

winter 2019 / spring 2020

# wildcare

live well  
with wildlife

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- ✚ wildcare gala
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Dear WildCare Family and Friends,

Thank you to the WildCare Board of Directors, staff, and volunteers for allowing me to be the next Executive Director of WildCare. I love the mission and the people at WildCare and know that I will further its current and future goals. Never has it been more critical for us to live our mission. The New York Times reported that 3 billion North American birds "have vanished" since 1970, a 29% decline. Loss of habitat and pesticides are identified as primary factors. Every day in our hospital, our courtyard, through our education programs, our advocacy efforts, and in working with all of you, we are trying to make a difference. As Mrs. Terwilliger always said, "Teach people to love nature; people take care of what they love."

As the next Executive Director, I will honor our history while preparing the organization to move forward at a new site. We are currently in contract negotiations to lease a facility that will become WildCare's new home. This new location positions us to increase our education programs through larger classrooms, presentation areas, and tour spaces, as well as expanding hospital treatment areas, caging and aviary space. Our potential new home also presents us with the unique opportunity to take advantage of the natural world outside our doors. We'll keep you updated on this project as more information becomes available.

At WildCare, our ability to provide individualized and comprehensive care for over 3,500 animal patients each year is made possible through our robust Wildlife Hospital team. Our full-time Wildlife Hospital staff of five senior personnel is supported by a dedicated group of volunteers and interns. Learn more about the extraordinary care that our Wildlife Hospital patients receive on pages five and twelve of this magazine, and consider becoming a WildCare Wildlife Hospital Volunteer yourself!

Some highlights over the past few months include the work of our Advocacy Team of Kelle Kacmarcik and Alison Hermance, who took a stand to stop the dumping of rodenticides on the Farallon Islands. Learn more about the issue and WildCare's efforts to counteract the plan on page four.

With appreciation,

Ellyn Weisel, Executive Director

# wildcare news

volume 24, number 2  
winter 2019 / spring 2020

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**Hospital, Courtyard and Museum Hours**  
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### In Memory of

Elizabeth C. Terwilliger

Julie Malet

WildCare advocates for wildlife  
for a sustainable world.

**Cover Photograph:** Sequoia, the Northern Spotted Owl

**Photo by:** Mary D'Agostino

**Editor:** Alison Hermance

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winter 2019 / spring 2020

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Make Your  
**YEAR-END**  
Gift Today!

Your gift will be **MATCHED** until **December 31!**  
Visit [discoverwildcare.org](http://discoverwildcare.org) to make your donation.

# events

Marie Susa

For more information and additional upcoming WildCare events, please visit [discoverwildcare.org/events](https://discoverwildcare.org/events)



## Family Nature Day Saturday, April 4, 2020

Bring the family and a picnic and join us for this FREE event at Stafford Lake Park in Novato honoring Mrs. Elizabeth Terwilliger. Family Nature Day lets you learn about our local wildlife "Mrs. T-style" with our Wildlife Ambassadors, naturalist-led walks, arts and crafts, a scavenger hunt... and more! [discoverwildcare.org/familynatureday](https://discoverwildcare.org/familynatureday)



## Dining for Wildlife

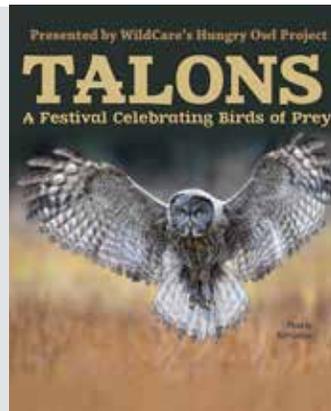
Tuesday, May 5 and Wednesday, May 6, 2020

Dine out, do good! Join us for WildCare's 35th annual dining event! Enjoy a great meal and support WildCare. Make sure you're on the list to receive an invitation for this event by sending an email to [marian@discoverwildcare.org](mailto:marian@discoverwildcare.org). [discoverwildcare.org/dining](https://discoverwildcare.org/dining)



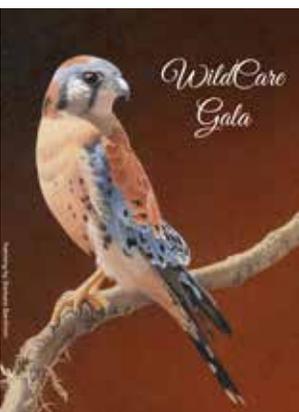
## WildCare & Wine Summer 2020

Have Happy Hour with hawks! These FREE early evening events in WildCare's Courtyard give you the opportunity to sip a glass of wine, meet the animals and interact with WildCare staff and volunteers. Dates and RSVP at: [discoverwildcare.org/wine](https://discoverwildcare.org/wine)



## Talons Sunday, June 28, 2020

Meet extraordinary hawks and owls at TALONS: A Festival Celebrating Birds of Prey. This event at Cavallo Point sold out quickly last year. Make sure you're on the list for ticket announcements by emailing [marian@discoverwildcare.org](mailto:marian@discoverwildcare.org). [discoverwildcare.org/talons](https://discoverwildcare.org/talons)



## WildCare Gala Saturday, August 29, 2020

WildCare's Gala is our most elegant event of the year! Join us for a spectacular evening of wildlife and wonder. This fundraiser helps us care for many injured and orphaned animals in the year to come. It also helps us to continue to advocate for wildlife and introduce thousands of people to a love and appreciation of nature. Learn more at: [discoverwildcare.org/gala](https://discoverwildcare.org/gala)



## Photo Contest September 2020

Share your best California wildlife and nature photos with WildCare's large audience! Our Best in Show photo wins \$500. Deadline for entries is September 25, 2020. Winners will be featured in the 2020 Winter edition of WildCare's newsletter and on the WildCare website. Learn more and see our 2019 winners at: [discoverwildcare.org/photo](https://discoverwildcare.org/photo)

# wildcare news and notes

## wildlife advocacy: farallon islands update

As of this writing, the United States Department of the Interior's Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) has not backed off from its preferred plan to use poisons to eliminate non-native house mice from the Southeast Farallon Island that reportedly attract predators which, in turn, endanger local wildlife.

