

On the Cutting Edge!

Colder temperatures and shorter days offer opportunity for reflection. Looking back over the past season, we are pleased to see our work dovetail with emerging trends in wildlife rehabilitation and environmental education. I was recently the guest speaker at a Maine Audubon event, where Center for Wildlife was introduced as being on “the cutting edge of wildlife challenges in Maine and New Hampshire.” At the New England Environmental Education Association’s summit, a New England Aquarium program director remarked “the language CFW uses in educational programming is just the right approach for fostering stewardship and discussing often difficult topics with all ages”.



This cutting edge work is exemplified through continual breakthroughs in treatment and education programming. Our Medical Clinic Committee worked with Idexx Laboratories to procure



a donated Chemical Analyzer, which allows staff to analyze kidney and liver functions. This identifies the root of injury or disease; making a difference for spotted turtles dealing with infection, or ospreys that have ingested lead, among

others. In response to White Nosed Syndrome, our education programs, featuring big brown bat Brownie, have been changing views and spreading stewardship for bats since the fungus was discovered in 2006. Program participants have built and installed over 200 bat houses.

I am amazed all of this work is done within our current space constraints, and we can only imagine our capability in a new facility. Capital campaign work is currently focused on articulating land and facilities needs. One option is to secure a long-term lease and remain on York Water District land. We are also exploring a partnership with the York Land Trust and White Pine Programs. All three organizations



have outgrown their current space, and collaboration could reduce costs by allowing for shared space; uniting the organizations’ strengths of land conservation, immersing people in nature, and wildlife treatment and education. An ideal property for this partnership would be 30-50 acres in the York area, abutting conservation land. Please feel free to

contact me if you are interested in donating land, or to give feedback on this collaboration.

We are grateful that you, our community, continue to show your deep connection and commitment to native wildlife. Your funding and support helps to ensure wildlife, habitats, and our own health into the future.

Our staff, volunteers, patients, and ambassadors look forward to assisting you with a rescue and release, or immersing ourselves in local wildlife and their habitats at an upcoming program or event.

Happy Holidays!

Kristen Lamb, Executive Director

Endangered in Maine

Center for Wildlife plays an important role in ensuring that Maine’s endangered species receive quality medical care when they’re injured due to human-caused hazards. Our staff works efficiently to return animals to the wild where they can pass their genes to the next generation and strengthen the population. Maine Inland Fisheries & Wildlife defines endangered species as those that “have been and are in danger of being rendered extinct within the State of Maine, and... are of esthetic, ecological, educational, historical, recreational and scientific value to the people of the State.” Every year CFW admits animals listed under Maine’s Endangered Species Act (MESA), such as Blanding’s turtles and peregrine falcons.



For some endangered species, the loss of an individual can have a huge impact on the population. Blanding’s turtles don’t reproduce until 14-20 years old, are susceptible to road mortality, and their eggs are lost to predation and development. An adult male Blanding’s was found at a stable in Wells and brought to CFW when the rescuers noticed old shell fractures. After months of stabilization and wound care, the Blanding’s was notched and released in time to prepare for hibernation. The unique pattern notched on his shell will



be reported to state biologists if he’s seen again and help to monitor Blanding’s populations in Maine.

Like all wildlife, endangered species are most vulnerable in their first year as they learn to hunt and identify predators and danger. One CFW supporter was shocked to find a young peregrine falcon in her yard, and thinking it hit her swing-set pursuing prey, she called CFW asking what to do.



Our wildlife specialists found a large laceration on one wing amidst severe swelling and bruising. Once radiograph ruled out a fracture, the laceration was sutured and the wing was immobilized to allow healing. After much cage rest, regular wound cleaning, and extensive physical therapy, the peregrine was soaring in our 100-foot flight enclosure and ready for release. The rescuer met our staff the morning of the release, and after hopping out of the box and surveying his surroundings, the peregrine took flight, circled several times, and bolted for horizon!

Changing (and Saving!) Lives!

