



Wildlife Matters

Wildlife Medical Clinic • Rehabilitation • Research • Education

29 Years Young - Reflections on Growth

Even though Center for Wildlife is close to celebrating 30 years in existence, we often feel like a new organization. The energy of our staff, advancements in science and technology, and the enthusiasm of our community means we celebrate many firsts each year; all allowing us to better serve our mission of providing a sustainable future for wildlife. Highlights of breakthroughs in diagnostics and programming this past year include:

- A new vernal pool trail and boardwalk for nature immersion programming
- Lead testing, a new chemical analyzer, and other improved diagnostics for loons, water-birds, and other specialized patients
- Selection of our current location for our new clinic and education expansion thanks to dedicated analysis of needs and input from our community
- A new(er) vehicle for offsite programming, vet visits, and releases thanks to funding raised at our Call of the Wild event
- Contribution of missing baseline data on critical bat species to state agencies and the New England Bat Working Group

A shifting climate, increased development, and pollution/toxicity pressures on native wildlife means our work is more important than ever, and comes at a critical point in our human history. As of December 31st, CFW has admitted and treated a total of 30,000 patients since its inception! We receive more requests for tours, school programs, and other

education programming than we can keep up with. In the past week alone, we have admitted over 150 injured and orphaned wild animals that have been brought to us by caring members of the public. We've hosted a Day of Caring, 3 high school job shadows, trained 5 new volunteers, and welcomed 6 full-time summer interns. The phone has rung off the hook, and we've presented environmental education programming to inner-city children from Sanford, a "Girls on the Run" pre-teen empowerment club, a second grade class, and a family program at a local library. We could never have predicted the many groups, ages, hearts, and minds that our work with local wildlife allows us to connect to and work with.

Speaking with rescuers, program participants, and colleagues at conferences like NEBWG, we realize that the 30,000 patients treated all have a story to tell and opportunity to improve stewardship for their species. We are honored to be the ones to tell their stories, and ensure that their injuries and sometimes even deaths are not in vain. Although wildlife may often seem like part of the background, it is deeply connected to our lives; signals of spring by calls of peepers, or bats managing insect populations, promoting healthy humans, forestry, and agriculture. We know that you, our community, understand this connection. We are grateful for your funding and support, and we look forward to working together with you this year and the next 30 to not only maintain this connection, but restore for those that may have lost it. 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. We hope to see you soon!

Happy Summer!

Kristen Lamb, Executive Director



Learn with CFW

Each spring and summer, we welcome thousands to our facility and programs in hopes of inspiring deep connections to wildlife and their habitats, promoting stewardship, and empowering our community to respect and understand the animals living around them.

Our onsite programming grows each year to meet the inspiring demand from our community. We have more programs and interactive opportunities than ever, thanks to grant funding for projects designed to explore seasonal changes in wildlife and help families comfortably experience the natural world. Visit this summer for one of our many other public and joint partnership programs. Walk down our vernal pool trail and follow signage to learn about these sensitive ecosystems; or "rent" a Get Outside with Wildlife kit and explore the trail and habitats around our facility while learning about and appreciating the wildlife that call them home.



You can now take a self-guided tour with our new map or join a volunteer docent for a guided tour and hear stories about our

ambassadors and clinic. On select Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays throughout the summer, docents will engage visitors from our Eagle scout-built docent station. The station will also be open as a gift shop featuring CFW merchandise, nature-inspired art, and locally made crafts. As with any merchandise purchased or donation given, the proceeds from the docent tours and gift shop go directly to support our work with local wildlife.

We know that not everyone is able to visit our facilities to make deep and often unseen connections to wildlife in person, especially under-served groups. Senior centers, assisted living homes, and groups for at-risk youth and youth and adults with disabilities can still benefit from our programming through our "Wildlife as Teachers and Healers" program. This grant-funded program allows us to bring our programs to those who need them most and provide opportunities to share, learn, and better understand the role wildlife plays in our fundamental human health. So, stop by our facility or book a program for your family or under-served organization and support wildlife in our region!



A Great Horned Reunion

A local North Hampton family was surprised in May to step outside their home and see a very young owlet on their front walk, hissing and clacking but with downy feathers and obviously too young to be out of the nest. With the help of their Animal Control, the owlet was transferred to our clinic. She was given a clean bill of health and put out with our foster parents Gaia and Galileo, who taught the owlet what species she is, who to mate with, and how to view humans as predators. She grew her feathers and built her flight muscles, and reached the stage where if she were in the wild, she would leave the nest to learn how to hunt—with the help of her parents. Since her nest was not destroyed, could we unite her with her family?? Our staff made a visit to the rescue site, searching for signs of a nest, white wash down a tree, pellets, feathers, and other signs of the family. Asking neighbors and the rescuers there were soon no less than 5 adults and 3 children on the case! After a confirmed sighting of one of the owlet’s siblings, a summer intern was given the honors of reuniting them. Our rehabilitated owlet took to the trees, and settled into the limbs of an old conifer as dusk fell.