The USFWS plan is to air-drop a total of 2,917 pounds (that's 1.3 metric tons) of toxic rat poison (rodenticide) pellets on the South Farallon Island.

WildCare strongly opposes this plan!

Not only do we regularly see in our Wildlife Hospital the deadly effects of rodenticides on nontarget animals, we also advocate regularly against the idea that using poison should be the go-to solution to any rodent problem.

The situation on the Farallon Islands has existed for decades. Although the rodent population does need to be addressed, it does not need to be handled immediately with a massive dump of poisoned pellets.

Removing whatever is attracting and sustaining the rodents (food, water or shelter) is the **ONLY** way to eliminate a rodent population (learn more about removing attractants at [discoverwildcare.org/rodents](http://discoverwildcare.org/rodents).)

WildCare's suggestions for the Farallones? While island ecology presents its own set of challenges, we offer essentially the same advice we offer anyone with a rodent problem:

- Reduce the food source (remove the non-native grasses on the Southeast Farallon Island that produce seeds that feed the rodents.)
- Use non-toxic means to reduce the mouse population as necessary.
- Investigate alternatives like the ContraPest rodent contraceptive to control the population without harm to wildlife on the island.
- Finally, we suggest they deter the six to eight transient Burrowing Owls that fly to the island to eat the mice and stay to predate on endangered seabirds.

No poison required.



Alison Herrmance

## become a wildlife hospital volunteer

Our upcoming New Volunteer Orientations, scheduled for **Saturday, February 29 and Sunday, March 1, 2020**, will be the **ONLY** opportunities to become a volunteer in WildCare's Wildlife Hospital in the next year!

Volunteers age 15 and older work hands-on in the Wildlife Hospital to provide the care our wildlife patients need to recover and return to the wild.

Register for one of the scheduled orientations at [discoverwildcare.org/volunteer](http://discoverwildcare.org/volunteer) and learn about this incredible opportunity to help wildlife!



Alison Herrmance



Shelly Ross

# rat-trap skunks

## wildcare admits a shocking number of nontarget rat-trapped animals



**F**rom June 14 through August 24 of 2019, WildCare admitted 16 skunks and two raccoons caught in rat snap traps. We also had five opossums, multiple squirrels, and even birds fall victim to these indiscriminate traps this summer.

Compare this to seven skunks caught in snap traps during the entire year of 2018.

This significant increase in the number of trapped skunks may indicate that people are hearing our messaging and no longer using rodenticides (rat poisons). This would be good news! However, we are now working hard to spread the word on how to properly use traps to prevent this unintentional suffering of nontarget wild animals.

Our local backyard wildlife species such as skunks, opossums and raccoons are excellent rodent hunters, spending their active hours clearing your neighborhood of rats and mice, along with slugs and snails, insects, and other undesirable pests.

An inquisitive animal will smell the bait on a rodent snap trap and approach it as an easy meal. Imagine the shock and pain when a hungry skunk reaches her paw toward the trap and—*snap*—suddenly her paw is in agony! These traps, designed to quickly snap the neck of a rat, are strong enough to break bones in paws and cause terrible crushing injuries.

### delayed injuries from traps

In response to many customers telling their pest abatement companies that they do not want them to use poison, many companies are now using a snap trap known as a T-rex, which is what is trapping our wildlife patients (see photos).

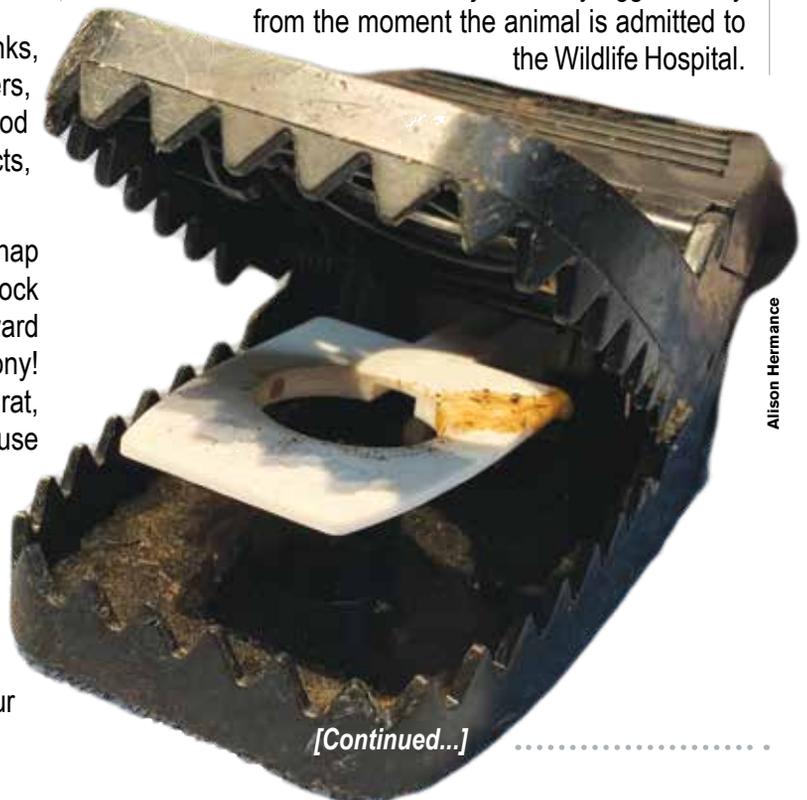
If you encounter an animal with his foot stuck in a snap trap, your first impulse is to remove the trap and let the animal go. While the trap should be removed immediately, it is imperative that the animal not be released but brought to WildCare right away for treatment, *even if the affected limb looks okay!*

Snap trap injuries involve several kinds of damage to the affected limb. The injuries that are often (but not always) immediately apparent can be lacerations to the skin, fractures to the bones, and bruising and tearing of the muscles, tendons and ligaments.

