Welcome to NYSWRC’s 36th Annual Seminar!

Age of Mammals

Adam’s Mark Hotel
Downtown Buffalo, NY
November 4th through 6th, 2016
2  New York State Wildlife Rehabilitation Council, Inc.
36th NYSWRC Annual Conference, 2016

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NYSWRC Welcomes You!
Thank you for joining us for our 36th Annual Conference. We are excited to be in the western part of the state at our new venue, the Adam’s Mark Hotel in Buffalo. NYSWRC is proud to present this annual opportunity for rehabilitators to expand their knowledge and skills while learning from our speakers. Our program has been designed to offer you an extensive selection of classes. Use this opportunity to network with your colleagues and our speakers. Enjoy!

Steven Freiman, Conference Chair

NYSWRC Board of Directors
Kelly Martin, President - kmartink@midtel.net
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Back issues of Release are available online

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Veterinarians/Veterinary Technicians - NYSWRC is a NYSED sponsor of continuing education. All lectures are eligible for credit with the exception of ones marked with the footnote 1. Please be sure to pick up a continuing education credit request form at the registration desk so we can verify your request.

Saturday evening
NYSWRC Raffle & Silent Auction
NYSWRC Membership Meeting

Like us on Facebook
## CONFEERENCE 2016 SCHEDULE—**FRIDAY** Sessions

### Sessions

*Specialty Sessions/Workshops & Labs: *Pre-registration and fee required

All other lectures are open to everyone

### AM

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Erie A</th>
<th>Erie B</th>
<th>Ontario</th>
<th>Superior</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>*RVS (8:00-5:00) Barbara Hollands, Jen Marchigiani, Wes Laraway &amp; NYSDEC, Health, Agr &amp; Markets</td>
<td>*Songbird Splinting Dr. Erica Miller Dr. Michele Goodman (9:00-11:00)</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:30</td>
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<td></td>
<td>*Animal Basic Care (day long)</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:00</td>
<td>*Capture &amp; Transport Workshop</td>
<td>*Sensitive Waterfowl Rehab (9:00-3:00)</td>
<td>NYSDEC, Health, Agr &amp; Markets</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Peggy Hentz</td>
<td>Dr. Michele Goodman</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:00</td>
<td>*Animal Basic Care (Lab) (morning session not eligible for continuing education)</td>
<td>Triaging Reptile Patients (1:00-5:00)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Workshop Sponsored by: United Riverhead Terminal, Inc.</td>
<td>Dr. Jeff Baier</td>
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#### 12:00-1:00 LUNCH

ALL MEALS TAKE PLACE IN THE FOUNTAIN BALLROOM

### PM

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1:00</td>
<td>*Capture &amp; Transport Workshop (Cont.)</td>
<td>Sensitive Waterfowl Rehab</td>
<td>*RVS</td>
<td>*Animal Basic Care (Lab) (1:00-5:00)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Peggy Hentz</td>
<td>Dr. Michele Goodman</td>
<td></td>
<td>Bev Jones, Jean Alden, Barb Cole Kelly Martin</td>
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<tr>
<td>2:00</td>
<td></td>
<td>Triaging Reptile Patients (9:00-3:00)</td>
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<td>Dr. Jeff Baier</td>
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<td>Workshop Sponsored by: United Riverhead Terminal, Inc.</td>
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#### 3:00-3:30 BREAK

### PM

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<th>Time</th>
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<th>Erie B</th>
<th>Ontario</th>
<th>Superior</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3:30</td>
<td>Feather Problems in Various Species</td>
<td>Emerging Diseases in Reptiles</td>
<td>*RVS</td>
<td>*Animal Basic Care (Lab) (3:30-5:30)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Dr. Renee Schott</td>
<td>Dr. La”Toya Latney</td>
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<tr>
<td>4:30</td>
<td>Practical Wildlife Endoparasitology</td>
<td>Wound Management In Turtles</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Dr. Michele Goodman</td>
<td>Harriet Forrester</td>
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### 6:00 Cocktails and Conversation in the Fountain Ballroom

### 6:30 Dinner in Fountain Ballroom

### 7:30-8:30 WILD-ONE Workshop in Erie A - Dr. Dave McRuer - A Better Way to Keep Records and Novel Way to Monitor Wildlife Health

### 8:00-9:00 Rehab Speed Dating; Meet and Greet the Experts in Erie A - Several featured speakers and experts will be located at stations, and every 5 minutes small groups will move from one to the other making the most of the 5 minutes to ask questions, advice or share short stories.¹

¹Not eligible for continuing education
**CONFERENCE 2016 SCHEDULE—SATURDAY Sessions**

*Specialty Sessions/Workshops & Labs: *Pre-registration and fee required

All other lectures are open to everyone

7:00-8:30 Breakfast  All meals take place in the FOUNTAIN BALLROOM

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<tr>
<th>AM</th>
<th>Erie A</th>
<th>Erie B</th>
<th>Ontario</th>
<th>Superior</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:30</td>
<td>Free Ranging Cats; Fear the Free-Rangine Feline</td>
<td>Correct Calcium; Avoiding Metabolic Bone Disease</td>
<td>The Virginia Opossum; Orphan Care and Beyond</td>
<td>*Turtle Rehabilitation Workshop (Lab) Harriet Forrester Dr. Jeff Baier Dr. La'Toya Latney (9:00-11:00)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Dr. Dave McRuer</td>
<td>Peggy Hentz</td>
<td>Patty Wallace Stewart</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:00</td>
<td>Support and Recovery of the Wild Emaciated Patient</td>
<td>Weaning Eastern Cottontail Diarrhea</td>
<td>Urgent Care Of the Squirrel</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Dr. Sara Childs-Sanford</td>
<td>Dr. Renee Schott</td>
<td>Chris Clark</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:30</td>
<td>Beware the Bumble; Raptor Pododermatitis</td>
<td>Rehabilitation and Medical Care of Orphaned White-tailed Deer</td>
<td>Recognizing Common Diseases in the Virginia Opossum</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Dr. Don Consla, Carol Holmgren</td>
<td>Dr. Dave McRuer</td>
<td>Patty Wallace Stewart</td>
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<td>10:30</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:30-12:30 LUNCH</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:30-1:15</td>
<td>NYSWRC Welcome; Keynote - Dr. Jeff Baier¹</td>
<td>A Day in the Life of the Other Dr. Jeff</td>
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**PM**

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<th>Superior</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1:15</td>
<td>Building an Incubator</td>
<td>The Wonders of Western New York Waterfowl</td>
<td>Skunk Rehab Barb Hollands Wes Laraway</td>
<td>*Mammal Fracture Repair (Lab) Dr. Richard Burdeaux Dr. Erica Miller (1:15-3:15)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Peggy Hentz</td>
<td>Connie Adams</td>
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<tr>
<td>2:00</td>
<td>Lead Poisoning in Raptors</td>
<td>Art and Conservation</td>
<td>Raccoon Rehab Barb Hollands Wes Laraway</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Dr. Dave McRuer</td>
<td>Jennifer Miller</td>
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3:00-3:30 BREAK
**CONFERENCE 2016 SCHEDULE—SATURDAY AFTERNOON **Sessions

(Continued)

*SPECIALTY SESSIONS/WORKSHOPS & LABS: *Pre-registration and fee required

All other lectures are open to everyone

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<th>PM</th>
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<th>Ontario</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3:30</td>
<td><strong>Triaging the Wildlife Patient</strong>&lt;br&gt;Dr. Renee Schott</td>
<td><strong>Fluid Therapy Lecture</strong>&lt;br&gt;Dr. Jeff Baier</td>
<td><strong>All-Insect Nestling Passerine Diet</strong>&lt;br&gt;Peggy Hentz</td>
<td><em>Wound Management in Wildlife (Lab)</em>&lt;br&gt;Alice VanDeMark&lt;br&gt;Tina Hlywa&lt;br&gt;(3:30-5:30)</td>
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<td>4:00</td>
<td><strong>Triage Considerations For Herps</strong>&lt;br&gt;Dr. Renee Schott</td>
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<tr>
<td>4:30</td>
<td><strong>Triage Considerations For Mammals</strong>&lt;br&gt;Dr. Renee Schott</td>
<td><strong>Euthanasia Techniques For Wildlife Rehabilitators</strong>&lt;br&gt;Dr. Michele Goodman</td>
<td><strong>Osprey Rehabilitation</strong>&lt;br&gt;Peggy Hentz</td>
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<tr>
<td>5:00</td>
<td><strong>Triage Considerations For Birds</strong>&lt;br&gt;Dr. Renee Schott</td>
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6:00    Cocktails, Conversations, and Silent Auction Preview in the Fountain Ballroom

6:45    Annual Banquet Dinner in Fountain Ballroom

Followed by:

Annual Meeting, Vet of the Year Award Presentation, Raffles & Auction

Legal Update on changes to N.Y.S. Wildlife Rehabilitator licenses by Andrea Sammarco, Attorney at Law NYSWRC Member and Legal Counsel

(Please see special insert in your Packet, and please be sure to contribute to our legal cause.)

