morgan Kirk - 2023
Nick Kozinko -2015
Jules Landsberg - 2024
Jill Leasure -2005
Monica Leuthold -2012
Julianna Lott - 2022

Sherry Lloyd - 2021
Courtney Lutz -2023
Ayiana Martin – 2024
Josie Marts – 2024
Olivia Moore -2018
Aislinn Morris - 2022
Caiden Mullooly - 2022
Brawney Nicholson - 2023
Marcia Osborne -2004
Breanna Peck – 2023
Mary Pescatore -2018
Alexis Piovesan - 2023
Laurel Riley - 2022
Jaime Rininger -2009
Shannon Sapolich - 2022
Christine Santo - 2022
LaVeda Sartoris - 2024

Sue Senn - 2024
Julie Simon -2008
Emily Schaible - 2023
Cullen Shearer - 2022
Katie Smeltzer - 2023
Joanne Thornburg -2019
Pam Valla -1992
Andrew Walk - 2024
Desaray Warner - 2023
Sherry Weible -2023
Kathy Welsh -2016
Kelly Wentz - 2021
Christine Wheeler - 2024
Dana Williams -2020
Judi Wilson -2012
Carrie Yannacci -2021
Ron Yannacci -2009



Mammals

- Virginia Opossum, 95
- Little Brown Bat, 1
- Eastern Cottontail, 228
- Eastern Chipmunk, 12
- Groundhog, 9
- Grey Squirrel, 60
- Fox Squirrel, 5
- Red Squirrel, 7
- S. Flying Squirrel, 6
- Deer Mouse, 1
- White-footed mouse, 12
- House Mouse, 15
- Raccoon, 38
- Least Weasel, 1
- Striped Skunk, 7
- White-tailed Deer, 21

TOTAL MAMMALS 520

Native Birds

- Canada Goose, 20
- Wood Duck, 13
- Mallard Duck, 11
- Chukar, 1

- Ring-necked Pheasant, 1
- Ruffed Grouse, 1
- Turkey, 4
- Horned Grebe, 2
- American Bittern, 1
- Green Heron, 1
- Turkey Vulture, 3
- Osprey, 2
- Bald Eagle, 1
- Cooper's Hawk, 2
- Broad-winged Hawk, 4
- Red-shouldered Hawk, 1
- Red-tailed Hawk, 15
- American Kestrel, 5
- Merlin, 1
- Killdeer, 2
- Solitary Sandpiper, 1
- Pigeon, 10
- Mourning Dove, 26
- Great Horned Owl, 5
- Barred Owl, 3
- Eastern Screech-Owl, 6
- Common Nighthawk, 1
- Ruby-throated Hummingbird, 3
- Belted Kingfisher, 1

2024 REHAB STATISTICS

- Red-bellied Woodpecker, 4
- Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, 1
- Downy Woodpecker, 2
- Northern Flicker, 11
- Pileated Woodpecker, 1
- Red-eyed Vireo, 1
- Blue Jay, 5
- American Crow, 2
- Barn Swallow, 2
- Tufted Titmouse, 2
- Black-capped Chickadee, 1
- White-breasted Nuthatch, 1
- House Wren, 8
- Carolina Wren, 5
- Golden-crowned Kinglet, 1
- Eastern Bluebird, 2
- American Robin, 53
- Grey Catbird, 2
- Northern Mockingbird, 3
- Cedar Waxwing, 2
- Ovenbird, 1
- Common Yellowthroat, 1
- Eastern Towhee, 2
- Chipping Sparrow, 7
- Song Sparrow, 4
- Scarlet Tanager, 1
- Northern Cardinal, 14
- Red-winged Blackbird, 2
- Common Grackle, 6
- Brown-headed Cowbird, 3
- Baltimore Oriole, 1
- Purple Finch, 1
- House Finch, 12
- American Goldfinch, 1
- unknown hatchling, 5

TOTAL NATIVE BIRDS 317

Introduced Birds

- European Starling, 49
- House Sparrow, 40

TOTAL INTRODUCED BIRDS 89

Domestic Birds

- Buff Duck, 1
- Pekin, 1

TOTAL DOMESTIC BIRDS 2

Reptiles

- Snapping Turtle, 4
- Eastern Painted Turtle, 2
- Eastern Box Turtle, 4
- Eastern Milk Snake, 1
- Garter Snake, 1
- Black Rat Snake, 1

