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Rescue Report

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Have a great story to tell and pictures to share? Send articles, digital pictures, announcements, etc. to: WRLeditor@comcast.net

JUNE MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Many thanks go out to Patti, who provided a two-hour hotline training program! It was an excellent presentation and provided a wealth of information. At the end of the presentation we had several people sign up to be hotline volunteers.

FACEBOOK

Did you know that we have a Facebook page? In the past three months, we have added 40 “Likes” to our page. We are doing daily posts with valuable information, so drop on by and check us out. “Like” us at <https://www.facebook.com/pages/WildlifeRescue-League/91079493481>.

REHABBERS

Be sure to check out a new feed store—Craig’s Feed & Seed—now open on Tyco Road, near Tysons Corner.

The owner, Craig Mattingly, a former turtle rehabilitator, would like to help active rehabilitators fulfill their special needs. He is offering to sell supplies for 10% over his cost. For this price he asks that you show your Wildlife Rehabilitator permit and pay with cash or by check.

Craig’s Feed & Seed, 8501-3c Tyco Road, Vienna, VA 22182
 (703) 893-1182

Directions: From Route 7, Craig’s Feed & Seed is in the middle of the first row of buildings on the right. Look for the blue oval over the door. This is NOT the old Booth location.

NOMINATIONS for the 2013-2014

WRL Board of Directors

We are soliciting candidates for the offices of president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, and members at large to be elected at our Winter Membership Meeting on Saturday, December 1. We need volunteers who understand the challenges of dealing with wildlife preservation in our region and are committed to making a difference. Candidates must be members of WRL. Experience with wildlife rehabilitation or caregiving is preferred, but not required.

Nominations must be received by September 15. If you are interested, or want more information, contact the WRL Nominations Committee: Pam Fulmer (703) 464-0590, pammyjam@gmail.com; or Bill Hicks (540) 347-7915, wrl-newseditor@comcast.net.

THANK YOU!

Nan and I are grateful to those kind souls who donated fabric for squirrel hammocks at the June 2 WRL meeting. Extra praise to Lucinda, who made the drive to our Springfield home to deliver the material, and to the great rehabbers whose squirrels use the hammocks. —*Nan and Ed Beaver*

In Memoriam

WRL is deeply saddened to announce the passing of Gretl Learned, owner of the Fern Wildlife Refuge in Winchester. She was an avian and small reptile rehabilitator who willingly passed on her knowledge to others through instructional classes. She will be greatly missed.

NATURE NOTES: RACCOONS!

By Jerry Blondell

Raccoons (*Procyon lotor*) are instantly recognizable animals. Their faces sport a black mask outlined in white, and they have a bushy tail with five to seven alternating dark rings. They are native to North and Central Americas and are nocturnal, except when breeding and caring for young.



The name raccoon is derived from the Algonquin Indian tribe and translates to mean “he scratches with his hands.” Baby raccoons are placed in a plastic case to get ready for feeding time.



They usually den in hollow trees, culverts, caves, rock clefts, or woodchuck dens. In the East, adult raccoons typically weigh 10 to 30 pounds and are 28 to 33 inches in total length. Raccoons breed in late winter or early spring, and the male does not remain with the female after breeding. Gestation averages 64 days. Babies are born in April or May, and litters usually range from two to five babies.

Baby raccoons come into the world with their eyes closed and usually weigh two to five ounces and are eight to nine inches long. Their eyes open after about 23 days and they remain in the den, where they clamber about for the first seven to eight weeks. The mother carries them by the nape of the neck like kittens during this time.



They crawl in a spider-like way (legs extended) starting at one-week old. Their muscles are not yet developed, but they are determined to try them out and move all over and on top of each other. By the time they are five to six weeks old, most baby raccoons can walk, run, and climb very well.

Seven-week-old cubs will engage in active (and sometimes rough) fighting. At about eight or nine weeks of age, they begin eating solid foods in the wild and start traveling with their mother. Typically cubs are weaned by 16 weeks of age.

Raccoons react to threats by growling, lowering their heads, and baring their teeth. Their 40 needle-like teeth include four canines and 12 incisors. Other vocalizations include purrs, whines, whimpers, snarls, hisses, and screams.

Raccoons make a distinct “churr” sound that has many modulations with many meanings. Mothers make this sound when looking for young, or to keep them close when feeding. Young make the churr sound when warm and contented.

They do not hibernate, but during cold spells (below 28 degrees Fahrenheit) raccoons may sleep for several days. Six or more inches of snow also will keep them in their dens. Raccoons are omnivores and favor fruits, nuts, berries, crickets, grasshoppers, voles, mice, bird’s eggs, crayfish, frogs, worms, and fish. With their nimble fingers, they can easily turn door knobs, open refrigerators and trash cans, and get into other mischief.



Raccoons have 10 times more nerve endings in their front paws than humans have in their hands or in their retinas. That’s why raccoons can “see” with their paws. Renowned for appearing to wash their food, instead raccoons examine their food closely by touch while holding it underwater. They are one of the few mammals that can descend vertical tree trunks head-first. They are also strong swimmers. Like other highly intelligent animals, raccoons are curious and love to play when young. They especially enjoy shiny objects and plastic colorful balls that roll and make a noise as they bounce.

They can live up to 16 years in the wild, but most die before reaching 5 years of age. Studies have shown that the greatest mortality occurs during a raccoon’s second year of life. Principal causes of mortality are hunting, trapping, automobiles, and dogs.