Illustration by Chris Rowlands
### 7:30-8:30 Breakfast in the Fountain Ballroom

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AM</th>
<th>Erie B</th>
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<th>Ontario</th>
<th>Michigan</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9:00</td>
<td>Wildlife Rehabilitation Within a Humane Society</td>
<td>Responsible Use of Wildlife in Education</td>
<td>Songbirds for Dummies!</td>
<td>*Fluid Therapy Lab</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Barb Haney</td>
<td>Matt Zymanek Tanya Lowe</td>
<td>Dr. Michele Goodman</td>
<td>Dr. Jeff Baier</td>
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<td>(9:00-11:00)</td>
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<td>10:00</td>
<td>Turtle Biology and Population Dynamics</td>
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<td>Micro Rehab (Bat) Rehabilitation</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Kathy Michell</td>
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<td>Jen Marchigiani</td>
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<td>(10:00-12:00)</td>
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<td>10:15</td>
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<td>*Raptor Equipment Workshop</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Carol Holmgren</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:00</td>
<td>Dealing with the Public Without Losing Your Cool!</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Peggy Hentz</td>
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<td></td>
<td>(11:00-12:30)</td>
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<td>*Not eligible for Continuing education</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:30</td>
<td>Lunch on your own.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>NYSWRC looks forward to seeing you Next year!</td>
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Session handouts are available to download at www.nyswrc.org for the next 2 weeks only.

Log in as: nyswrc2016
Password: guest

Be sure to return your completed evaluation form. It helps us plan for the future. Thank you!

Laura Westlake
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>AM</strong></th>
<th><em>This mini conference is for Veterinarians and Licensed Vet Techs Only</em></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:00-8:25</td>
<td>Registration and Welcome</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:25</td>
<td><strong>Introduction to New York’s Wildlife Health Program</strong> - Patrick Martin, NYSDEC</td>
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<td>Introduction and Updates from the N.Y. Wildlife Health Unit/Laws Pertaining to Veterinarians and Wildlife</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:30</td>
<td><strong>Clinical Relevant Reptile Anatomy: How to Get the Most out of your Physical Exam</strong> - Dr. La'Toya Latney</td>
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<td>Did you know you can get almost 70% of your physical examination <em>without</em> having to excessively handle or touch a reptile? In this presentation, we will overview a systems based approach to help you identify clinical exam findings that influence your treatment choices. Sit back and get ready to get excited about reptile anatomy!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:30</td>
<td><strong>Veterinary Wildlife Triage; To Euthanize or not to Euthanize, That is the Question</strong> - Dr. Renee Schott (Wildlife Rehabilitation Center, MN)</td>
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<td>Wildlife rehabilitation veterinarians deal with an enormous array of medical problems in their patients. At admission, it is important to efficiently determine which patients will not recover so they can be humanely euthanized, saving them from unnecessary suffering. In a case-based interactive format, this seminar will discuss how to triage spinal injury patients as well as many other common medical wildlife patient presentations. The goal of the presentation is to help veterinarians learn which patients have the best chance of being released and which should be euthanized on admission.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:00</td>
<td><strong>Break</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>11:15</td>
<td><strong>Eye Think I Can: Diagnosing and Treating Eye Injuries in Avian Patients</strong> - Dr. Dave McRuer</td>
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<td>Ocular trauma is a very common occurrence in injured wildlife presented to rehabilitators. Depending on the species, damage to one or both eyes may have serious consequences for the release of the animal back to the wild. For this reason, an ocular examination is an essential component of the initial physical exam and for any patient where vision impairment is suspected. This presentation will go over equipment and materials used for diagnosing ocular injuries, common ocular problems in a variety of Virginia wildlife species, and treatment options where they exist.</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:15-12:45</td>
<td><strong>Lunch</strong></td>
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<td>12:45</td>
<td><strong>Feathers: Problems, Preventions &amp; Treatments</strong> - Dr. Erica Miller</td>
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<td>Wild avian patients, even more so than domestic birds, rely on their feathers for flight, insulation, waterproofing, buoyancy, mate attraction, and more. Consequently, feather problems can delay or prevent the return of a bird to the wild, even after its other problems have resolved. Identifying, preventing and treating feather problems are addressed, including stress bards, feather cysts, ectoparasites, follicular infections, proper methods of feather removal, and removal of contaminants from feathers. Participants will have an opportunity to apply tail guards for feather protection, and repair broken feathers through the technique of imping.</td>
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<td>2:15</td>
<td><strong>The Neurologic Mammal</strong> - Dr. Sara Childs-Sanford</td>
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<td>This presentation will review the most common differential diagnoses for neurological signs in wild small mammals, including (but not limited to) rodents, lagomorphs, fawns, and small carnivores. Infectious, parasitic, and traumatic causes will be discussed, including diagnosis and treatment.</td>
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<tr>
<td>3:15</td>
<td><strong>Break</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>3:30</td>
<td><strong>Avian Disease Potpourri</strong> - Dr. Richard Burdeaux and Dr. Laura Wade</td>
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<td>We will present a discussion of interesting wild bird cases that we have seen in the past several years. The presentation will interest both those new to wildlife medicine as well as more experienced practitioners. We will cover important concerns with each disease condition and invite the audience to contribute their own experiences with similar cases.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4:30</td>
<td><strong>Recognition and Management of Common Diseases of Waterfowl and Raptors; A Practical Approach</strong> - Dr. Richard Burdeaux</td>
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<td>Wild waterfowl and raptors can present a unique challenge to the small animal practitioner. This presentation will cover pathogenesis, diagnosis, and treatment of the most common diseases seen in waterfowl and raptors. Topics covered will include bumblefoot, common toxicities, “angel wing” in waterfowl, and West Nile Virus and aspergillosis in raptors. Practical guidance for clinical diagnostic procedures and sample submission will also be addressed.</td>
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Make sure you turn in your attendance form; This is what allows NYSWRC to award the NYS Continuing Education Credits.
2016 NYWRC Conference Information

Registration:
Stop by the NYSWRC Registration table to pick up your packets, check on workshop availability, post a message to other conference participants, or purchase raffle tickets. It’s also a handy location to find someone to answer your questions or to drop off a donation to the raffle & auction and your evaluation.

Name Tags: Please wear your name tag to all scheduled activities. It designates you as a conference attendee and enhances communication among attendees.

Meal & Meal Ticket Information: Meals must have been pre-purchased at the time you registered. All guests may attend the annual meeting and evening entertainment after dinner has been cleared.

Coffee Breaks: Thanks to NYSWRC, and our sponsors Messinger Woods Wildlife Care and Education Center, the Wildlife Rescue Center of the Hamptons, and Fox Valley Animal Nutrition for providing refreshments.

Cell Phones: Please turn your cell phone off during all lectures.

Exhibitors & Vendors: You will find exhibitors who will be selling or advertising their products. Be sure to take some time to see what’s new. Some vendors are speakers as well, so be patient if no one’s home when you visit their booth.

Raffles and Auction: Be sure to join us for fun and games during the raffle and auction on Saturday evening. Cash, checks, Master Card and Visa are accepted.

Thanks to our donors for the raffle and auction:
Thank you Matt Zymanek! Matt writes to tons of vendors requesting donations, then he picks up, hauls, sorts and gives away. Thanks to all the many members, organizations, and conference participants who remembered to bring an item or two to donate. Your donations work to keep costs down for next year.

We appreciate: All the veterinarians and speakers who donate their time to help us improve our skills. We thank the folks who volunteered to serve as room moderators to assist the speakers. We also would like to thank Bob Eisenberg of East End Blueprint in Water Mill, NY for printing our Program Book free of charge.

Artistic Talent: Thank you!
This year, Donna Fritz, Chris Rowlands, and Laura Westlake donated artwork for our use. Thanks to Amy Freiman and Ginnie Frati for program layout and production. Thanks also to the many photographers who donated their works for our raffle and auction. All this help is greatly appreciated.

Special thanks to all our volunteers who worked so hard to make this event happen. This conference is truly a team effort and takes many hands and many hours. We appreciate all the veterinarians and speakers who donate their time to help us improve our skills. Special thanks to our AV tech specialists John Frink and John Satta!

Scholarships: Our thanks to those donors who made the following scholarships possible. Three major scholarships are awarded in memory of Connie Feissner, Marie Miller, and Trish Zimmerman. Additional small scholarships are awarded by NYSWRC. Many members benefit from the generosity of our benefactors.

Evaluation Forms: Please, do your part to let us know what you like, dislike, love or hate about our conference. These evaluations are a special tool that allows the Council to meet your needs and plan for next year. Be sure to drop off your completed evaluation forms at the registration desk. Help us continue to improve the annual seminar. We do read each and every form.

Annual Business Meeting: NYSWRC members are encouraged to attend our organization’s annual business meeting on Saturday evening following dinner. This is the opportunity for you to share your thoughts with the Board of Directors and to participate by voting in the election of the board members. Volunteers welcome.

Renew your membership annually.
There’s strength in numbers. Join a committee; become a part of your organization.

Please be reminded that NYSWRC is not responsible for the accuracy of the content or information provided and does not necessarily endorse the material presented. With this in mind, participants are asked to be respectful to the speakers. If you feel there is content that is not accurate or may be controversial, you may ask the speaker in the form of a question. If not satisfied with the answer, you may request an open discussion with the speaker at a subsequent time. Room monitors will not allow lengthy controversy which disrupts the flow of the presentation.
FRIDAY

*Rabies Vector Species Course:* 8:00-5:30
(MUST attend the full 8 hours in order to be certified to handle RVS and apply for the RVS license. Your attendance will be monitored throughout the day. An attendance letter will be issued.)

Speakers: NYSDEC: Paul Stringer; NYSDOH: Dr. April Davis; NYSDAM: Dr. Amy Willsey; NYSWRC: Barbara Hollands; Misfits Rehab: Jennifer Marchigiani, NY Wildlife Rescue Center: Wes Laraway

This eight hour training course meets the mandatory lecture segment that will allow a New York licensed wildlife rehabilitator to gain authority to care for designated rabies vector species (bat, raccoon, skunk) after meeting all other conditions.