Less obvious injuries result from limbs being tightly constricted by the trap for extended periods of time. Injuries resulting from restricted bloodflow are called ischemic injuries, and their symptoms can take days to weeks after removal of the trap to become fully evident.

During the period of time an animal's limb is caught in the trap, the soft tissues are compressed by the jaws of the trap, leading to decreased blood flow in the limb which means that oxygen is not being delivered to the tissues. If this lasts longer than an hour or two, tissues can start to become necrotic, or die. This dying tissue is highly susceptible to infection, since it is cut off from the body's normal immune system surveillance.

Because of the severe consequences to the affected limb, WildCare treats all of these injuries very aggressively from the moment the animal is admitted to the Wildlife Hospital.



[Continued...]

## rat trap skunks [continued from page 5]

Treatment always includes pain medications, anti-inflammatories, antibiotics to prevent infection when the wounds finally open, and medications that help encourage blood flow in the limb by making the blood cells more pliable and by making the vessels larger. Wound treatments to the affected area vary greatly, from daily wound cleaning and bandage changes to those that require surgery to amputate dead digits.

As you can imagine, handling wild skunks twice a day to administer injections, oral medications, wound treatments and bandage changes does not go over well with our patients! With so many skunks in care from rat trap injuries, WildCare (and medical staff) are, shall we say, strongly scented.

### how to properly use snap traps (don't use them outdoors!)

First, please recognize that the only way to ever eliminate a "nuisance" rodent problem is to remove what is attracting the rodents: This is usually food, water, protected travel-ways and housing/shelter.

Trapping may eliminate a few rodents, but there will always be more until you get rid of what is inviting them to your home and property. Learn more at [discoverwildcare.org/rodents](http://discoverwildcare.org/rodents).

**Snap traps are not to be used outdoors!** Rodents are part of the environment outside, and it is not possible, nor is it desirable, to eliminate all rodents from the outdoor areas of your property. Get rid of what is attracting rodents to your yard, and you won't need traps.

If you are allowing traps to be set be aware that you, as the customer, have a role and a responsibility to make sure that any lethal trapping done on your behalf is done correctly.

All traps, whether inside the home or in a garage, under the house or in a crawl-space **MUST** be secured tightly inside a bait box. The bait box used must be designed with a long tube for rodents to enter the box, which prevents the curious paw of a skunk or raccoon from reaching in and being snapped. Traps (in bait boxes) must be placed well away from children and pets, and the box itself must be secured in place with a chain or a cement block.

The pest control company will typically only come to check the traps every few weeks. This is much too long for any injured animal to wait in the jaws of a trap. **NEVER** use sticky or glue traps, as those products' method of killing is to trap the animal and cause him to remain stuck until



Melanie Piazza

*Wounds from rat traps can be severe, and often take several days to manifest. Any animal, like this skunk whose paw was caught in a rat trap, needs immediate care, even if a wound isn't immediately obvious.*

he dies of starvation and dehydration. An unchecked snap trap is just as bad. It is up to you to inspect traps daily for nontarget wildlife, or for rodents that have been injured but not killed (An injured rodent will need care or humane euthanasia. Bring the injured animal to WildCare, your veterinarian or, in Marin County, you can call Marin Humane.)

Horrible, and avoidable, things happen to wildlife all the time. WildCare sees these animals, and the excruciating injuries inflicted on them by snap traps, all too often in the Wildlife Hospital. Please make sure you are properly removing rodent attractants before considering trapping, and please make sure that lethal traps placed on your behalf are indoors and are checked daily, and in appropriate bait boxes to prevent harm to nontarget wildlife.

Learn more at [discoverwildcare.org/rodents](http://discoverwildcare.org/rodents)



Alison Hermance

# outdoor art club

Laura Lyon White (1839-1916), one of the founders of the Outdoor Art Club, was a social and environmental activist. She worked to promote the conservation of natural resources and wildlife, which she believed would improve the well-being of urban citizens.

As Mill Valley began to grow at the turn of the 20th century, White recognized the potential for urban ills to impact the town and its residents. In 1902 she convened a group of local women to establish the Outdoor Art Club. The Club's purpose since that time has been: "To preserve the natural scenery of Mill Valley and the surrounding country, to beautify the grounds around public buildings, to work against the wanton destruction of birds and game, to encourage the development of outdoor art and to engage in other civic, literary and charitable work."

In naming the Club, Mrs. White and the other Founders were inspired by the "City Beautiful" movement of the late 19th century. In the context of that movement, the term "Outdoor Art" referred to the importance of maintaining access to the aesthetic environment, both natural and man-made, so Mill Valley's citizens would have surroundings that promoted their health, safety and welfare.