Where Are They Now - CFW Alum!

Kaitlin Stocks- Medical Clinic Apprentice 2013

After working for 8 months in our intensive apprenticeship program, Kaitlin went on to become an Elephant Caregiver at The Elephant Sanctuary in Tennessee. The Sanctuary is a 2700 acre natural habitat which currently provides refuge for 2 African and 10 Asian elephants who have retired from circuses and zoos. As a caregiver, Kaitlin is responsible for all aspects of their care, including their training, feeding and cleaning. Kaitlin misses working with wildlife, but truly loves caring for and learning from these amazing animals.



Bradford Bower- Wildlife Care Intern 2012

After completing his 3 month summer internship with CFW, Bradford went on to intern at the Wildlife Rehabilitation Center of Minnesota, where his learning focused on songbirds and waterfowl. He then spent five months abroad, and became certified as a field guide in South Africa. Bradford is now working with Mass Audubon, monitoring the threatened piping plover. In the future, Bradford hopes to continue seasonal field research, and spend his off-season as a field guide in Africa.



We Have Otters Around Here?

That has been the response of many when we shared that we admitted an otter to the clinic a couple of weeks ago. We do indeed have river otter locally, they are a very interesting species and indicate a healthy pond/river habitat. Otters are extremely social, have a complex social system and hierarchy, and need to be raised among other otters in and among pools and specialized habitat. The otter was transferred to the amazing Ann Rivers at Acadia Wildlife Foundation, where he will be raised with foster adults and other siblings. One of our donors was able to do the transport, and nailed the description of these fascinating Mustelidae (carnivorous mammals belonging to the weasel family) by her description of this baby’s call “when baby otter was squeaking and making mewling noises, there was a touch of menace in there.” It is difficult to remember that this adorable baby is the face of a fierce predator that helps to balance the local ecosystem they live in. We’re glad that this baby will be united with a new family, fare well baby otter!



Allies of the Night Become Endangered

According to the UN Environment Programme, the Earth is in the midst of a mass extinction of life. Scientists estimate that 150-200 species of plant, insect, bird and mammal become extinct every 24 hours. Locally, our bat species are at a critical point: 6 out of 7 bat species are listed as threatened, endangered, or special concern. The Northern long eared and little brown bats were petitioned to move up to endangered listing in ME just this past spring.



We are proud to be at the forefront of bat care, education, and research; working daily to prevent the potential loss of a species that contributes to human health, agriculture and forestry industries, and local ecosystems through consumption of massive quantities of insects. We’ve cared for 5-20 bats annually in the past 15 years. In 2006, in response to common bat myths and the discovery of White-Nosed Syndrome we created our “Bats: Friends in the Night Sky” program which has reached thousands. Last year we partnered with Bat Conservation International to provide specimens to train interns in the field; contributing to their research of the effects of wind turbines on bats. This year we joined the New England Bat Working Group, and look forward to contributing baseline data including species, date, location, and nature of injury for each bat admitted.



We couldn’t do our work without our amazing big brown bat ambassador Brownie. This year we admitted a non-releasable female bat and are excited to introduce her to Brownie as they are a very social species. During quarantine, she surprised us by giving birth to a pup who is doing great. We hope to release the pup, although her mother can’t be. It has been a true joy to observe and learn from her and her pup!



Art for Center for Wildlife!

Every single environmental education program shows our community how important each habitat, species, and ecological niche in our region is and we see connections being formed to wildlife right before our eyes. But not often do we see an entire elementary school rally around our work and one of our most misunderstood ambassadors, Zipper the corn snake. Eliot Elementary School in Eliot, ME, fell in love with Zipper and decided as a school to support CFW's work by raising donations through their Square1 Art project.



Each student chose a CFW ambassador or local wild animal to draw, paint, or create and through a local program, their beautiful creations will be turned into mugs, keychains, magnets, and other collectibles for their families. We were able to visit the school for their artwork presentation and are excited to return for their end of the year assembly and check presentation. Thank you Eliot Elementary!

Mark Your Calendars!

As we jump into summer, don't forget our fun ways to get outside and learn about our work with local wildlife! Our Tuesday Summer Afternoon Tour Series, hosted every Tuesday through September from 2-3 pm at our education pavilion. These tours offer an in-depth look at CFW this season: who is in our clinic, why they came into care, what we can do to help, and even get the chance to observe a baby bird feeding demonstration. We have other opportunities as well, including:



- **Family Friday Series:** Join us the last Friday of June, July, and August to learn about the three groups of animals treated at CFW; birds, mammals, and reptiles. Each program runs in the evening and is great for audiences of all ages!