*NYS DEC Program Overview for Rabies Vector Species Licensing.* This presentation will provide an overview of the process and forms required by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation in applying for the authority to rehabilitate rabies vector species in New York.

*NYS Department of Agriculture & Markets Facility Inspection Process,* Dr. Amy Willsey

*Equipment & Handling Techniques for RVS.* A review of capture and handling gear used for rabies vector species will be covered, including how to purchase, how to care for and maintain the equipment, and how to use the gear safely and humanely.

*NYS Department of Agriculture & Markets Facility Inspection Process,* Dr. Amy Willsey

*Equipment & Handling Techniques for RVS.* A review of capture and handling gear used for rabies vector species will be covered, including how to purchase, how to care for and maintain the equipment, and how to use the gear safely and humanely.

*Animal Basic Care Course*  8:30-5:00
Speakers: Bev Jones, Jean Alden, Barb Cole, Kelly Martin, Harriet Forrester, Diane Nickerson, NYSDEC

This workshop features lecture and hands-on components to help newly licensed wildlife rehabilitators or individuals interested in becoming licensed. It is designed as a beginners level course. The morning lecture session includes: licensing procedures, phone call protocols, networking, veterinary assistance, general care considerations, available resources, zoonotic concerns, and triage and euthanasia considerations with ample opportunity throughout for individual questions to be addressed.

The hands-on session will include skill demonstrations with the opportunity for each participant to practice techniques on animal carcasses. These will include: performing a physical exam, handling and restraint, bandaging, tube-feeding, administering medications, and basic fluid administration. (*Note: the morning lecture session is not available for continuing education credit.*)

*Capture & Transport Workshop*
Peggy Hentz

The wildlife capture and transport specialist is the first step in helping an animal return to freedom. He or she represents wildlife rehabilitation to the public and is the expert on the scene. Professionalism, coupled with training can help ensure your safety, the safety of the animal and the public.

Entertaining and enlightening, this 5 hour course covers the basics of wildlife capture in the field including: legal issues, safety, equipment, recognizing true emergencies, proper capture and handling techniques, tips and tricks, and public relations.

A 61 page manual download is included with this class.

*Songbird Splinting Workshop*
Dr. Erica Miller, Dr. Michele Goodman

Size alone, not to mention anatomical and behavioral differences, can make wrapping songbirds a frustrating challenge. We discuss which injuries can be treated successfully with just a wrap, which need surgical correction, and why these same injuries may be cause for euthanasia in other species. Participants practice wrapping wings, feet, legs and even beaks on a variety of songbird cadavers.

Open House at Hawk Creek Wildlife Center

On Friday, from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m., Hawk Creek invites any interested NYSWRC attendees to visit our new facility. While areas are still under construction, visitors can check out our new feline and mammal enclosures as well as our new raptor mews. Get an up-close look at wild cats and birds of prey from around the world. Hawk Creek houses 90 permanently non-releasable animals and rehabilitates wildlife from hummingbirds to eagles. Less than 30 minutes from the conference, directions will be at the registration table, 1963 Mill Road, West Falls, NY 14170, www.hawkcreek.org.
PROGRAM ABSTRACTS/DESCRIPTION
Presented in the order in which they appear in the program.
Note: Some workshops are limited in attendance and required pre-registration.
Limited workshops are denoted by an * before the title

Sensitive Waterfowl Species Rehab
Dr. Michele Goodman

There is more to waterfowl rehabilitation than mallards and Canada geese. Sensitive waterfowl species often present to wildlife rehabilitation facilities and can be quite challenging to rehabilitate. This lecture will provide rearing and rehabilitation techniques for the different varieties of sensitive waterfowl with an emphasis on stress reduction, supportive care, excellent nutrition and innovative housing.

Triaging Reptile Patients
Dr. Jeff Baier

As with all other species, important decisions need to be made in the first few hours to days. This talk will provide information about reptiles that will hopefully allow wildlife rehabilitators to make good decisions for their reptile patients.

Dealing with Feather Problems in Various Species
Dr. Renee Schott

Feathers get damaged or are otherwise abnormal for a variety of reasons but they all need to be fixed before release. This interactive session will discuss how to assess feather integrity, how to deduce the cause of the feather problem, how to prevent feather damage in the future and, finally, how to fix the feather damage (if we can!).

Emerging Diseases in Reptiles; What’s that on its Skin?
Dr. La'Toya Latney

Within the past 5 years, there has been a massive increase in our understanding of the pathogens that infect reptiles and a surge of new information in the literature that reviews the culprits, the what, the how, the when, and the why. This presentation seeks to update rehabbers, the frontline responders, on those diseases that are making a profound impact on wild reptiles.

Practical Wildlife Endoparasitology
Dr. Michele Goodman

Yes, it is true that many wildlife species have some level of parasitic infection throughout their lives and that this may not be associated with any clinical disease. So why do you need to know about wildlife parasites? This lecture will provide an overview of relevant parasites in wildlife species with an emphasis on their life cycles. By understanding life cycles, rehabilitators will be better equipped to understand how the animal was infected, if the parasite can infect other wildlife patients or contaminate your facility and to be able to assess whether or not treatment is necessary.

Wound Management in Turtles
Harriet Forrester

The key to successful wound healing is meticulous wound care and the optimization of the body’s wound-healing capacity. This presentation will help you understand the wound healing process, how to stabilize your chelonian patient, the proper procedures to lavage, debride, and close wounds, what factors affect wound healing, and how ongoing wound assessment can ensure a successful outcome.

We’ll also touch on choosing a dressing - ever wonder what dressing goes on what type of wound? Don’t know the difference between an alginate, hydrocolloid, hydrogel, or foam dressing? How about using honey? We’ll make the complex world of wound dressings simple and easy!

Dr. Dave McRuer

There is currently no comprehensive system for monitoring wildlife health in North America. Challenges to creating an effective system for such monitoring include case acquisition and sampling strategies. Wildlife care centers represent an untapped source of health data on a diverse array of wild animals, providing a unique “window” into wildlife health. WILD-ONE (Wildlife Incident Log/Database Online network) is a free online system patient management system designed specifically for wildlife rehabilitators. With this program, wildlife care facilities can create patient prescriptions, record medical notes, generate daily treatment sheets, produce annual state and federal reports, manage contacts, and much more! While general patient records are proprietary to the user, specified admission fields will be added to a collective database in order to monitor regional and national wildlife health trends. This presentation will walk participants through the new software program and discuss the benefits for organization and to the entire wildlife rehabilitation community.

Rehab Speed Dating; Meet and Greet the Experts

Several featured speakers and experts will be located at stations, and every 5 minutes small groups will move from one to the other making the most of the 5 minutes to ask questions, advice or share short stories. (Not eligible for continuing education.)
PROGRAM ABSTRACTS/DESCRIPTION
Presented in the order in which they appear in the program.
Note: Some workshops are limited in attendance and required pre-registration.
Limited workshops are denoted by an * before the title

SATURDAY

Free Ranging Cats; Fear the Free-Roaming Feline
Dr. Dave McRuer

In the last several years there have been a lot of new studies and articles published on the impact of free-roaming domestic cats on wildlife. This talk summarizes the information for wildlife rehabilitators and also discusses the results of an 11-year retrospective study on cat-associated wildlife patient admissions to the Wildlife Center of Virginia and a five-year study in over 80 rehabilitation facilities in the United States.

Understanding Calcium Correction to Avoid Metabolic Bone Disease
Peggy Hentz

Calcium correction is a basic skill needed to avoid diet-related growth problems in wildlife. This presentation covers practical step-by-step formulas for adjusting the calcium/phosphorus ratio in common rehabilitation diets, as well as how to apply these concepts to your own recipes.

The Virginia Opossum; Orphan Care and Beyond
Patty Wallace Stewart

This session will touch upon the natural history, habitat and behavior of our country’s only marsupial, as well as hand-rearing orphans from neonates to readiness for release to their lives in the wild. All aspects of orphan care will be covered, including diet and prevention of metabolic bone disease, antibiotics, tube feeding, weaning, deworming, housing, cannibalism and release.

*Turtle Rehabilitation Workshop
Harriet Forrester, Dr. Jeff Baier, Dr. La’Toya Latney

Turtle Rehabilitation is much more than just shell repair. This 2-hour, hands-on workshop will cover physical examination, identification, determining gender, fluid therapy, assist feeding and many other procedures. Anatomy will be covered by performing actual necropsies. Yes, the workshop will also cover shell stabilization and repair!

Support and Recovery of the Wild Emaciated Patient
Dr. Sara Childs-Sandford

Malnutrition and emaciation are common in wildlife patients. In this presentation, we will review how to assess body condition, determine underlying causes of muscle wasting and weight loss, develop and implement a treatment plan, and support the patient through to recovery and eventual release.

Weaning Eastern Cottontail Diarrhea
Dr. Reneé Schott

Diarrhea during weaning time is very common when raising Eastern Cottontail rabbits. Many treatments have been tried and almost all fail; however, cecotrophs have recently shown promising success. Rabbit gastrointestinal physiology will be briefly covered before discussing results of a pilot study using cecotrophs to treat and prevent diarrhea in Eastern Cottontail rabbits.

Urgent Care of the Squirrel
Chris Clark

What to do when the unexpected arrives. Animals often arrive at inopportune times in critical condition requiring immediate treatment. This class will cover emergency, urgent care for squirrels.

Beware the Bumble: Raptor Pododermatitis
Dr. Don Consla, Carol Holmgren

The feet of raptors are their Achilles heel! Learn about the stages, physiology, treatment and especially prevention of pododermatitis (aka bumblefoot) to keep raptor patients and ambassadors healthy.