While it can also refer to man-made art in the outdoors, the creation and preservation of "Outdoor Art" did and still means ensuring equitable access to an outdoor world in which the natural environment, including wildlife, is preserved and enhanced. Sustainable, native plantings around public buildings; attractive and welcoming public parks; community gardens; and protection of and education about wildlife are all examples of initiatives that encourage residents of our community to feel closer to the natural environment, to be respectful of our natural resources, and to have their lives enhanced through these experiences.

The Outdoor Art Club has been pleased to partner with WildCare through financial support of the Hungry Owl Project and the Wildlife Ambassador program. Both of these projects align with our mission "to work against the wanton destruction of birds and game." WildCare also supports the Outdoor Art Club's intent to foster closeness with, and stewardship of, the natural environment through "Outdoor Art."



Janice Prochaska



Ian Elwood

I supporter salute I

## WILDCARE'S FAMILY NATURE DAY

*honoring Elizabeth Terwilliger*



Eliyn Weisel



Join WildCare to learn about our local wildlife. Learn about Mrs. Elizabeth Terwilliger's nature education legacy and bring a picnic to enjoy on the lake shore.

**Saturday, April 4, 2020**

**FREE Event at Stafford Lake Park,  
Group Picnic Area #2 Novato, California**

**RSVP at [discoverwildcare.org/natureday](https://discoverwildcare.org/natureday)**

### Activities:

- Naturalist-led nature hike
- Arts and crafts project that helps wildlife
- Explore taxidermy from WildCare's Nature Van
- Take the Nature Scavenger Hunt Challenge
- Meet our live Wildlife Ambassadors
- Net aquatic life in Stafford Lake

# WILDLIFE AMBASSADOR PHOTO PROJECT

*...every picture tells a story*

You may have met one of WildCare's charming Wildlife Ambassadors at an event, a school program, or summer camp. These animals are charismatic, patient, and do great service by engaging many people who might never see one of their species in the wild.

WildCare's Wildlife Ambassadors are former Wildlife Hospital patients who cannot be released into the wild but are comfortable enough with humans to participate in education programs. Unfortunately, their history with humans left these animals unable to hunt and fend for themselves. WildCare assumes the considerable responsibility and privilege of providing lifelong care for their every physical and mental need.

To create the Ambassador Photo Project, Board member/photographer Mary D'Agostino worked with Board member Veronica Geczi, Ambassador Manager Melissa Tofflemeyer, and Director of Communications Alison Hermance to produce dignified and compelling images to tell these animals' stories and teach viewers how to live harmoniously with wildlife.

"We always hear about endangered species that need our help, but what about those more commonly seen wild animals in our communities? The Ambassador Photo Project shares these animals' stories in hopes of highlighting daily actions anyone can take to live better with wildlife," D'Agostino says.

To create the images, the team took precautions to keep the animals comfortable. The shoot was done on-site at WildCare during off-hours, the animals were well-fed, the sessions were short, the lights low, and camouflage was used to keep the environment neutral. "I have never seen the animals so calm," said Melissa Tofflemeyer. To do this D'Agostino, a Nikon shooter, used special lighting and slower shutter speeds.

D'Agostino adds, "These animals continue to have the instinct to hunt and breed, but would certainly die if released into their natural habitats. WildCare's mission is to educate the community and advocate for animals to ensure more wildlife gets to live wild and free. We hope the images show a glimpse of their majesty and help to propel that mission."

**Sequoia the Northern Spotted Owl.**  
*Sequoia fell from her nest and damaged the part of her wing that allows her to fly silently.*

Photos by Mary D'Agostino. See more Ambassador Photo Project images at [seenature.net](http://seenature.net) and purchase artist prints at [discoverwildcare.org/AmbassadorPhotoProject](http://discoverwildcare.org/AmbassadorPhotoProject). 100% of profits benefit WildCare.

*Grace, our Red-tailed Hawk, was on the ground with a badly healed broken wing, possibly the result of a vehicle impact.*



*Trill, the Western Screech Owl, was found on the ground with head injuries after falling from her nest. Fortunately a rescuer knew to bring her to a wildlife hospital.*

*Kele, the American Kestrel, was likely kidnapped from his nest as a chick to be a pet. Although habituated to humans, he either escaped, or was released. If only he had been left with his parent birds, he could be living the wild and free life he deserves.*



*Our beloved resident Brown Pelican, Baja; a fishing line damaged his wing tendons. If only the fisherman had picked up the discarded line.*



*Marla, the peppy Western Pond Turtle, had an injured foot and the person who found her kept her as a pet for 30 years. If only she'd been brought to a wildlife hospital for care instead.*



# wildcare's 2019 gala

**W**ildCare's 2019 Gala was a WILD success! We want to say a huge thank you to our generous sponsors and to everyone who attended the event on September 21, 2019.

Held at the Marin Country Mart in Larkspur Landing under tents lit with twinkling lights and overlooking the Bay, it truly was a glamorous evening! The wine, donated by TR Elliot and La Crema Winery, was excellent, and the views of the sun setting over Mt. Tamalpais made the evening magical.

This year's entirely plant-based meal, deliciously catered by A Fork Full of Earth, was generously underwritten by a grant from the Giant Steps Foundation. The Giant Steps Foundation offers greening grants to non-profits for special events, allowing organizations to offer their guests organic, vegan and more humane menus.

As only happens at a WildCare Gala, guests mingled with Sequoia, the Northern Spotted Owl, Kele, the American Kestrel and Betty, the Virginia Opossum, among other Wildlife Ambassadors. Our wonderful staff and volunteers answered questions and shared information about WildCare as guests enjoyed face-to-face encounters with our educational animals.