Non-Native Reptiles

- Red-eared Slider, 1

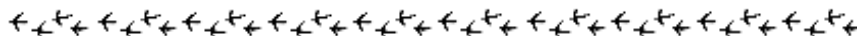
TOTAL REPTILES 14

TOTAL ADMISSIONS 942

TOTALS

WILDLINGS ADMITTED, 942
 WILDLINGS RELEASED, 382
 NONTREATABLES, 324
 RELEASE RATE 2024 – 62%

*Does not include "nontreatable" wildlings that died within 24 hours.



2024 EDUCATION PROGRAMS

WWI's "Wild Neighbors" education program is available to any group. The program may include rescue "do's and don'ts" and the natural history of our wild neighbors. Educational animals are sometimes included. Here were our 2024 programs:

- 2/22/2024 – Hempfield Manor (30)
- 3/15/2024 – PA Retired State Employees (55)
- 4/15/2024 – Covered Bridge 4H Club (35)
- 4/27/2024 – St. Barbara's Church Girl Scouts (20)
- 5/18/2024 – 2x -You Are Here Gallery (25)
- 6/25/2024 – Redstone Highlands (50)
- 7/15/2024 – AARP (60)
- 10/19/2024 - Creepy Crawly Trick or Treat (110)

2024 Totals - 9 Programs including 385 Individuals



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Roy & Associates
Dr Robert Wagner, VMD

Fundraising Volunteers

Kris Azzarello
Linda Conyette
Lori Bell
Craftique Collections
Rita DeBlock
Sharon & Steve Friedel
Nancy Gaffron
Greensburg Weststand
Hepler's Hardware

Julie's Salon
Adam Kupec
Jeanne Minkus
Melissa Nace
Penelope's
Natalie Peskie
Petagogy
Rick's Tobacco
Mark Riddle
Virginia Stefan
Barb Urban
Carrie Yannacci

Special Projects

John & Carol Durco
Jonnie McDuffie
Sandy Sten
Ron & Karen Rothrauff
Tina Moore
Malia Faff & Emily Good
Carol Marsh
Tom Jones

MEMORIALS

NANCY BRIDGES

Sharyn Doyle
Joyce Hudson
Marshall & Sandi
Klingensmith
Jill Leasure
Antoinette Riffer
Sherree Zemba

REBECCA GARDNER

Marcia Osborne
Pam Ridinger

DONALD B. HAYWARD

David M Hayward

JEANNE IAMS

Ethel Keene-Barbus

JERRY

Anna Quinn

STELLA

KALAMOTOUSIS
Deanna & David Kreger

JEFFREY KING SR

Jeff King Jr
King's Electric

JACK LARSON

Stephanie &
Kate Larson

DONNA LAWTON

Edward & Eleanor
Adams
Darla Carson
William Rivardo
Phillip Schiavone
Sandra Weikel

SONNY & CHUCK LOWERY & THE PERT

Janet Lowery

VINCENZO MORACA

John & Mary Hargnett
Mike & Donna
Lowman

LESLIE MOYER

Carol & John Durco

NAN (Pgh Zoo Gorilla)

George & Linda Bahnak

HELEN NICELY

Cindy Wygorik

GEORGE POPPER

Rick & Rita Balogh

HEATHER RIVALDO

Susan & Dennis Daniska

Barbara Ritko
Shirley Veahman
Lorie Vieceli

FAYE SHUMAKER

Deanna Buberniak

AYN VANDYKE

Indiana HS Class of 1959

TIM VECHTER

Kristen Krempasky

ANDY VITOVIC

Eileen Aston
Barbara Dinsel
Robert & Rhonda
Simone
Debra Tunney

MARGARET VLANICH

Noreen Tonti

BETTY WHITE (PET)

Susan Turell & Sandy

NANCY WILSON

Joyce Hundon

CHARLEY, LEO & HARRY (PETS)

Gail Young

HONORIUMS

IN HONOR OF:

