

# CALENDAR

- November 25 – Owl Prowl
- November 26 – Holiday Bazaar
- December 3 – Holiday Bazaar
- December 10 – Holiday Bazaar
- December 17 – Holiday Bazaar
- December 30 – Owl Prowl
- January 21 – Making Tracks with Wildlife at Mount A Learning Lodge
- January 27 – Owl Prowl
- February 11 – Seeking Sweet Hearts at Mount A Learning Lodge
- February 17 – Owl Prowl
- March 18 – Wildlife Shenanigans at Mount A Learning Lodge
- March 31 – Owl Prowl

For complete information on upcoming events, visit our website at [www.thecenterforwildlife.org](http://www.thecenterforwildlife.org).



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# WILDLIFE MATTERS

WILDLIFE MEDICAL CLINIC • RESEARCH • EDUCATION

WINTER EDITION 2016

## HEALTHY WILDLIFE, HEALTHY HUMANS

We often share that human health is linked to wildlife health. But how exactly? A prime example is how mosquito-borne illnesses like West Nile Virus and EEE are on the rise while bat populations – major mosquito hunters – are on the decline.



*Brownie, our big brown bat ambassador*

The impact that wildlife has on humans is profound, and includes both physical and emotional benefits. Recall the feeling of awe or wonder while watching a hawk soar high above you; experiencing the colorful display and jubilant melodies of songbirds at your feeder; or listening to the peepers' lullaby in spring, a sure sign of winter's end.

Though our wild neighbors play critical roles in our ecosystem, they face increasing challenges. This year, another mild winter created longer and erratic nesting seasons and we received calls about frogs and bats in February. New housing and commercial developments diminished habitats throughout the Seacoast and led to more encounters with people, vehicles,

and pets.

Our medical clinic admitted 1,748 birds, small mammals, and reptiles between January 1 – November 1, unprecedented evidence of these hardships.

**The impact that wildlife has on humans is profound, and includes both physical and emotional benefits.**

So what can you do to help? Continue to rescue and bring us sick, injured, and orphaned animals. Unlike pets, wild animals have no owners to care for them, and there is no state, federal, or municipal agency that takes care of them. Therefore, it is up to each and every one of us to advocate on their behalf.

Immerse yourself in nature. Go for a walk in the woods. Develop that deep and meaningful connection with our natural world. And while you're out there, thank the recently released grey squirrel in your yard for planting and replanting oak forests, helping to provide the air you breathe. Or the newly healed woodpecker for eating carpenter ants that might otherwise destroy your home.

What are we doing to help? Working with you to get those wood ducklings, orphaned after their mother was hit by a car, back to the wild to forage voraciously on ever increasing tick

populations. Raising the orphaned owlets, brought to us after their trees were cut down, and releasing them back to their families to learn to



*A woodpecker arrives at our medical clinic*

hunt rodents; keeping zoonotic viral infections down. Or spending the 6 months it took to bring the baby porcupine, inappropriately cared for by a well-meaning member of the public, back from the brink of death to go on to fulfill his role as nature's forest manager; managing undergrowth and preventing the spread of invasive pests and diseases.

Thank you for valuing and supporting our work, spreading awareness, and continuing to take action for the wildlife that needs your help. We are grateful for your appreciation and respect for our natural world, and know that, together, we have the power and ability to create big, positive change for our communities and our planet.

WILDLIFE IS COUNTING ON YOU. WE ARE COUNTING ON YOU. Please make your year-end gift today. [www.thecenterforwildlife.org/donate](http://www.thecenterforwildlife.org/donate)

## THE JOY OF GIVING *by Marge Titcomb*

What a thrill – holding a soft tiny songbird in your hand, and launching it back into the wild! Or being within inches (yes, inches) of a bald eagle, healed and ready to reclaim its place in nature.

Those interactions provide a powerful connection to wildlife. They remind us of wild animals' fragility, and also their power to heal. Every time I contribute to Center for Wildlife, I feel the joy again, and am grateful for the ongoing work of their staff and volunteers.

Along with its partners, Center for Wildlife is on the cutting edge of connecting humans and wildlife with creative education programs. And, with such a strong volunteer program, I know that every dollar I donate goes a very long way.

**To join Marge and renew your support, or to join the Center for Wildlife community, please visit [www.thecenterforwildlife.org](http://www.thecenterforwildlife.org) or contact Emma at 207.361.1400. Thank you so much for your generosity!**



*A rehabilitated American Robin is released at our annual Open House event.*



## DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Each fall, great horned owl calls establish winter territories, the light wanes, our patient load slows down a bit, and requests for school programs flood in. Having the honor of serving this organization for over a decade, I know firsthand that this year, we endured our biggest trials and triumphs. Highlights included: holding swat style meetings about our 300+ patient load; listening to families trade stories of daring rescues as they wait in the admissions line; seeing hundreds of people emerge after an intense microburst to attend our Open House; and reading feedback from a program at York Hospital's cancer recovery program. In our 30th year of existence, we have also celebrated many firsts:

- \* Purchasing 8.42 acres at the base of Mount A for our permanent home
- \* Admitting 1,000 birds by the November 1st (1,750 total patients, and counting)
- \* Treating 6 endangered species, 4 threatened species, and 9 species of special concern

This work is important, and impossible without you. Thank you for believing in us, and valuing our work and our local wildlife. We look forward to assisting you with a rescue, or seeing you at our Holiday Bazaar or other upcoming event soon!