The evening, of course, was a fundraiser for WildCare, and we are thrilled that our Gala raised over \$300,000! These funds will help us care for many injured and orphaned wild animals in the year to come, and will also help us continue to advocate for wildlife and introduce thousands of adults and children to a love and appreciation of nature. We are grateful for the support of WildCare's Board of Directors for all they did to make the event a success.

To see more photos and other details from the event, visit [discoverwildcare.org/gala](http://discoverwildcare.org/gala).



Photos by Bob Bloomberg/Marilyn Freund

# donor salute

**C**helsea Fischbach started as a Student Volunteer at WildCare during the summer of 2002.

She volunteered for about six years, until she left for college. When Chelsea started at WildCare, she wanted to be a vet and maybe work at a zoo; as she got older, she knew her career would go in a different direction, but she was still passionate about animals and the environment. She was part of the first WildCare Student Volunteer Committee, which was her first real leadership opportunity, and taught her a lot about the challenges of getting people to work together toward a common goal.

When asked about her favorite moment at WildCare, Chelsea said, "Every summer, [the Wildlife Hospital gets] lots of orphaned ducklings; one time, there was a particular duckling that wasn't gaining weight. I could see that he was significantly smaller than the rest of his flock, but I had been weighing another group earlier that were near his size. I went to the hospital director and she agreed that we should try putting him with the younger ducklings. I ended up releasing him as part of his new flock a few weeks later. It helped me see that just paying attention and speaking up can have a tangible impact."

Today Chelsea is a Program Manager at Google. Google has a 1:1 matching program (up to a certain cap) and Benevity (who administers the program) makes it really easy for employees to donate straight from their paychecks and ensure that everything they contribute gets the full match. Google also has periodic events where individuals and teams can augment that match with additional dollars, so that's a good way to share the causes their staff members are passionate about with a wider audience.



I donor salute I



## Make your gift count **TWICE!**

You can **DOUBLE** the value of your donation with an **Employer Matching Gift!**

Does **YOUR** employer match donations?

Use our free online tool to find out if your employer will match your generous donation to WildCare:  
[discoverwildcare.org/double](https://discoverwildcare.org/double)



# patient gallery

## a western pond turtle with a broken shell

This Western Pond Turtle's rescuer watched in horror as the turtle rolled and spun out from under a passing car's tires. She picked him up and rushed him to WildCare.

Upon intake, Medical Staff found that the turtle's carapace had sustained multiple fractures. This is very dangerous for a turtle, as cracks in the shell allow bacteria access to the turtle's internal organs.

Touch the back of your fingernail to get a sense of what a turtle feels through his shell, and to understand how painful it is for a turtle to have a fractured shell!

Turtles are slow to heal, and Medical Staff had to be creative to find ways to slowly bring the fractured shell together.

Due to the great care he received, two months after his injury, this turtle was able to return to his home pond, healed and healthy.



Melanie Piazza



Melanie Piazza



Melanie Piazza



Melanie Piazza

## white opossums!

When this mother opossum was admitted to WildCare her babies were so small they looked like tiny, pink jelly beans inside her *marsupium*, or pouch.

She had been hit by a car, arriving at the Wildlife Hospital with head trauma and a fractured jaw. Due to the length of time it took to heal mom's jaw, we kept the family together in care until mom had healed and the babies were ready for release.

Once the babies were old enough to emerge from the pouch, we got a surprise. Two of this opossum's babies were bright white! These babies have leucistic coloring, a genetic condition in which there is partial loss of pigmentation in an animal. Leucism differs from albinism, which is due to a lack of melanin and results in pink eyes.

The baby opossums grew up healthy and were released back to where they had been rescued, where there are other white opossums. The white babies are expected to thrive as well as their more typical-colored siblings.



Melanie Piazza



Melanie Piazza

**medical uses of paper clips?**

Due to the small size of many of our patients, WildCare's Medical Staff must get creative in order to care for their injuries. Surprisingly, one of the most effective tools we have to heal fractured bones in tiny animals is the humble paper clip!

The flexible but strong stainless steel of a paper clip can be bent to perfectly conform to a baby animal's hip or shoulder. Add some padding and some medical tape, and a paper clip makes an excellent splint to properly immobilize the joint above and below a fractured bone, as with the three week-old baby squirrel pictured here.



**pick up fishing line!**

This first-year Brown Pelican was found on a beach unable to fly away from dogs and people. Upon capture it became clear why; you can see in this photo the green-blue fishing lure hanging under his wing. Embedded in the pelican's wing with a three-pronged hook, the lure damaged the tissue of the wing so much that the bird was unable to fly, unable to catch fish, and thus unable to survive without help.

Emaciated and weak, he was brought to WildCare where we removed the hook and began wound treatments. Once stable he was transferred to our friends at International Bird Rescue for aviary time until he was ready for release.

Whether you fish or just walk our beaches and waterways, please always properly dispose of fishing line and hooks!



**Get ready to meet our spring 2020 baby patients!**

Follow us on social media for patient updates, videos and tips on how to live well with wildlife!



wildcarebayarea

@wildcare

# terwilliger nature guide program

## wildcare's nature guides share some of their favorite stories

Wildcare's well-trained volunteer Terwilliger Nature Guides come to the work for many reasons. Most of us would agree, however, that unleashing interest, joy and love for the environment and the animals that live here is a primary motivator.

We believe young people are the future stewards of our planet and children experiencing nature at an early age, especially those children who have rarely spent time outside, will hopefully ensure an auspicious future for our environment.

So, clearly our motivations are serious, but you'd never guess it if you saw us out on the trail having fun. Here are a few of the amusing anecdotes reported by some of our Nature Guides.