Rehabilitation and Medical Care of Orphaned White-tailed Deer
Dr. Dave McRuer

Odocoileus virginianus inhabit the entire contiguous United States minus two or three states in the West. Each spring, rehabilitators receive “kidnapped” fawns found alone and mistaken for orphans. Public education and return or fostering offer the best chance for survival. When not possible, rehabilitation requires knowledge of natural history, GI anatomy, housing, handling, bottle feeding, rack training and browse. Discussion will include tips and tricks for rehab, plus common problems such as bloat, taming, and capture myopathy. Why rehabilitate fawns? They commonly carry zoonotic diseases like Cryptosporidium and Giardia. Keeping Bambi out of the hands of private citizens provides an important public health service.

Recognizing Common Diseases in the Virginia Opossum
Patty Wallace Stewart

Being our nation’s only marsupial, the study of which is not part of the curriculum offered in veterinary schools, the Virginia Opossum (Didelphis virginiana)
Recognizing Common Diseases...(Continued)

continues to be a mystery to rehabilitators and veterinarians alike. Being non-placental mammals, with immune systems unlike those of other wildlife, their medical protocol of necessity parts with common veterinary practice. We will attempt to pass on to attendees the discoveries of Anita Henness, DVM, during her 18 years of 24/7 rehab of opossums in Southern California. The topics covered will be recognizing the signs and symptoms of diseases common to this species, including urinary and genital tract disorders, dermal septic necrosis (“Crispy Ear”), cannibalism, metabolic bone disease, Cushingoid Syndrome, obesity, parasites, and recognizing what’s normal and what’s not.

Keynote - A Day in the Life of the Other Dr. Jeff
Dr. Jeff Baier

Planned Pethood Plus is one of the busiest veterinary clinics in the US. We provide low cost spay neuter, full service medical clinic, ER, walk in clinic, general surgery, orthopedic surgery, exotic animal medicine and surgery and support wildlife rehabilitators with triage and drop off services. On top of all that we also film the top rated show on Animal Planet – Dr. Jeff, Rocky Mountain Vet. I’m going to try to figure out how all that works in a way that doesn’t put the audience to sleep. (Not eligible for continuing education.)

Building an Incubator
Peggy Hentz

Incubators are an essential tool for wildlife rehabilitators but often cost prohibitive. This step-by-step presentation illustrates how to build a sizable incubator that suites many species, is easy to maintained and clean. and very affordable.

The Wonders of Western NY Waterfowl – Breeding and Wintering Waterfowl Likely to be Encountered by Wildlife Rehabilitators
Connie Adams

Western NY is home to just a few species of breeding waterfowl – mallards, wood ducks, hooded mergansers, Canada geese, common merganser, but hosts the largest number of wintering diving ducks outside of Long Island, with up to 400,000 spending 2 months in the Buffalo Harbor and the Niagara River. We will learn about all these species, including field marks for identifying them, as well as places to go watch these birds, to make the cold winter months pass by more enjoyably.

Raccoon and Skunk Rehabilitation
Barbara Hollands; Wes Laraway

This class will be a continuum from the NYS Rabies Vector Species Certification Course, with more in-depth information on the specific species. It will focus on other diseases and parasites of the raccoon/skunk, critical care, nuisance handling or removal, cage enrichment before release and behavior.

*Mammal Fracture Repair and Wound Management Lab
Dr. Richard Burdeaux, Dr. Erica Miller

The most common wildlife presentation is trauma. This lab introduces participants to basic wound management including initial wound assessment and treatment. Fracture repair will also be addressed including classification of fractures, initial stabilization, ongoing treatment for return to function, and if a veterinarian should be consulted for repair or if euthanasia should be performed. This lab will help participants make the best decisions for initial stabilization of wild mammal wounds and fractures.

Lead Poisoning in Raptors: An Introduction to the Physiological Effects, Diagnostic Options, and Treatment of Lead in Individual Animals
Dr. Dave McRuer

Lead poisoning is one of the leading causes of intoxication in raptors admitted to wildlife rehabilitation facilities in North America. In most cases, lead is ingested, solubilized in the acidic environment of the stomach, absorbed through the small intestine, and bound to red blood cells where it is distributed throughout the body. Lead is compartmentalized in three main tissue types that differ in their rate of exchange. Four percent of the total body burden of lead exists in the blood and vascular organs where it is quickly exchanged with other tissues. Two percent exists in the soft tissue (muscle, nerves, etc) and has an intermediate exchange. Ninety-four percent is stored in the bone and has a slow rate of exchange. Clinical signs of lead poisoning may be acute, chronic, or subclinical and vary in presentation and severity depending on the lead concentration, location within the body, and individual characteristics, such as life stage and species. Typically, the gastrointestinal, nervous, respiratory, cardiovascular and renal organ systems are most affected. Typically, a blood sample is needed to diagnose lead poisoning in living raptors however this method has its limits. While current blood diagnostics assess the presence or absence of lead, blood lead concentration (valuable prognostic tool?),
Lead Poisoning…….(Continued)
treatment progress, and radioisotope analysis, their use in quantifying total body lead burden is limited at this time.

Art and Conservation
Jennifer Miller
Explore how visual art and conservation can benefit one another in this talk by Federal Duck Stamp artist Jennifer Miller. Jennifer will describe her experiences with the duck stamp and share her passion for reaching out with her work to inspire the public to care about the natural world.

Triaging the Wildlife Patient
Dr. Renee Schott
Wildlife rehabilitators deal with an enormous array of medical problems and difficult cases in their patients. At admission, it is important to efficiently determine which patients will not recover so they can be humanely euthanized, saving them from unnecessary suffering. In a case-based, interactive format, this seminar will discuss how to triage common wildlife patient presentations in herptile, mammal, and avian species. The goal of the presentation is to help rehabilitators learn which patients have the best chance of being released and which should be euthanized on admission.

Fluid Therapy Lecture
Dr. Jeff Baier
Water is the most important nutrient required by all animal species. Nearly all patients presented to a wildlife rehabilitation facility are dehydrated to some degree. The information provided in this class and lab will help rehabilitators to decide when to administer fluids, calculate the proper volume, and the best route to administer fluids to their patients.

Developing an Easy to Use “All Insect” Nestling Passerine Diet
Peggy Hentz
For many years, Red Creek Wildlife Center has strived to make its orphaned rehabilitation program as natural as possible. Developing an all-insect diet that is easy to assemble, store and use, that also produces healthy birds can be a challenge. This presentation covers the recipe we used and its results in our nestling songbird program in 2016.

*Wound Management in Wildlife (Lab)
Alice VanDeMark, Tina Hlywa
In this lab, the rehabilitator will learn how to oversee common wildlife wounds from presentation to the final healing stages. Specifically, it will include cleaning, flushing and bandaging, types of antiseptics to use, proper sterile techniques, medications, and when it is time to seek veterinary care.

Euthanasia Methods for Wildlife Rehabilitators
Dr. Michele Goodman
With the understanding that wildlife rehabilitators frequently do not have access to controlled substances, this lecture will provide an overview of various euthanasia techniques. Methods not requiring access to controlled substances while still meeting ethical standards for performing euthanasia will be emphasized.

Osprey Rehabilitation
Peggy Hentz
Osprey offer unique challenges to even the most experienced wildlife rehabilitator. This presentation includes identification, nesting behaviors, common injuries and medical conditions, as well as tips on handling, diet, housing, and fostering.

SUNDAY

Driven by a Mission: Wildlife Rehabilitation Within a Humane Society
Barb Haney
In this session, we will explore the 150 year old history of the SPCA Serving Erie County with regards to the shelter’s relationship with wild animals. We will explore the challenges and benefits of center-based rehabilitation and share our vision for the future of wildlife rehabilitation within our community. Best practices and methods for decreasing conflict between humans and wildlife will also be discussed.

Responsible Use of Wildlife in Education
Matthew Zymanek
All wildlife rehabilitators educate the public, from a phone call of someone with an injured animal to formal education programs. This program will focus on ways to educate people with and without the use of live wildlife ambassadors. You will learn how to set and achieve goals for your work and how to provide proper housing for permanently captive animals. We will open your mind to the many ways that you can improve the lives and future of wildlife through education.
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**Songbirds for Dummies!**  
Dr. Michele Goodman

This introductory lecture will provide practical information on songbird rehabilitation and is aimed towards those rehabilitators who do not work with songbirds in large volumes, who think they may want to start working with songbirds, or who only take in songbirds short term for transfer. With my 15-years of experience as a songbird avoider, this lecture will cover intake and physical exam procedures, housing strategies and will also provide basic nutritional information for orphans and injured adults. Common presentations and strategies for bandaging and wound therapy will be discussed.

**Fluid Therapy Lab**  
Dr. Jeff Baier

Water is the most important nutrient required by all animal species. Nearly all patients presented to a wildlife rehabilitation facility are dehydrated to some degree. The information provided in this class and lab will help rehabilitators to decide when to administer fluids, calculate the proper volume and the best route to administer fluids to their patients.

**Turtle Biology and Population Dynamics; Important Considerations for Rehabilitators**  
Kathy Michell

Injured and sick turtles present very unique challenges to the wildlife rehabilitator and require an understanding of the physiology associated with these ectotherms. Unlike the endotherms, such as birds and mammals which rehabilitators care for more commonly, the metabolism, nutritional requirements, uptake of fluids and drugs, movements and behavior all vary with the ambient temperature in turtles, snakes and other reptiles and amphibians. Even susceptibility to various infectious agents varies with the temperature.