Kristen Lamb, Executive Director



Orphaned Eastern grey squirrels

## SQUIRRELS: SECRET SEED SOWERS

Eastern gray squirrels are vital to our ecosystem. The bulk of their diet consists of seeds and acorns which they bury, or cache, to dig up later for food. Gray squirrels overcache, and recover less than half of their stores. The remaining stores then sprout and grow into trees. This caching behavior leads to the dispersal of many tree seeds which is important for the renewal of many tree species, particularly plants that produce heavy seeds that do not disperse on their own. Next time you see a squirrel at your bird feeder, resist the impulse to shoo and thank them for your neighborhood trees!

## BARRED OWLS: WHY GIVE A HOOT?



Bianca, our Barred Owl ambassador

The barred owl, one of our most common nighttime friends, plays an essential role in our woodland forests. Because these owls eat a wide variety of prey, they help to control the populations of small mammals, birds, reptiles and amphibians. Farmers, gardeners and suburbanites can all thank barred owls for providing a natural form of pest control. They are also an indicator of healthy old growth forest, because they rely on large

tree cavities for nesting. Barred owls are often active during the day, and can be spied hunting around our bird feeders and along our roadways. Consequently, they are prone to being hit by cars or injured by other human-related causes. At Center for Wildlife, we feel fortunate to care for these animals, and get them back to the wild, where they can perform their important jobs for our ecosystem.



## AMBASSADOR FAST FACT

### GRACE AND GUS, BROAD WINGED HAWKS

Deciduous forest residents with massive migration patterns, broad winged hawks predate heavily on small mammals, insects, and amphibians in spring, summer, and fall. With their piercing and distinct "peewee" call, broad winged hawks play an important role balancing prey populations that can lead to forest devastation or the spread of viral diseases if left unchecked.



Education Coordinator, Sarah, presents with Henry, our porcupine ambassador, at York Hospital.

## NOT ONLY SURVIVING, BUT THRIVING

We were thrilled to present the first in our series, "The Wild Within: Animals Inspiring People to Survive and Thrive" at York Hospital and Infusion Care's Lunch and Learn Series. This

new program aims to promote animal therapy using our live animal ambassadors to those dealing with grief, trauma, illness, or loss. Our ambassadors have all come to us after suffering trauma themselves, both physical and emotional. They have not only proven that they are surviving, but they are, in fact, thriving in their new roles educating people with their presence and personalities. The connection between the audience and the animals is inspiring, and the beauty and strength seen in the animals is mirrored and reflected back in the participants. Survivors are beautiful and strong, and the ambassadors have the unique ability to show this beauty and strength without asking for anything in return. They simply inspire by being. The feedback from our audience let us know that we were right where we need to be. "One of the best presenters I have listened to," said one attendee. Said another, "All of our lives coincide and interact no matter our individual circumstances and how we exist. If animals can survive under hardship, so can people." We look forward to securing grant funding to help bring this program to other facilities in the community.



## OUR NEWEST AMBASSADOR!

### ARTEMIS, NORTHERN SAW WHET OWL

Welcome Artemis (or "Lil Miss," as we lovingly call her)! She is a Northern saw-whet owl, the smallest owl in our area. Artemis came to us from Tufts Wildlife Clinic. She suffered a permanent wing injury after being hit by a car. You can see her every day in our raptor enclosure between 9:00 am – 5:00 pm.

## WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

### CFW ALUMNI

Center for Wildlife hosts 30 interns and three Medical Clinic Apprentices each year. These individuals learn important skills in wildlife rehabilitation, and often go on to pursue careers in animal science.



After finishing her 7-month stint with Center for Wildlife as a Medical Clinic Apprentice, Alex has excitedly accepted a Wildlife Rehabilitation Technician position at the Hawaii Wildlife Center! This facility, located on the Big Island, cares for wildlife from the entire Hawaiian archipelago. Their patients include seabirds, shorebirds and raptors, as well as the only mammal native to the islands, the hoary bat. Alex brings her passion, dedication, and sunny disposition to the Aloha State. Mahalo, Alex!

For more information on internships and apprenticeships, or intern hosting, please email Diana at [diana@thecenterforwildlifeorg.org](mailto:diana@thecenterforwildlifeorg.org)

## HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Join us for our annual Holiday Bazaar from 1:00 - 4:00 pm most Saturdays between Thanksgiving and Christmas.

- Exact dates are:
- November 26
- December 3
- December 10
- December 17



Each week will feature handmade and nature-inspired gifts, and seasonal programs with our animal ambassadors. Enjoy story time with local children's author, Lyn Smith, and Henry, our resident porcupine. Have photos taken with Santa and Lady Willow, our Eastern screech owl ambassador. There will also be plenty of hands-on activities for people of all ages.

The Holiday Bazaar is the best time to bring your visiting family to the Center, introduce them to your favorite ambassadors, make your year-end donation, and see the impact of your gift. You make the Center special, so please, come by and say hi!

## DONATE NOW

If you value our work and our ability to provide services to the public, please show your support today. Center for Wildlife relies on your generosity to achieve its mission.