We love hearing updates from former volunteers. A new intern host family happens to also be the parents of former volunteer, Alex Patten. We were unaware Alex wrote about his experience at Center for Wildlife in his college essay to Georgetown. He is now in his fourth year of medical school, and shared an excerpt from his Georgetown essay:

“Rather than providing lifelong support for the animals, the Center’s mission is to nurture the [injured] and to train and strengthen them to the point of self-sufficiency. The most rewarding moments for me are when I am able to release an animal back into its habitat, to watch a formerly grounded hawk launch himself from a gloved

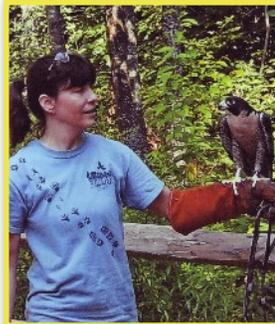
hand upward into a vast woodland canopy. This concept of guidance toward independence has, in fact, greatly influenced the development of my views regarding our societal ailments and the remedies I feel are necessary.” Alex’s essay goes on to a thoughtful reflection on our country’s social program and education philosophies, and recommendations on improvement. We are so proud that we could inspire this type of reflection, and how Alex will go on to contribute positively to our community!



Farewell and Welcome

We bid bittersweet adieu to our Wildlife Specialist, Laura Graham, this September. Laura had been with us for three years, and contributed many new protocols and species knowledge from her years in wildlife rehabilitation at Centers across the country. Laura is moving on to spend more time with her family, and we wish her well, though we will miss her!

Over the summer (during the slow days, ha!) we conducted an extensive job search for the Wildlife Specialist/Facilities Coordinator position. We are pleased to announce that we have hired and welcomed Laura Lariviere on board. Laura has worked in the fields of wildlife medical



care and oil spill management for over 10 years, and has worked at leading centers including the Cape Wildlife Center, and Tri-State Bird Rescue and Research Center in Delaware. We are so excited for Laura to join the team, and for her fresh ideas including raptor and gosling re-nesting programs!



Contributions to the Field!

Our Medical and Education programs have grown over the past year and are attracting attention from other organizations! A local group, How About Know, introduces students to various non-profit career opportunities. In a film to promote their mission, Kristen introduces students to CFW, what we do, and a couple of non-releasable owl ambassadors.



Wildlife medicine is a growing field, and our highly competitive internship and Apprenticeship programs provide hands-on experience in a non-profit setting. Kristen and Emily were able to attend the New England Environmental Educator's Better Together Summit. Each participated in workshops to help grow CFW's programming, including "Beyond the Walk and Talk" and "Building the Next Generation of Science Leaders".

Conferences allow our staff to stay current with best practices, and have also offered opportunities to present our work. Kristen recently shared our work with Maine Audubon as the guest speaker at their annual meeting. These opportunities spread awareness for our work, local wildlife, and their habitats!



Mark Your Calendars!

29th CFW's Annual Holiday Bazaar!

It's the time of year when our "raptor hallway" turns into a magical woodland gift shop! On select weekends starting November 29th, visit our education facilities to shop for nature-inspired gifts, staff and volunteer-made crafts, CFW merchandise, hand-made jewelry, and more!

5th Whoo's There: Winter Owl Prowl Series

Starting 12/4, this series will introduce you to the wonderful world of owls! Learn about native owls, owl ecology and just whooo's calling in the night!

20th Nature Discovery Walk

Get your family outside this winter! Starting 12/20, learn about new local wildlife, then head into the woods to discover the wildlife around us!



Please visit www.yorkcenterforwildlife.org/news.htm to

learn more!

Three Cheers!

To Maine Beer Company and Portsmouth Brewery for donating thousands of dollars this year toward our efforts with wildlife and the community...

To the generous donors who offered gifts of stock that go directly toward our work, earning a big tax deduction at the same time...

To York County Audubon for their donation which supports our efforts to bring ecology-based programming and fun to nursing homes and head-start schools...



To the donor who brings us medical supplies and medication every other month, allowing us to grow our diagnostics and clinic budget...