Turtles also live in a relatively confined range due to their limited mobility. Therefore, many species live in colonies that may have genetic differences from other colonies, which can have both advantages and disadvantages. Their evolutionary late maturing, low production biology enabled them to survive almost unchanged for 200 million years but is not working well in the current landscape of increasing development, roadways, and fragmented habitat.

This presentation will discuss the physiological considerations for rehabilitators to more successfully care for their turtle patients, the importance of individuals and/or salvaged eggs to their populations and actions rehabilitators can take to help turtle populations beyond rehabilitation.

**Micro Rehab: A Short Lecture and Lab on Bat Rehabilitation**  
Jen Marchigiani

In this class, we will go a little deeper into various common issues you are likely to come across while rehabilitating bats as well as hands on examination of deceased bats to learn proper techniques of identifying a break in the wings or legs and how to properly splint for repair.

**Raptor Equipment Workshop**  
Carol Holmgren

Participants will make and take home an aylmeri anklet and a leather aylmeri jess, and be introduced to tools and techniques for making, sizing and maintaining raptor equipment. If time and interest permit, braiding of dacron or parachute cord for leashes/jesses can be introduced.

**Dealing With the Public Without Losing Your Cool!**  
Peggy Hentz

A comical yet useful presentation on how to handle THOSE phone calls. Topics include educating the caller, dealing with difficult personalities (verbal judo), and tips on how to keep this stress from ruining your day.

(Note: Not eligible for continuing education)
**Day One Formula for Whitetail Deer and Elk**

*Species Specific. Easy To Use. Trustworthy.*

"Saving Lives for 16 Years"

- All-milk protein from premium food-grade milk ingredients
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- Balanced fatty acids including medium chain fatty acids for easy digestion
- No refrigeration required after opening
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Day One Formulas are species specific formulations having the required protein and fat for neonatal growth. Recommended for those neonates who are orphaned or will not, or cannot suckle on their own.

Fox Valley Animal Nutrition, Inc., has manufactured Day One species specific formulas for the animal industry using scientific technology along with research, development, and service. We produce a wide variety of nutritional milk replacer products that are needed for animal health, growth, and performance. We use only the highest quality raw ingredients available.

Choosing a milk replacer that is as close as possible in composition to the natural milk of the species will result in better animal health, growth and performance. Lesser products can cause a myriad of growth problems for neonatal mammals, while less palatable ingredients can result in feeding problems. Fox Valley Animal Nutrition, Inc., will continue to strive to give the best products and service to companion animal owners, veterinarians, zoos, wildlife rehabilitators, and the exotic animal industry.

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Jean Alden

Jean Alden has been a volunteer with the Wildlife Department of the Erie Co. SPCA since 1998 and has been state licensed since 1999. Jean’s involvement with wildlife rehabilitation began 20 years ago when she became a volunteer at the Buffalo Zoo working in the Rare and Nocturnal Mammal Department. In 2001 she completed the Bander’s Training Course from the Braddock Bay Bird Observatory and in 2002 received her oil spill training certification. Jean has a BA degree in Elementary Education from the University of South Carolina. Prior to her involvement in wildlife rehabilitation she was a teacher and assistant principal. Jean’s work with the SPCA Wildlife Department includes assisting with the exotic bird adoption program and the cottontail foster care program. Jean has a special interest in rearing orphaned wood ducks, turkeys and cottontail rabbits.

Connie Adams

Connie Adams has been a bird watcher since she was 10, and has been working for DEC on and off since she was 22. She became a Wildlife Biologist in 2005 in the Buffalo DEC office, with responsibilities that included Peregrine monitoring, Common Tern, Cormorant and Gull management, and Waterfowl management in Region 9, Western NY. Her assignment as Special License point person for region 9 has allowed her to get to know many rehabilitators in Region 9, for which she considers herself very fortunate.

Jeff Baier, MS, DVM

Not to be confused with Planned Pethood’s fearless leader, Dr. Jeff: Rocky Mountain Vet, Dr. Jeff Baier is the clinic’s exotic’s expert, the latest addition to the team. He grew up on a farm in Nebraska surrounded by animals and was doing chores with his father as soon as he could walk. It was this, as well as his love of the TV show, Wild Kingdom, that inspired him to become a wild animal vet. Graduating from the Kansas State University in 1993, Dr. Baier has spent much of his career working at zoos. He even spent some time living in one. During his stint at a New York zoo, Dr. Baier and his family had a house on the grounds and called lynx, elk and mountain lions their neighbors (not the kind of neighbors you’d invite over for dinner).

No pet is too unusual for Dr. Baier, who has treated everything from cats and dogs to wolverines and rhinos. He doesn’t have a favorite animal, saying he takes care of way too many to have a preference. He currently has three dogs, three tortoises and three cats. A few near misses, including almost being trampled by an escaped elephant, helped to steer Dr. Baier back in the direction of private practice and right into Planned Pethood. His interview with Dr. Jeff Young lasted all of about five minutes before he was offered the job. Known to both staff and clients as a real person person and a highly competent vet, Dr. Baier is a great addition to the Planned Pethood team. He sees himself as a bit of a clinic dad and endeavors to impart his wealth of experience to younger vets seeking advice and guidance whenever he can.

Richard Burdeaux, DVM

After graduating high school, Dr. Burdeaux attended the University of Tennessee where he earned his Bachelor’s of Science degree in Animal Science with a minor in Ecology and additional coursework in Psychology. He then went on to earn his Doctorate in Veterinary Medicine from the University of Tennessee in 2012. After graduating, he completed a year internship at Young-Williams Animal Center, a large, private animal shelter in Knoxville, TN.

Dr. Burdeaux’s interests include physical therapy and avian medicine. Prior to veterinary school, he enjoyed working at the American Eagle Foundation in Pigeon Forge, TN, where he cared for, rehabilitated, and trained birds of prey. He has also studied birds in Peru, Bald Eagles in Alaska, and built a large, outdoor aviary where he has rescued pet birds with behavioral disorders. Dr. Burdeaux lives in Batavia with two Moluccan Cockatoos and two horses. He began working at Specialized Care for Avian and Exotic Pets in May of this year.

Sara Childs-Sanford, DVM

Dr. Childs-Sanford is an Assistant Professor of Zoological Medicine in the College of Veterinary Medicine at Cornell University, where she oversees operations of the Janet L. Swanson Wildlife Health Center. She received her DVM from Cornell University in 1999, then completed a rotating small animal internship in 2000. She then worked for two years as an emergency and critical care veterinarian at a large small animal referral center in Annapolis, MD, while pursuing a master’s degree in Animal Nutrition at the University of Maryland at College Park. She completed a three-year residency in Wildlife and Zoological Medicine at Cornell University in 2005, and became board certified by the American College of Zoological Medicine in 2006. After spending several years in private practice, she returned to Cornell in 2014. In addition to clinical responsibilities at the Rosamond Gifford Zoo in Syracuse, NY and Cornell’s Janet L. Swanson Wildlife Health Center, she performs research focusing on the diseases and nutrition of nondomestic animals.
Information about your speakers
Biographies are presented in alphabetical order.

Christina Clark

Chris Clark has been a licensed wildlife rehabilitator with the State of Connecticut since 1995 specializing in the rehabilitation of squirrels. Chris is the owner of Chris’ Squirrels and More, LLC located in Somers, CT. Chris’ Squirrels and More not only supplies products at a very low pricing but her website also offers the "Rehabbers Corner." The Rehabbers Corner is meant to be a training area for new and seasoned wildlife rehabilitators across the country by offering videos of actual rehab done at the Squirrels and More Rehab Clinic. Chris feels that education is of the utmost importance, and many times the proper education is not always accessible to wildlife rehabilitators in need. Chris is a native of Somers, CT with animals always being a main interest of hers. Chris was a breeder and a trainer of top quality quarter horses back in the late 70’s and 80’s, a mother of two children and a wife of over 30 years. Back in the 90’s, she was an antique dealer and a vet tech while raising her human children. Chris has been operating Chris’ Squirrels and More since 1999, and runs her business full time and generally rehabs anywhere from 60 to 120 squirrels per year along with several stragglers of other critters. She recently invented and patented the “Miracle Nipple,” which has been used successfully by many rehabilitators.

Barbara Cole

Barb Cole has been a state and federally licensed rehabilitator since 1984, and considers herself a "jack of all trades" when it comes to rehabilitation, having handled a wide variety of species since starting to practice wildlife rehabilitation. She earned a Bachelor’s and Master’s of Education at SUNY Cortland a long, long time ago. She has served on the Board of Directors for NYSWRC for another long, long time; including being Legislative Chair, former Secretary, and former President. In what little spare time a rehabilitator has, she has earned a black belt in karate, played USTA tennis, practiced tai chi, spends more than she should antiquing and has developed a serious chocolate habit.

Donald Consla, DVM

Dr. Donald Consla, a Pennsylvania native, received his Bachelor of Science in Biology from Allegheny College and his Doctorate of Veterinary Medicine from Western University of Health Sciences. He practices small animal and avian/exotic animal medicine at Conneaut Lake Veterinary Hospital in Meadville, PA. His special interests include abdominal ultrasound, raptor soft tissue surgery, internal medicine, and ophthalmology. He has published an article on raptor behavior entitled, "Response of Captive Raptors to Avian Mobbing Calls: the Roles of Mobber Size and Raptor Experience". Dr. Consla strives to strengthen the human animal bond for both domestic and wild animals. In his free time, he loves spending time with his amazing wife, Cassandra and their Chihuahua/Jack Russell mix, Charlie. He also enjoys disc golf, rock climbing, backpacking, home brewing, and playing in his Americana band, Sunday at the Station.

April Davis, DVM, PhD.