Adalie Bartosiewicz
Julia Bartosiewicz (B-Day)
Bruno the Bear
Marcy & Rick McLean
Ray & Jenne Myers
Dave & Gigi Patrignani
Jack Persin (Pet)

Angie Pompa Family
Angie Pompa (B-Day)
Shannon Sapolich (b-day)

Julie Simon

Mary Szarek
Cindy Wilkinson
Ron Winings (60th B-Day)

FROM

Monica Olinger
Monica Olinger
Tom & Billie Ann Moser
Rita Dorobish
Daughters of Charity
Rita Dorobish
Diane & Dennis Persin
Leo Meyer
Lorraine & John Baith
Lorraine & John Baith
Troy Bugosh
Gabriella Conforti
Bear Rocks Community
Janet C Lazur
Ray & Jean Myers
Rita Dorobish
Constance Tosh



Ways to Support WWI

- GENERAL OPERATIONS** _____
- ADOPT-A-WILDLING**
 - \$1,000, Eagle, Great Horned Owl, Osprey
 - \$250, Barred Owl, Red-tailed Hawk, Great Blue Heron
 - \$100, American Kestrel, Cooper's Hawk, Screech-Owl
 - \$50, Gray Squirrel, Flying Squirrel, Woodpecker
 - \$25, Canada Goose, Hummingbird, Opossum
 - \$10, Box Turtle, Songbird, Cottontail Rabbit

MEMBERSHIP

- Youth, \$5
 - Family or Classroom, \$25
 - Associate, \$100
 - Sustaining, \$500
 - Individual, \$15
 - Sponsor, \$50
 - Patron, \$250
 - Lifetime, \$1,000
- Memberships paid after Oct 1 are good for the next year.

To make a donation, complete this form and send it with your check or money order, payable to Wildlife Works, Inc., to PO Box 113, Youngwood, PA 15697.

Name _____
 Address _____
 City, State, Zip _____
 Phone(s) _____
 Email _____

All contributions are tax deductible.

Thank you for your support!!!!



MORE WAYS TO HELP

CONSIDER A LEGACY, Please consider remembering WWI in your will. Future bequests can be invaluable for WWI to help us continue to grow to meet the ever-increasing numbers of wildlings in need and to assure the future of WWI.

SHARE WWI WITH A FRIEND, A main source of support is individual donations. Please share this newsletter with others who love wildlife.

FIND A HOME FOR A WWI DONATION Can, WWI donation cans allow the public to donate their change. Since 2002, WWI received **\$4,541** from donation cans. If you know a business or an event that would support WWI, please call us.

BIRTHDAY AND CHRISTMAS GIFTS, If friends and family insist on buying gifts you really don't need, suggest a donation to WWI in your name. We'll gladly send them an acknowledgement.

MEMORIALS AND HONORIUMS, Remember and honor those you love through a gift to help wildlife. Families and individuals will be sent an acknowledgement card and individuals and donors will be recognized in our Winter/Spring newsletter (see page 7).

RECYCLE INK CARTRIDGES, Drop off your empty ink cartridges today. Since 2005, WWI has earned **\$1,319** by recycling these items.

FUNDRAISING, We are always looking for volunteers to sell raffle tickets, calendars, and other fundraising items.

UNITED WAY – Participate in the United Way payroll deduction campaign at your workplace by writing in #223-199 Wildlife Works Inc.

EAGLE SCOUT PROJECTS, WWI is happy to accept Eagle Scout projects.

STOCK DONATIONS, WWI has an account set up to receive donations of stocks that we can turn over to help increase our income.

YOUR FACEBOOK PAGE

PAYPAL

Instructions for a donation button are on the internet. Be sure to select Wildlife Works for your charity. No fees are deducted! And it is a great way for others to honor you on your birthday or special occasions. You will know who donated, but Wildlife Works will not. So we cannot recognize their gift or add them to our mailing list and you would have to let us know if they want to be added to our mailing list.



WWI STATISTICS

12/93-12/24 Wildlings Admitted—18,532
 12/93-12/24 Released - 8,969

2024 Wildlings Admitted –942* Released 382
 *Includes nontreatables (34% of admissions!)

Avg Annual Admissions (last 5 yrs), 1092

2004-2024 EDUCATION PROGRAMS - 333
 Estimated Individuals Reached through Ed Programs - 23,180

WORK TRUCK NEEDED

In 2023, WWI gratefully accepted the donation of a Ford F250 that still had a few miles left in it. Sadly, that Old Faithful has moved on to the dead truck graveyard.