### what a wonderful world

"A group from an Oakland school arrived. Initially I could tell they had not explored in the woods before and they seemed nervous about everything, especially predators i.e. tigers and lions. After some adjustment and environmental education they became totally enthralled and began singing Louis Armstrong's song *What a Wonderful World*—"I see trees of green..." etc. They must have learned it at school and they knew all the lyrics. They held hands and skipped as if acting out how delighted they were to be under the canopy of the towering Redwoods. Really, it was SO moving." ~Deb

### making a connection

"A Ring Mountain Nature Guide recalls a day that a sulky student was playing with a jackknife and not enthusiastic about continuing up the trail. After the Guide told him she would keep the knife for him until the end of the field trip, he gave it to her but promptly sat down on a big rock and refused to move. The Guide noticed that the rock was covered with many colors of lichen and immediately praised him for 'finding' such an array of lichens. As the other students gathered around, the Nature Guide continued to discuss the lichens and wildlife around the rock continually thanking the student for showing them the rock. Then she invited him to the front of the line to help her find more things. Enjoying his newfound star status he happily found more things along the trail to show to his classmates. As the trip concluded, he asked his Guide how she had learned so much about nature and took her address so he could write to her with his nature questions. These kinds of face-to-face connections with knowledgeable, passionate Nature Guides help young people fall in love with nature themselves." ~Cynda

### a new definition of ecology?

"A lively group of first graders loved Muir Woods. So at the end of the hike, I dared to ask who knew what ecology was. Everyone raised their hands and had an answer. And the best answer was a young boy who said 'that is when all the animals in the forest come together to have a big party!'" ~Chloe



Pamela Bochte Westfall



Tory Davis



Anita Bock



Tory Davis



# wildlife camp

Does your inquisitive child love animals? Wildlife Camp at WildCare is a fun way to stimulate learning about wild animals and instill a life-long respect for nature. Weekly camp programs are designed to captivate, engage and challenge young people, building environmental knowledge and values.

- watch the pelicans eat their breakfast
- visit with our live non-releasable animal ambassadors
- prepare a meal for our Desert Tortoise
- search for wild animal tracks out on the trail
- play wildlife-themed games
- create nature crafts

🌱 🐾 It's a camp experience that is sure to leave a lasting impression! 🐾 🌱

**Here are some of our favorite comments from Summer Camp 2019:**

*"You got my son to hike and care about animals! Thank you!"*

*"My daughter always enjoys this camp!"*

*"My son had a fantastic time [at camp] and definitely learned some facts about animals and rescue that he has shared with us. We look forward to attending in the future!!"*

*"Great camp for children who love animals. The animals were a highlight each day!"*

*"Thank you for the excellent week my son had at WildCare camp. He came home each day raving about how much fun he had and what he learned. He truly loves animals so this was an amazing experience for him. And what beautiful arts and crafts!"*

**Scholarships are available!** Applications are accepted after registration opens.

**Winter Camp 2020  
Winter Wildlife**

December 30, 2019  
thru January 3, 2020  
9am - 3pm  
Grades K - 3

Registration opens October 14, 2019

**Spring Camp 2020  
Wild About Wildlife**

April 6 - 10, 2020  
9am - 3pm  
Grades K - 3  
Registration opens  
January 20, 2020

**Summer Camp 2020**  
Dates, themes & grade ranges to be announced

[discoverwildcare.org/camps](http://discoverwildcare.org/camps)  
Early registration for  
WildCare Members February 5, 2020  
Open registration February 12, 2020





# our patients need your ride!

Your old car could give them a second chance at life in the wild.

Donate a vehicle to WildCare and help injured and orphaned wild animals in need.



It's fast, easy and **FREE!**

- 🐾 Tax-deductible
- 🐾 Free towing
- 🐾 Any vehicle, any condition

Call 855-500-RIDE (855-500-7433) or visit [discoverwildcare.org/auto](http://discoverwildcare.org/auto) to donate a car (or truck, motorcycle or boat) today!

Become a WildCare First Responder and join our team of committed monthly donors!

Thanks to our First Responders, donors who give monthly to WildCare, we are prepared to act immediately and provide care for every single animal that comes to WildCare's Wildlife Hospital.

Making a regular monthly donation is also the easiest and most efficient way to support WildCare. Your contribution of any amount is securely deducted each month, which saves on administrative costs and directs more of each dollar to saving wildlife.

Learn more and sign up at [discoverwildcare.org/firstresponders](http://discoverwildcare.org/firstresponders).

wildcare  
FIRST RESPONDERS



Are you ready to go above and beyond to rescue wildlife?

GIVE MONTHLY  
[discoverwildcare.org/firstresponders](http://discoverwildcare.org/firstresponders)



# 2019 photo contest winners

## Focus on our local wildlife!

WildCare's 13th annual Living with Wildlife Photography Contest brought us over 200 entries from all over California, offering singular glimpses of the wide diversity of California wildlife and the stunning places they call home.

We extend special thanks to our hard-working judges: Randall Bryett, Mary D'Agostino, Evan Jane Kriss, Melanie Piazza and Kate Van Gytenbeek.