To the volunteers who serve on our Board of Director's, Education, Development, and Medical Clinic Committees...

To our supporters who donated the materials for our Wildlife Rescue 101 programs...

And to the thousands of other community members who donate time, funding, and talent to make our work possible!



Interested in supporting our work? Consider:

- Gift of stock
- Monthly gift
- Business sponsorship
- A bequest

New Diagnostics Improve Medical Care

Performing blood tests on a patient during initial exams and throughout treatment is one tool which helps us to diagnose and treat illness. Two exciting new pieces of equipment are being added to our clinic in order to improve these capabilities. The first is a VetTest Chemistry Analyzer, which, through the work of our veterinarian, Dr. John Means,

was donated to us by Idexx Laboratories. This machine will allow us to run an array of additional in-house blood work to diagnose disease and monitor organ function during treatment with medications. We can test specific parameters to evaluate liver and kidney function, protein levels, blood glucose, and electrolytes. The second is a StatSpin Centrifuge, which is being generously purchased by our devoted volunteer, Kathy Langlois. This machine will allow us to more quickly and accurately spin blood for basic complete blood counts.



Owl Cuddles

Sir Tufts, who has lived with us for 11 years, has met thousands of community members, sharing the dangers of throwing our food on the side of the road. Despite his small size, Sir Tufts has a huge personality, and has been known to snooze on his belly on his handler's glove during programs! When Willow came to live with us, we were hopeful she would be a great friend for our dear ambassador.

Upon first introductions, we were unsure whether or not Sir Tufts even realized Willow was around! Sir Tufts maintained his normal routine of sleeping in his nest box, sleeping on the perch above his door, and exploring his enclosure by night. Willow seemed to enjoy "her side" of

the enclosure, preferring to camouflage in the upper eaves. A volunteer noticed Willow's side was unoccupied, and when our educators checked their nest box, the two were inside and snuggling! We're so glad to be able to offer life-long sanctuary to 25 non-releasable ambassadors like Tufts and Willow, and look forward to sharing theirs and Willow's stories with you!



Patient Spotlight: Swainson's Thrush

Over a two-week period this fall, CFW admitted seven Swainson's thrushes. These delicately beautiful songbirds, in the same family as the American robin, are rarely seen but often heard deep in our forests. You would recognize them by their ethereal, upward-spiraling song. During migration, however, these birds move through our gardens and yards on their way to winter in South America. Unfortunately, the patients brought to us had struck windows or were caught by cats. We

were able to successfully treat and release 3 of these patients. You can help to prevent injury to these birds during this vulnerable time by placing decals on your windows and sliding doors, and keeping your domestic cats indoors!



Special Insider Moments

Many special moments happen throughout the year, we wanted to share a few "insider" favorites with you!

Quiet time: At a recent bat program, twelve 4-year olds got a chance to listen to our big brown bat Brownie munch away at her mealworms. Incredibly they were silent for 5 minutes straight, though their facial expressions were speaking volumes! Brownie also mesmerized a kindergarten class who gave silent waves and whispers of "thank you Brownie" as they left the classroom.



Is that for me??: Eastern gray squirrel ambassador, Skeeter, has visited many elementary school students and elderly alike. He is also visited by staff and educators who bring him treats and offerings of acorns, mushrooms, black birch and other tasty items from the forest. Recently his favorite friend Emily visited him wearing felt acorn earrings (for sale at Holiday Bazaar - see "Mark Your Calendars, pg. 2). Skeeter's eyes lit up, and Emily realized that he thought she brought him two tasty treats! She was able to distract him with real treats while she got her earrings into her pocket. Phew!



Swimming in your food: A hairy-tailed mole patient wowed caretakers with his foraging abilities. He was given an aquarium with dirt and insects. Although clumsy while being weighed walking "above ground", once inside the soil he shone! His large front paws acted like flippers as he "swam" through the soil, and we could see the soil moving and only his nose as he seemingly came up for air.



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PO Box 620 Cape Neddick, Maine 03902