- **Aerial Bug Squad** at Mt. A on July 18th from 10a-12p: We join our partners for another year of this popular program. Learn about



native bats, their struggle with white-nose syndrome, then build a bat box to take home and help steward local wildlife! For more info on these programs and others, please visit our website!



Thanks to Our Community for Answering the Call of the Wild!



On a sunny spring evening, 200 of our supporters, staff, volunteers, and board members gathered to celebrate our work over the year and raise funding to not only support our daily efforts, but ensure that we can be there for wildlife and the community into the future. Here's a few highlights from the event:



- Beautiful setting, great weather, amazing food, drink, and service thanks to Spring Hill and Smuttynose Brewing Company.
- Engaging speakers: folks got the chance to follow a case from start to finish; hear updates and highlights from our work throughout the year; learn about our hopes and dreams; and meet our live animal ambassadors up close thanks to staff and board. ME Audubon biologist Susan Gallo spoke about the critical status of bat species in our region, along with what we can do to act now.
- Exciting auction: Participants supported our work through live and silent auction items, and have some great outdoor adventures, vacations, and spa treatments to look forward to as a result!
- New Vehicle: We still cannot believe this is real. Guests raised \$13,000 towards a new vehicle!!!
- Meeting our Fundraising goal: our fundraising goal for the evening (including lead gifts and business sponsorships, along with one-time gifts and new Sustainability Society members) was \$30,000. Excluding the new vehicle funds raised, we are currently at \$28,180 with pledges still coming in.

Thank you to all who attended, offered lead gifts and business sponsorships, donated auction items, donated their time to our event committee, and all others who helped us raise these incredible funds!



Three Cheers for Maine Beer Company!

It started with two brothers "Doing What's Right". If you want to feel as good about the beer you are drinking as you do about the charities you support, look no further. Maine Beer Company was started modestly, grew rapidly, and now, gives generously to the Center for Wildlife and other great causes.



It started on May 2, 2006, with an idea—one that would take several years to come to fruition. Dan and his brother realized that they could brew beer on the weekends and drink at the same time. By their own accounts, they made some really awful beer. Some ok beer. It didn't really matter. They were having fun. What started as a hobby brewing on their front porch and in their garage quickly became an obsession. The brothers worked on a single recipe over and over until Peeper was born. After three years, they were up and brewing. The brothers hit the pavement and went door-to-door selling their Peeper Ale. We suppose people like beer salesmen more than vacuum salesman, because in December 2010, they were able to buy a fifteen-barrel brew house. They continue to grow and become even more successful.



Maine Beer Company's motto is "Do What's Right", and that is exactly what this small family business is doing. They give 1% of their sales to 5 environmental non-profits, and Center for Wildlife is at the top of that list. Their goal is to continue making quality beer, treating their employees well, and taking care of the earth and the creatures that live on it. Truly an incredible company living its motto—they 'Do What's Right'.

So, drink up and know that a portion of every delicious pint of any of Maine Beer Company's outstanding beer helps give a fighting chance to every patient that comes through our door. To try one or several of their brews please join them at their Tasting Room at 525 US Route 1, Freeport, ME. The Tasting Room features 8 beers on tap, including some brewery only releases. This year, Center for Wildlife is looking for at least one more business to become a 1% for the planet member. If you are interested in joining Maine Beer Company in their pledge to the earth, please contact us!

Faces in the Baby Bird Room

We treat over 150 songbirds each year, and many of them come as injured or orphaned nestlings or fledglings. Here's an inside peak at who's in our Baby Bird Room right now, along with their natural history, behaviors, and interests.



Tufted titmouse: Large black eyes, an active crest, and notable “*pieer, pieer, pieer*” call make the tufted titmouse a fun backyard bird to observe. Largely insectivores during the summer and fall, they also turn to seed different seasons, and create stores for themselves during the winter. This tufted titmouse was admitted after being rescued by a well-meaning individual who unfortunately kept him for several days with the wrong diet and feeding techniques. Admitted with feathers covered in food and a potential respiratory infection, he has recovered well. Although some species in the baby bird room are social and can be combined with others, the titmouse is known for being extremely feisty and will bully others! Hard to believe that sweet face could be a danger for fellow fledglings!



Blue jays: These two darlings were admitted after becoming orphaned; likely due to their mother being hit by a car or caught by a domestic cat. Blue jays are in the corvid family, which puts them at the same intelligence as ravens and crows. Often called the “alarm calls of the forest” they signal the presence of predators in the forest. Look up when hearing their calls, and they may be signaling a raptor (or



talking about you!). These jays have been enjoying blueberries, mealworms, and a specially formulated New England Songbird Diet. They will be “fledgling” from their nest box in a few days, and will move on to a larger space. Blue jays are very curious, and often pick up pens, newspaper, and anything they can “get their beaks on”, where other songbirds are just interested in food and cover.



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Center for Wildlife

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