The top photographs in each category are shown here, and online at:

[discoverwildcare.org/photo](https://discoverwildcare.org/photo)

best in show: **Whale and San Francisco Skyline**  
photo by Susie Kelly



people's choice award and best living with wildlife: **Squirrel and Pigeon**  
photo by Susie Kelly



best junior photographer: **Elephant Seal**  
photo by Mystic Lujan, age 10



best general nature: **Tsunami**  
photo by Nick Fain



best california wild birds in their natural setting:  
**Burrowing Owl in Flight at Sunset**, photo by Melissa Usrey



best california wild animals (other) in their natural settings: **Muddy River Otters**  
photo by Rick Lewis

# finalists

## animals (other)



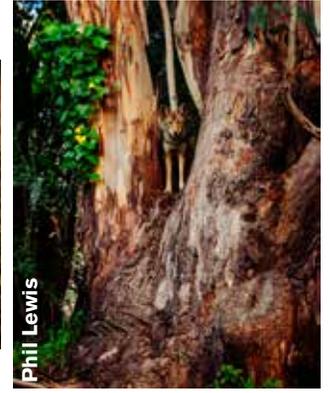
Linda Campbell



Robert Hughes



Susie Kelly



Phil Lewis

## living with wildlife



Janet Kessler



Sheri Hartstein



Linda Campbell



F. Sowa-Dobkowski

## general nature



Marie Susa



Mason Field



Martha Ture



Laura Milholland

## birds



Richard Cronberg



Marie Susa



Rick Lewis



Nick Fain

# volunteer spotlight: annika essig



Alison Hermance

**A**nnika Essig is the recipient of the **2019 Shirley Gans Young Adult Volunteer Award!**

Annika has been a volunteer at WildCare for four years after starting at age 12—the earliest

possible age to work in the Wildlife Hospital. Annika volunteers on the Wildlife Ambassador Team which provides care and enrichment for the nonreleaseable animals who live at WildCare permanently.

From day one, Annika stood out as a consistent, reliable, young adult. She is kind and helpful and full of information about wildlife which she happily shares with visitors. She demonstrates the desire and commitment to being a lifelong advocate for wildlife and the care of animals, and is quick to share her knowledge of how to live well with wildlife with the public and her peers. She plans to make helping and working with animals a defining part of her life—Annika truly embodies WildCare’s mission and goals.

All of the Shirley Gans Young Adult Volunteer Award nominees are outstanding young adults and, while all of the nominations submitted were very compelling, Annika’s nomination stood out. She is an exceptional volunteer!

One of her nominators wrote, “When I think about the work we do, I feel excited and hopeful about the future. Perhaps with young adults like these nominees—people with vision, talent and self-actualized dreams—Mother Nature will stand a chance. Our planet will be healed, one animal at a time.”

Congratulations and thank you, Annika!

Make your pledge today  
to protect wildlife tomorrow.

Please include WildCare in your will.

[discoverwildcare.org/tomorrowfund](http://discoverwildcare.org/tomorrowfund)





Susie Kelly

# volunteering in the wildlife hospital!

2020 orientations for wildlife hospital volunteers (ages 15 & over)

WildCare's success is only possible because of over 300 incredibly dedicated people who generously donate their time—our volunteers! Our Wildlife Hospital is 95% volunteer-driven, and the over 3,500 wildlife patients we treat every year depend on the volunteers for their care. Have you always wanted to see what happens in WildCare's Wildlife Hospital? Would you like to help save the lives of wild animals? This is your chance!

## 10 ml lrs sq bid

If that heading looks incomprehensible to you, you're not alone. Volunteers in WildCare's Wildlife Hospital see notations like this on patients' medical charts every day. With nearly 200 different species of wild animals in our care, learning medical terminology like this and myriad other details of the care, feeding and treatment for our patients can be a real challenge!

## training

WildCare provides the required training for all hospital volunteers. Incoming volunteers learn species identification, proper handling, hygiene and safety precautions, physical therapy regimens and feeding techniques. Using multiple diagnostic methods such as radiographs (x-rays) and blood work, hospital staff and volunteers work together to accommodate each patient's feeding, cleaning and medication requirements. And "10 ml LRS SQ BID?" After attending the training you'll know that means the animal you're caring for is getting "10 milliliters of subcutaneous fluids, twice a day." Imagine all the new things you can learn!

## commitment

After completing their training, volunteers in WildCare's Wildlife Hospital commit to one regularly-scheduled four-hour shift per week from April through November at a minimum. We ask volunteers to commit to attending their scheduled shift every week, as missing a scheduled shift impacts our patients' lives and our ability to provide the best care for them.



## Space is limited!

Come to one of our once-a-year **New Volunteer Orientations** on February 29 or March 1, 2020, 12:45pm – 5:00pm to determine if volunteering in WildCare's Wildlife Hospital is for you!

**To sign up and to find out more, visit [discoverwildcare.org/volunteer](https://discoverwildcare.org/volunteer) or contact [volunteer@discoverwildcare.org](mailto:volunteer@discoverwildcare.org) or 415-453-1000 x21.**

# hungry owl project volunteer, tom crouse

**H**ungry Owl Project gets hundreds of owl box requests from around the country every month. Having this level of demand—which is a good problem to have—means that building boxes is where we need to grow the program. We’re working on a number of innovative partnerships to produce enough owl boxes to meet the growing interest in helping owls find suitable nesting places, and have a lot of promising leads.

One of the partnerships we’re working on building is with local woodworkers who are interested in donating their time and abilities to help owls. One of the first people to participate is Tom Crouse, a current WildCare volunteer and woodworker.

For most of Tom’s career he was a chemical engineer, which meant he and his family moved around the country regularly. When he moved back to the Bay Area he sold real estate in Marin County for 10 years, after which he retired and began volunteering at WildCare.

Tom’s interest in woodworking traces back to his father, who was always in the woodshop working on one project or another. Tom acquired a lot of tools from his father and grandfather over the years, and he has a strong skill set that he puts to work for wildlife in the woodshop in his garage.