We really need a pick up, mostly for hauling feed, lumber, supplies. Even a not-so-gently-used pick-up would do. If you or someone you know has a second-hand truck that spends more time in the driveway than not, please consider donating it to WWI. A receipt for tax deduction purposes will be provided.

WISH LIST 2024

If you, your school or organization would like to donate supplies or have a "Collection for Wildlife," it would help tremendously. Collect the items below and deliver them to us or purchase items from our wish list on Amazon and have them shipped directly to us.

WWIWishList



- Unsalted peanuts in shell
- Bird seed
- Black oil sunflower seeds
- Scratch feed
- Cob Corn
- Paper towels
- Unscented facial tissues

- Chlorine Bleach
- Laundry detergent
- Dishwashing Detergent
- Gift Cards (grocery, office supply and pet stores)
- Postage stamps

2 Upcoming Events

Fall Festival Open House
 Sept. 6, 2025 →

Also
 An Evening with Cahill Dunne
 (Watch for Details on WWIFacebookpage.)

SEPTEMBER 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	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				



WILDLIFE WORKS, INC.
P.O. Box 113
YOUNGWOOD, PA

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

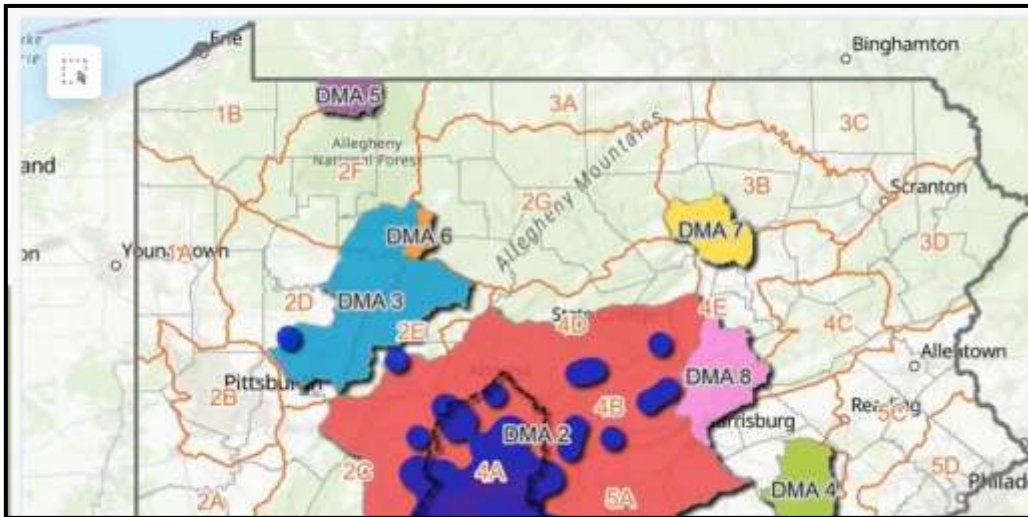
Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Greensburg, PA
Permit # 1091

IMPORTANT
We are continually updating our mailing list. If we have not heard from you in the last 6 years your contact info will be removed unless you contact us.

Email?
If you'd prefer a digital (full color) copy, rather than a hard copy, please let us know.



Current PA Game Commission map showing CWD and DMA areas.



This is the most current map of Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD), a fatal brain disease in deer and elk, and the Disease Management Areas (DMA) from the PA Game Commission. The DMA's are specific geographical zones where regulations are in place to help control the spread of CWD.

CWD has been detected in 2024 with dark blue dots. There are several positive CWD deer that are near the boundaries of existing DMAs. A detection in Armstrong County that was in DMA3 and the detection nearby in DMA2 may cause a change. Likely a new boundary line will touch both DMA2 and DMA3.

Please read the Professor Possum article on page 4. For more info, visit pa.gov and search for Chronic Wasting Disease.

PA GAME COMMISSION 1-888-PGC-HUNT (742-4868)