Dr. Davis began her career in rabies as a fellow in the CDC Emerging Infectious Disease program and trained at the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) Rabies and Arbovirus laboratories and the CDC Atlanta Rabies Laboratory. After her fellowship, she attended Colorado State University where she graduated from the combined DVM/PhD program. Her PhD research focused on Rabies and West Nile virus in bats. She spent several years working in the laboratory and field with Eptesicus fuscus, Myotis lucifugus, and Tadarida brasiliensis. She was also a bat rehabilitator for the Humane Society. Dr. Davis is the director of the NYSDOH rabies laboratory which is responsible for testing all rabies suspect animals in the state, with the exception of New York City. She is also involved in field projects that include investigating antifungals for WNS, rabies antibodies in migratory silver haired bats, and PIT tagging bats to determine the movement of M. lucifugus. She maintains an interest in clinical veterinary medicine and volunteers at a no-cost spay/neuter clinic.

Harriet Forrester

Harriet Forrester is a New Jersey licensed wildlife rehabilitator and the founder of Turtle Rescue of New Jersey. Harriet invented the non-invasive zip-tie method of turtle shell repair that is now taught worldwide. She writes and lectures frequently about turtles, and is part of the Wildlife Medicine series for first-year veterinary students at the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine. She lives with her amazingly patient husband John Satta, and various birds, frogs, lizards, dogs, cats, turtles and goats.

Michele Goodman, VMD

Michele Goodman received her veterinary medical degree from the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine. She was the founding director of Webbed Foot Wildlife Rehabilitation Clinic located in Ambler, PA, a facility specializing in the care of waterfowl. While earning her graduate degree in health science from Quinnipiac University, Michele worked at the Livingston Ripley Waterfowl Conservancy, a facility dedicated to aviculture, research and education. Michele currently serves as the Secretary of the National Wildlife Rehabilitators Association.

Barbara Haney

Barb Haney has her Bachelors of Science degree in Environmental Science and a ME in Secondary Science. She was an environmental educator in a state park in PA, went to Guatemala for the Peace Corps where she worked in Environmental Management specifically promoting a protected cloud forest area in a Mayan village. She was in the medical field for 15 years working with mothers and babies in the hospital setting, private practice and as a business owner. She currently consults with a baby product company and has worked at the SPCA for the last 4
Barbara Haney (Continued)

years starting out as a Humane Educator. Barb is currently the director of the Wildlife Department at the SPCA Serving Erie County where they take in nearly 3,000 wild animals per year and provide education to thousands of community members from children to seniors via presentations, local television and radio, and social media. She is devoted to making the world a better place for future generations and finds wildlife rehabilitation to be a grand vehicle for this mission.

Donna Fritz

Peggy Hentz

A wildlife rehabilitator since 1991, Peggy Hentz is the founder of Red Creek Wildlife Center, Inc and a member of the Pennsylvania Rehabilitation and Education Advisory Council. She has developed the certification programs for threatened and endangered species in Pennsylvania, and wildlife capture and transport in Pennsylvania and New Jersey. Peggy is the author of “Rescuing Wildlife, A Guide to Injured and Orphaned Animals” published by Stackpole Books. Peggy’s most recent project is www.WildlifeEDU.com which offers basic training opportunities through online classes.

Tina Hlywa

Tina Hlywa earned her veterinary technology degree from St. Lawrence College in Kingston Ontario, Canada in 1995. Her formative years as a brand new technician were spent at the Toronto Zoo from 1995-2000 working as the clinical laboratory technician. In 2000 Tina relocated to Ithaca NY to work at Cornell University. Here she split her time between the Intermediate Nursing Care ward and the (then combined) Exotics/Wildlife service. In 2004 she briefly relocated to Florida to rediscover her clinical lab skills within The White Oak Conservation Center, until the pull of Ithaca proved too great and she returned in 2007 to settle in the beautiful new Janet L. Swanson Wildlife Health Center at Cornell University. Outside of wildlife, Tina has a wonderful husband, two amazing daughters, two skittish cats and a seemingly immortal fish.

Barbara Hollands

Barbara has been a state and federally licensed Class II wildlife rehabilitator since 1988. Barb specializes in small mammals and rabies vector species. Barbara was the North East Regional Director for the Emergency Animal Rescue Service Disaster Response team for nine years and responded to over seven hurricanes, including Katrina. She currently is a team responder for NYS, CODE 3 Associates, and a National FEMA Animal Disaster Response Liaison.

In addition, Barbara has a nuisance wildlife license, is certified for Chemical Immobilization, Oil Spill Training and Rabies Vector Species. One of her tasks as a board member, in conjunction with the NYS DEC Special License Unit, is to conduct the NYS Rabies Certification Course each year.

Barb has a Masters of Science in Adult and Public Education with a Certification in Human Resource Management from Buffalo State College. She has been a Veterinary Technician since 1985 in multiple animal realms. She currently works for the Webster Police Department in the Animal Control Unit, at Rochester Community Animal Clinic as a surgery technician and an Associate Professor for Medaille College in Veterinary Science.

Carol Holmgren

Carol is executive director and licensed wildlife rehabilitator at Tamarack Wildlife Rehabilitation and Education Center in northwestern Pennsylvania. The Center specializes in the treatment of raptors and offers education programs with the assistance of eight non-releasable raptors. Carol has worked with Tamarack since 2007 and became the executive director three years ago, though she previously volunteered at the center 25 years ago. She also interned at Glen Helen Raptor and Outdoor Education Center in Ohio following college. Carol has a MA in Outdoor Education from Northwestern University and previously taught at Allegheny College and directed the college’s outdoor programs for ten years.

Beverly Jones

Bev has been involved with rehabilitation since 1985. She was a volunteer at the Ross Park Zoo and the Southern Tier Wildlife Rehabilitation Center. Bev attended SUNY Buffalo and obtained a BS degree in Environmental Science. She spent a year and a half at the Conservancy Wildlife Rehabilitation Center in Naples, Florida and worked with a wide array of subtropical wildlife. Later, she had the privilege to work during three summers as a hack site attendant for the Peregrine Fund. She graduated from Medaille College’s Veterinary Technician program and began working as a veterinary technician and wildlife hospital supervisor at the Erie County SPCA in the Spring of 2000. Since moving to Olean in 2013, Bev splits her work week between the SPCA and Pfeiffer Nature Center, where she is the Nature Program Coordinator.

Wes Laraway

Wes teaches high school History in Middleburgh NY. Wes is a well known national figure in the rescue and rehabilitation of domestic, exotic and wild animals. Often appearing on major television networks, Wes does over 50 "Wildlife Alive" shows every year to educate the public about the preservation and conservation of our Nations wildlife and land. He holds many State and Federal licenses, is trained in Chemical Capture, and led one of the largest animal rescues in the United States with the closure of the Montana Large Animal Sanctuary. A major concern that Wes hopes to address is the lack of RVS License Holders in NYS. Working with Barb Hollands, Wes will also begin to teach the RVS class that is mandatory for RVS
Certification in NYS. The rehabilitation needs of Raccoons, Skunks and Bats must be met in NYS and more people need to get licensed to do these species.

La’Toya Latney, DVM

La’Toya Latney is currently the Service Head, the avian, small mammal and reptile medicine & surgery course organizer for Exotics at UPenn’s Veterinary Hospital. She completed the Special Species Medicine & Surgery residency at PennVet. Prior to her studies at PennVet, she completed an 18-month exotics internship under Heidi Hoefer, DVM, DABVP. She is a Cornell University undergraduate alumnus and received her DVM from Ross University School of Veterinary Medicine. Her clinical year was spent at the Louisiana State University School of Veterinary Medicine, home of raptor and reptiles, under the mentorship of Mark Mitchell, DVM, MS, PhD, Dipl ECZM (Herp), Javier Nevarez, DVM, MS, PhD, Dipl ACZM (Herp), David Migallon Sanchez Guzman, LV, MS, Dipl ECZM (Avian, Small Mammal), Dipl ACZM (Avian), and Thomas Tully, DVM, DABVP, Dipl ECZM (Avian). She has over 10 years experience serving wildlife hospitals and refuge centers as a volunteer and as a veterinary practitioner, serves pet exotics, zoo animals, and wildlife exclusively. Her special interests include reptile nutrition, reptile medicine and surgery, and translational research. She has completed prospective research in reptile nutrition and has presented her findings at national and international conferences. Dr. Latney is completing a Master’s of Clinical Epidemiology & Biostatistics at Penn Medicine. She is concurrently pursuing American College of Zoological Medicine diplomat candidacy for the new Zoological Companion Animal subspecialty.

Tanya Lowe

Tanya has been working with Hawk Creek since 2004. As the Director of Wildlife Education, she has presented Hawk Creek’s free-flying bird shows at the Bronx Zoo, Central Park and the New York State Fair. With her past work at the Buffalo Zoo and Cleveland Metroparks Zoo as well as her current position, she has gained a wealth of knowledge when it comes to wildlife. Tanya has a Bachelor’s Degree in Psychology with Animal Behavior and Zoo Biology minors from Canisius College. She is an active member of the Feline Conservation Federation (FCF), the International Association of Avian Trainers and Educators (IAATE). Tanya is certified through the Children of the Earth Foundation to teach children about nature and survival skills.