“Owl boxes are fun because I believe in the cause. Owls are magnificent animals and worth all we can do to increase their numbers. Plus, I find building in the garage very therapeutic. I’m always building something—I might as well make something useful,” Tom says about his volunteer work with Hungry Owl Project.



Tom generously donates his time and woodworking materials to support our work to help owls. Without volunteers like Tom we couldn’t continue to meet the growing demand for owl boxes. We’re so thankful to Tom and all of WildCare’s volunteers who contribute their time, energy, and financial support toward making the world a better place for wildlife.

Think you could build a box a week? A box every other week? One per month?

If you’re interested in building owl boxes as a part of your ongoing commitment to WildCare, please visit the Volunteer section of our website at [discoverwildcare.org/volunteer](https://discoverwildcare.org/volunteer) and apply to become a support volunteer. We’re looking for someone who can commit to a regular production schedule and can discuss details about your time commitment and projects to match your skill level.



If you LOVE owls, support

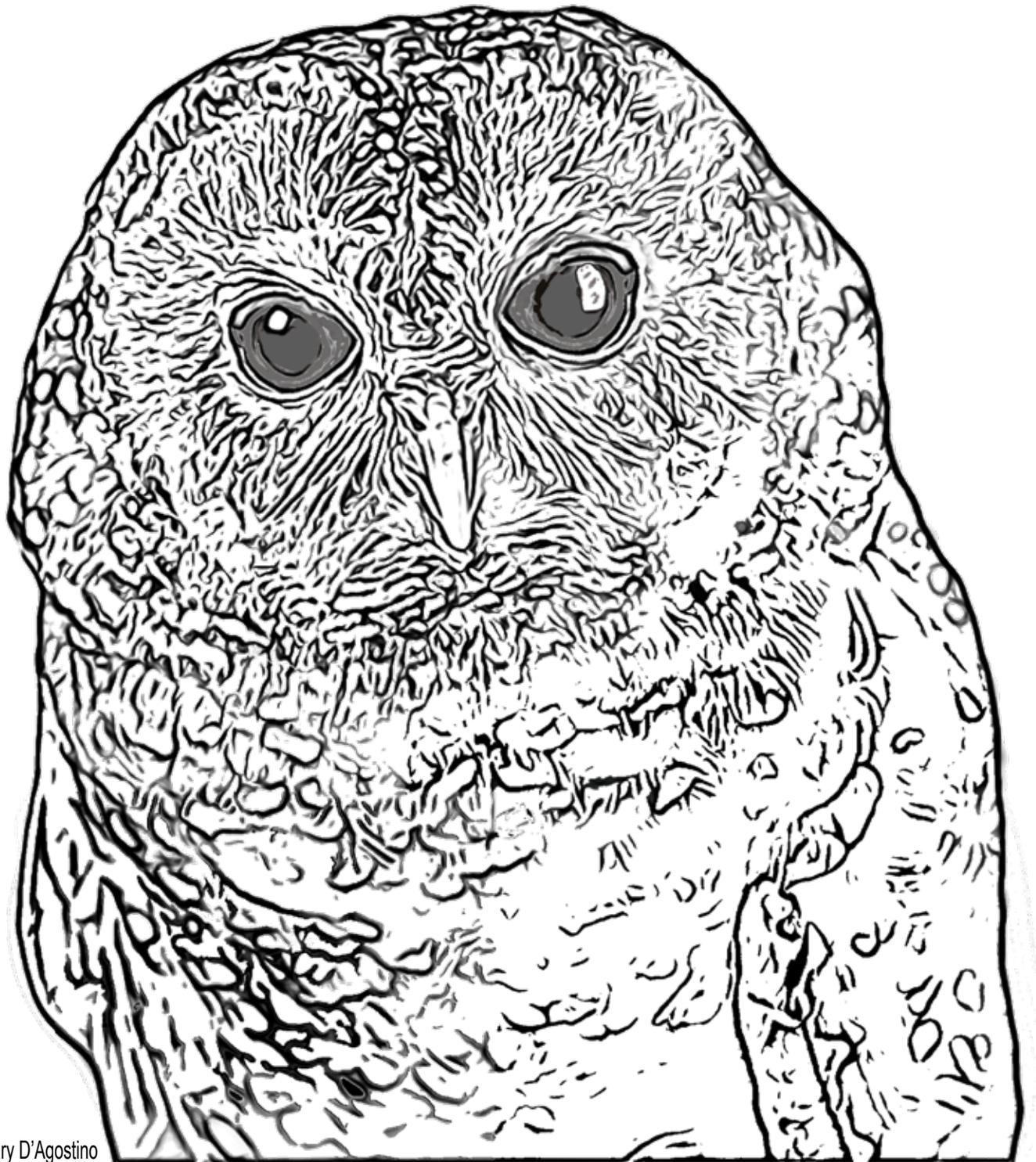
## Hungry Owl Project!

**NEW MONTHLY DONOR EXCLUSIVE!**

Set up a recurring monthly donation of \$30 or more and receive your choice of a bronze or sterling silver Barn Owl pendant.

**Learn more: [hungryowls.org/monthly](https://hungryowls.org/monthly)**

(not) just for kids  
**coloring page**



© Mary D'Agostino

## **Color WildCare's Wildlife Ambassador Northern Spotted Owl, Sequoia!**

Taken from the beautiful photo by Mary D'Agostino on the front cover, this coloring page can be as easy or as complicated as you would like.

Sequoia came to WildCare when she fell from her nest as a baby. In the fall, she injured her wing, rendering her able to fly, but not able to fly silently. Sequoia wouldn't survive in the wild, so she lives at WildCare full time and serves as an ambassador for her species, and for owls everywhere.



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