Jennifer Marchigiani

Jen always had the passion for animals since early childhood. With thoughts of becoming a veterinarian when she grew up, she kept careful logs of her stuffed animals and any “treatment” they needed. As an adult, Jen started her rehabilitation career in Boise Idaho while working at Zoo Boise and volunteering at a local bird rehabilitation center. In 2002, Jen was moved back to Maine and got her rehabilitation permit to start rehabbing in her home town of Auburn, Maine. Shortly after becoming an eager rehabber, she got a call from another rehabber to take 2 bats that were found in the middle of winter and needed overwintering. After calling around to some of her mentors in Maine, she realized everyone knew how to care for squirrels and raccoons but no one really had any idea what to do with bats! After emails and web searching she finally got in touch with Amanda Lollar from Bat World Sanctuary and started out with the basics and soon took the “Bat Bootcamp” class that was offered at the time. The following year after the “Bootcamp”, Jen received the high honor of coming back to Bat World to help with the new students and later asked to become a local director of Bat World in Maine, called Bat World Dirigo, working underneath Amanda Lollar. Jen has kept up to date on bat nutrition, White-Nose Syndrome, housing and animal enrichment. Excited by her passion for the greatly misunderstood animals, Jen began teaching children in elementary schools, general public, other rehabilitators, veterinarians, and anyone willing to learn the truth about bats. In 2016 a change of life found Jen moving across the United State to California, with her long time supporter and new and loving husband, where she is learning a new set of species of bats but continues to keep updated on her old favorites.

Kelly Martin NYSWRC President

Kelly was one of the founding members of the Southern Tier Wildlife Center, Binghamton, NY. In addition to holding a License to Collect and Possess to hold live animals for education, she has been a state and federally licensed wildlife rehabilitator since 1981 and has served on the NYSWRC Board of Directors for nearly as long. Kelly works part time for the Edmund Niles Huyck Preserve as an education assistant in Rensselaerville, NY. She does live education programs as “Wildlife Alive.”

Illustration by Laura Westlake
INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR SPEAKERS

Biographies are presented in alphabetical order.

Patrick Martin

Patrick is the leader of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation’s Wildlife Health Unit. The Wildlife Health Unit is a new Unit in the Bureau of Wildlife and includes professionals from the Animal Health Diagnostic Center at the College of Veterinary Medicine at Cornell University. The Wildlife Health Unit is building a statewide comprehensive program to address wildlife health issues, prevent the introduction of disease, to respond to wildlife disease outbreaks and to include wildlife health concerns in wildlife management decisions.

Dave McRuer, MSc, DVM, DACVPM (Director of Veterinary Services, Wildlife Center of Virginia)

Originally from Nova Scotia, Canada, Dave has worked at the Wildlife Center of Virginia since 2006. He obtained a B.Sc. in Biology at Mount Allison University in Sackville, New Brunswick (1999), and then a M.Sc. in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology from Carleton University in Ottawa, Ontario (2001). From 2001-2005, Dave attended the Atlantic Veterinary College and acquired his veterinary degree. After graduating, he conducted an internship in Zoological Medicine, Exotics, and Wildlife from the Western College of Veterinary Medicine in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan (2005-2006). Dave completed a residency at the Wildlife Center of Virginia starting July 2006 specializing in Preventative Medicine/Veterinary Public Health. Dave became a Diplomat in the American College of Veterinary Preventative Medicine in July 2009, a specialty that includes public health, toxicology, food safety, infectious disease, and epidemiology. Dave has served as the Director of Veterinary Services at WCV since 2007 and his research interests include zoonotic diseases, infectious diseases of wildlife, and avian medicine and surgery.

Kathy Michell

Kathy graduated from Lebanon Valley College with a Bachelor of Science in Biology. She has been a N.Y.S. Licensed Wildlife Rehabilitator specializing in turtles and snakes for 24 years. Kathy works as a wildlife biologist surveying for and studying endangered and threatened species focusing primarily on turtles, snakes and eagles. For the past 23 years she has conducted extensive wood turtle and timber rattlesnake research, including a number of telemetry studies which provide valuable insight on the biology and behavior of the species. She has conducted post-release research on many species of rehabilitated turtles through the use of radio-telemetry. Her interest in reptiles extends to long-term conservation through rehabilitation, research and educational efforts by sharing her scientific findings through wildlife conferences, presentations and numerous journal publications. She is also currently licensed as a rehabilitator in New Jersey for turtles and snakes including endangered and threatened species. Kathy has presented training on turtle and snake rehabilitation through the eastern US and Canada.

Erica Miller, DVM

Erica Miller holds a BS in Zoology and a DVM, both from Oklahoma State University. She was a full-time wildlife veterinarian & rehabilitator for more than 25 years and has been on staff at 3 veterinary schools. She splits her time and persona as chief veterinarian at the Brandywine Zoo, wildlife veterinarian for the New Jersey Office of Fish & Wildlife Health and Forensics, associate adjunct professor in wildlife medicine at the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine, editor and author of a few book projects, and volunteer for several organizations. She serves on the Endangered and Non-game Species Advisory Committee to the New Jersey Division of Fish & Wildlife, the NJ Wildlife Rehabilitators Advisory Committee, and the Scientific Advisory Committee for the Oiled Wildlife Care Network. She responded to over 40 oil spills involving wildlife during her tenure with Tri-State Bird Rescue & Research, Inc., and was honored to be the NYSWRC Veterinarian of the Year in 2009. She is married to the great guitar player, singer, and A/V whiz, John Frink, and they share their home with Ben the wonder dog.

Jennifer Miller

Jennifer Miller’s love of the outdoors from an early age developed into a life-long passion for the natural world. Though having received no formal education, she has always been driven by studying birds and recreating them in her artworks. By studying wildlife and then combining it with her vivid imagination, Jennifer is also a renowned fantasy artist. She has created many fantasy paintings and illustrations for publication, including several novel covers. She also enjoys sculpture, as well as crafting hand-made jewelry with precious metals and gems. Along with her artistic pursuits, Jennifer is active in conservation and paints to raise awareness. Most notably, she won the prestigious Federal Duck Stamp competition for the 2015-2016 duck stamp. Jennifer lives in a rural setting in Western New York, along with her husband Brian, three parrots, a rescue pigeon, and a delightful flock of chickens.

Diane Nickerson

Having graduated from Temple University, in Philadelphia, PA, with a Bachelor of Business Administration in Marketing and Management, I spent the next ten years in the insurance industry in primarily marketing positions. In March of 1988, I began volunteer work for a local wildlife center in PA. Six months later I left the insurance industry to explore new career opportunities. I completed an Environmental Education internship at a local nature center and then the International Wildlife Rehabilitation Council Basic Skills Seminar. I worked as a part-time teacher naturalist at two nature centers until July of 1990, at which time I accepted a full-time position as the Director of Education at the Aark WR&EC.
Diane Nickerson (Continued)

I held that position until March of 1994 when I applied for, and subsequently accepted, the position of Director at the Mercer County Wildlife Center in New Jersey. The Mercer County Wildlife Center handles approximately 2,500 patients (avian, mammal and reptile), 12,000 incoming telephone calls and 200 community outreach education programs each annually. There is a staff of three full-time, four seasonal, 14 volunteer college interns, 150 patient care volunteers and seven volunteer veterinarians.

In addition to my work at MCWC, I am a member of the Board of Directors for the New Jersey Association of Wildlife Rehabilitators. I serve on the legislative affairs committee for NJAWR. I am a past member of the Board of Directors for National Wildlife Rehabilitators Association, a former vice-president of that organization, chair of the Education Committee and serve as a member of the Conference, Nominating, Planning and Publications Committees. I am also a member of the Wildlife Rehabilitation Advisory Committee in NJ.

Andrea Sammarco, Esq.

Andrea is a lawyer and partner at The Sammarco Law Firm, LLP. She practices predominantly in the area of civil litigation, counselling individuals and businesses on a host of legal compliance and regulatory issues. She has been an advisory board member to NYSWRC for over 10 years, and a past presenter at NYSWRC and other animal and wildlife conferences.

Renée Schott, DVM, CWR

Renée is currently a full-time staff veterinarian at the Wildlife Rehabilitation Center of Minnesota (WRC), one of the largest rehabilitation centers in the country. She has been involved in wildlife rehabilitation for over 13 years and has worked at wildlife rehabilitation centers across the country. Additionally, Renée is involved in teaching courses at the University of Minnesota-College of Veterinary Medicine, does relief work at The Raptor Center in St Paul, is a Course Instructor for the International Wildlife Rehabilitation Council, and is on the National Wildlife Rehabilitators Association’s Board of Directors.

Laura Westlake

Patty Wallace Stewart

Patty works in long term nursing care and has accounting and science degrees. She has been rehabbing for 34 years, starting with birds of prey. She rehabbed her first opossum in South Carolina and became a member of the National Opossum Society. Patty worked extensively with, and studied under Dr. Anita Hennessy, an opossum expert, on several critical care cases. She became a Regional Advisor for the National Opossum Association, Treasurer and Board of Directors, and has worked exclusively with opossums for the past 17 years. She was instrumental in forming the Hancock City Humane Society, where she served as President, Vice President, wildlife educator and supportive member. Her goals are to educate the public and support wildlife rehabilitators in the care of the Virginia Opossum.

Paul Stringer, NYSDEC

My career in wildlife began with my studies at SUNY Cobleskill, where I earned a Bachelor of Technology in Animal Science.

I began working for the NYSDEC Wildlife Unit, located in Central Office in 2003. It was here that I was constantly reminded about how the term “wildlife management” is so misleading. This is due to the fact that we are more involved with the management of people and their various relationships with wildlife, rather than individual animals, which are rarely responsible for causing problems.

Later, I moved into the Special Licenses Unit in 2005. Here I am responsible for licensing, information and various activities associated with Wildlife Rehabilitation, Nuisance Wildlife Control, Shooting Preserves, Domestic Game Bird Breeding, Hunters with Disabilities and certain licenses related to Endangered Species. My position here also allows me to harass various licensees periodically, which often helps to alleviate some of the boredom and tension that one might associate with working in an office setting. This appears to be my current lot in life. However, that doesn’t mean that I’m not open to other offers, should they come my way.

Alice VanDeMark

After a brief stretch working in human resources at a large Boston firm, Alice VanDeMark realized that the city and office life were not for her. In 1990, she relocated to Ithaca, got married and started her veterinary technology degree at SUNY Delhi. Graduating in 1993, Alice worked for a local animal hospital for 5 years before she was offered a technician position working with the NYS River Otter Project. As the River Otter Project came to an end, Alice was able to secure a position with Cornell in The Wildlife and Exotics Service. Today, she is the Technician Team Leader for the Wildlife Service at the Janet L. Swanson Wildlife Health Center.

Laura Wade, DVM, ABVP (Avian Practice)

Dr. Wade graduated from the NYS College of Veterinary Medicine at Cornell in 1997 and completed a residency in avian and exotic pet medicine and surgery at the Animal Medical Center in N.Y. City in 2003. That same year, she obtained board certification in avian practice through the American Board of Veterinary Practitioners. A frequent speaker at NYSWRC since 1999, Dr. Wade was also awarded the NYSWRC Vet of the Year Award in 2004. In 2012, Dr. Wade opened Specialized Care for Avian and Exotic Pets in Clarence, NY, the only practice in Western New York State exclusively devoted to the care of birds, small mammals, reptiles/amphibians and fish. Dr. Wade works with a number of area wildlife rehabilitators and enjoys working with wild birds.
Amy Willsey, DVM

Dr. Willsey graduated from Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine and worked as a field researcher with the NYS Department of Health on the wildlife oral rabies vaccination project. She later became Assistant State Public Health Veterinarian, continuing to work with wildlife vaccination while serving as a resource on rabies and other zoonotic diseases for other programs of the State Department of Health, practicing veterinarians, physicians, local health units, and NY residents. Following this, she moved to her current position as field veterinarian with the NYS Department of Agriculture & Markets, travelling throughout the Hudson Valley, NYC, and Long Island to help monitor and prevent disease transmission in livestock ranging from farmed fish through the traditional cattle, sheep, goats, swine, and horses, to various species of captive deer. As a field vet Dr. Willsey has inspected and approved a number of facilities for the safe rehabilitation of wild rabies vector species.

Matthew Zymanek - 2016

Matt has been with Hawk Creek Wildlife Center since 1992. As the Operations Manager he oversees the daily husbandry of the animals under their care. He is oil spill certified and a RVS licensed wildlife rehabilitator. Matt presents educational programs from pre-school to college students. He is also an apprentice falconer. Matt holds a degree in Biology from Buffalo State College and was a board member of the New York River Otter Project. He is currently a NYSWRC and Hawk Creek Board member.
NYSWRC MEMBERSHIP is a privilege. Licensing by the State makes you eligible to join NY SWRC, but does not make you an automatic member. Membership in NY SWRC is included in your registration fee for this year and must be renewed annually.

Many of you joined for the first time during a fall seminar, so fall will become the time to renew each year. Your address label on our newsletter, Release, also serves as a reminder at renewal time. We hope you will continue to support your organization through membership. There is strength in numbers, and NY SWRC needs you! Thank you for joining us.

NY SWRC is the oldest wildlife rehabilitation organization in the United States, with a proud history of serving members through educational training at the annual seminars, oil spill response training, rehabilitation record keeping, production of educational brochures and public service announcements, and the quarterly newsletter Release. NY SWRC is a private not-for-profit educational organization serving rehabilitators in New York State and throughout the country. The primary goal of our membership-based organization is to promote professionalism in the field of wildlife rehabilitation and to provide wildlife rehabilitators with educational and technical support. NY SWRC is guided by an elected board of directors who meet bi-monthly to keep abreast of current issues and to continue work on educational projects. NY SWRC serves as a liaison with the NYS Departments of Environmental Conservation (DEC), Health, and Agriculture and Markets regarding licensing and disease concerns for rehabilitators. We also serve as a liaison with the US Fish and Wildlife Service with regard to Federal Licenses for the possession and care of migratory birds. NYSDEC works closely with IWRC, NWRA and other statewide rehabilitation organizations. The board is pleased to represent you, a NY SWRC member. Thank you for being involved.

NY SWRC Board Member Elections:

We are pleased that Kelly Martin, Barb Hollands, Terri Murphy and Matt Zymanek will run for election this year to continue their service to the Board. Sadly, Amy Freiman will be retiring from the Board this year; and we thank her for her excellent service to NY SWRC. Amy was also the Treasurer of NY SWRC for many years, the editor of Release, and the Registrar for the annual conference. She took on the many administrative duties necessary to run a successful non-profit. She and her husband, Steve, were the main conference coordinators, making sure the conference ran smoothly. It will be difficult to fill these shoes.

Eileen Hagerman has been nominated as a candidate for election. Eileen first became involved in the field of wildlife rehabilitation in 1996 when she began volunteering under Sally Rupert at Volunteers for Wildlife, Inc. on Long Island. She graduated from Laguardia Community College in 2002 with an Associate’s Degree in Veterinary Technology. In April of 2003, she left behind her position at an insurance company to become the Wildlife Clinic Supervisor at Volunteers for Wildlife. In 2005, Eileen stepped into a new role as the organization’s Executive Director. During her seven year tenure in this position, she was a key part of the successful move of Volunteers for Wildlife long-term home to a new property in Nassau County. In 2012, Eileen stepped down from her role as Executive Director and pursued a Bachelor’s in Business Administration in Veterinary Technology Management from SUNY Delhi (2015). Eileen is now the Office Manager and veterinary technician at a local animal hospital.

Nominations will also be accepted from the floor. Voting and nominations will take place at NY SWRC’s Annual Meeting on Saturday evening. To qualify as a board member, you must be at least 16 years old and have been a member in good standing of NY SWRC for a minimum of one year prior to running for office. These are 3 year positions.
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Dr. Joan Puritz, 2016 NYSWRC Veterinarian of the Year
2016 NYSWRC Veterinarian of the Year

Dr. Joan Puritz

Nomination by Wes Laraway

As Director of N.Y. Wildlife Rescue Center, I get to meet many interesting people on a regular basis. As Wildlife Rehabilitators we all know that networking with other wildlife rehabilitators is vital to our sanity. We also know that having a "wildlife friendly" vet to help us is vital to being a successful rehabilitator.

I had the good fortune of meeting Dr. Joan Puritz a couple of years ago. She contacted me with a baby raccoon that she had fixed after it had an unfortunate run-in with a car. She also had a baby skunk that someone had brought to her vet clinic from the City of Oneonta streets. Once she knew that the RVS Species in her care were stable, she knew that they would require further rehabilitation. She found our wildlife center through the local DEC as licensed for RVS and we agreed that we would take the critters for further rehabilitation.

Dr. Joan showed up to NY Wildlife Rescue Center with a car full of critters on her next day off with a warm smile and a genuine interest in what we were doing at our facility. After the typical introductions and exchange of intake information, I assumed that Dr. Joan would be leaving because surely she was busy as a vet and had other things to do. Dr. Joan eventually asked what I was doing for the rest of the day and said that she had the rest of the day off. She happily agreed to spend the afternoon with me and clearly stressed she was not afraid of work. (Definitely the wrong thing to say to any wildlife rehabber.)

Since that time a couple of years ago, Dr. Joan has become a vital part of rehabbing dozens of animals. Dr. Joan is a licensed Rehabber with RVS credentials. She personally has raised fawns, birds, mammals and loves her turtle projects. For the several wildlife rehabilitators near her vet clinic, she has become the person that we can count on for those animals that we get in when it is not obvious what is going on with their injuries. If Dr. Joan doesn’t know what is wrong with an animal she will figure it out after work. Dr. Joan is always at the Wildlife Conference every year learning new things to save more animals. There are people that talk about what they do and there are people that make things happen. Dr. Joan makes things happen.

Dr. Joan will help us with radiographs during her lunch hour. She works closely with Cornell Wildlife Center for injuries or problems that we cannot figure out. Dr. Joan is always the first person to say "lets give this guy a chance and not be quick to euthanize." She is never afraid to educate herself on her free time or to tackle something out of her comfort zone. Dr. Joan has figured out how to fix wings, legs and other issues that often require surgery. She was at our facility Christmas Day to do surgery on a swan that had just arrived from the Hamptons.

Often when all of our wildlife patients’ issues have been addressed, Dr. Joan will suggest we vaccinate other domestic species of livestock and exotics at our facility. She neuters all of the llamas and alpacas that come into our facility so that they can be cheaply adopted to new homes and have another shot of a good happy life. Dr. Joan does spay and neuter clinics all over the State to attempt to control the pet population. She also volunteers her time at several shelters.

Dr. Joan Puritz of Oneonta Vet Clinic is worthy of the honor of this award. As Wildlife Rehabilitators we all want a great relationship with a vet that wants to help all animals. We all have limited budgets for veterinary care so finding a vet that will work with you (for free) is rare these days. We should all hope to be lucky enough to find a vet willing to work on wild animals since so many vets now are quick to say "Sorry, we do not see wild animals."

Thank you Dr. Joan Puritz of Oneonta Vet Clinic for all of the great things that you do for little thanks on a daily basis. You lead by example and you have definitely left the world a better place than you found it. Congratulations on this well deserved award of NYWRC Vet of the Year for 2016.
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NYSWRC hopes you enjoyed the Conference!
See you again next year!

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