If you’re aware of a nuisance raccoon, or come upon one who is injured or orphaned, call the Wildlife Rescue Hotline (703-440-0800). A volunteer can advise you.





Wildlife 911

**An introductory course in wildlife rehabilitation and first response for sick, injured,
and orphaned wildlife**

Sponsored by

City Wildlife

Wildlife Rescue League of Virginia

Maryland Wildlife Rehabilitators Association

September 15, 22, and 29

10 a.m. – 12 noon

at

The Smithsonian Museum of Natural History

Have you ever felt powerless when you've found a wild animal in distress? Would you like to be able to help sick, injured, and orphaned wildlife in the National Capital Region? If so, then come and learn how to be a first responder to emergencies involving native wildlife.

Wildlife 911 is open to anyone interested in rehabilitation, or in volunteering for any of our area's rehabilitators or emergency hotlines. The course will emphasize training for first responders and hotline call-takers (those at the critical first line of defense for animals in need). In this series of three, two-hour sessions, experienced rehabilitators will discuss common wildlife species and the problems they encounter in our urban environments; how to respond to calls from the public who have found injured or orphaned wild animals, how to determine whether the animal needs help; first response techniques in capturing and handling animals; basic critical care of injured wildlife; orphans and how to manage them.

The course is recommended for anyone who is thinking about helping with wildlife rehabilitation or emergency hotline, and volunteer opportunities will be discussed during the course. Wildlife 911 will be participatory and informal, and there will be ample time for discussion and questions. A certificate of completion will be given to participants who attend all three sessions of the course.

Speakers will include:

Kathleen Handley, wildlife rehabilitator (Second Chance Wildlife Center, Gaithersburg, MD, www.scwc.org)

Patti Hoffman, hotline coordinator (Wildlife Rescue League, Northern Virginia, www.wildliferescueleague.org)

Rebecca Cardozo, former dispatcher at D.C. Animal Control (Washington)

Dr. Patrice Klein, DVM, wildlife veterinarian (Second Chance Wildlife Center, Gaithersburg MD, www.scwc.org)

Lee Prouty, wildlife rehabilitator and waterfowl specialist (Rockville, MD)

Suzanne Shoemaker, raptor rehabilitator (Owl Moon Raptor Center, Boyds, MD, www.owlmoon.org)

The course is free, so register now by contacting info@citywildlife.org, or by calling (202) 965-1947. If you have questions, please call City Wildlife at (202) 965-1947. We look forward to welcoming you to the world of wildlife rehabilitation.



NEXT MEETING!

September 8

Hunter Mill North County Government Center

(Not the Reston Community Center)

12000 Bowman Towne Drive

Reston, VA

11 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Speaker: Anthony Bulmer, Naturalist with Fairfax County

Topic: Reptiles in Your Yard? How They Benefit You and How to Deal With Them

Come hear what Fairfax Naturalist Anthony Bulmer has to say about reptiles and amphibians, their importance in our ecosystem, and how to handle encounters with them. Anthony will be bringing some live native snakes, and maybe a frog or two. You don't want to miss this! One-hour CEU credit will be awarded.

DECEMBER MEETING

December 1, 2012

George Mason Government Center

Large Conference Room

6507 Columbia Pike

Annandale, VA

We would like to convert most of our communications to digital format. So that we can stay in touch with you, would you please send us your e-mail address if we do not already have it.

By communicating by e-mail, we can save paper and the cost of printing and mailing, which averages around \$400 for each newsletter. Please email your e-mail address to WRLEditor@wildliferescue.org.

YES! I want to be a WRL member and help save Virginia's native wildlife!

Membership benefits include:

Rescue Report, volunteer opportunities, meetings, classes, and much more.
Sign up online at <http://wildliferescueleague.org/paypal.html>; call (703) 391-8625;
email wrl@wildliferescue.org, or mail this form with your check to:
Wildlife Rescue League, P.O. Box 704, Falls Church, VA., 22040

NAME: _____
ADDRESS: _____
CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____
PHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____

Individual (1 yr) - \$25--Family (1 yr) - \$35--Organization (1 yr) \$35--Rehabber - Free*
Individual (2 yr) - \$40--Family (2 yr) - \$60--Organization (2 yr) - \$60--Rehabber - Free*
* With proof of current permit
Donor Member - \$100

I have also enclosed an additional donation in the amount of \$ _____

WRL LEADERSHIP DIRECTORY

2012 Board of Directors

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Vice President: Beth Axelrod
Treasurer: Don Fowler
Secretary: Maryann Stanners
Member at Large: Patti Hoffman

2012 Committees

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Public Education: *Available*
Public Relations: Kimberley Sisco
Rehabilitator Education: *Available*
Volunteer Coordinator: *Available*
Hotline Coordinator: Patti Hoffman
Hotline Training: *Available*
Hotline Scheduler: Wendy Bader
Hotline Online Rehab List: Ali Drew
Hotline Transport Coordinators:
Lucy Wiggins and Gary Reals
Membership and Data Mgr: Doug Brown

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Mealworms Buyer: Yvonne Young
Supply Depots: Amo Merritt, Nora Missell,
Erika Yery
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Information Mail-Outs: Cathy Epatko
Website Technical Help: K. Sridhar
Constant Contact Managers: Steve Nunes

Rescue Report Editor and Distribution: Bill Hicks

To contact WRL Board and Committee Members,
or to apply for the available positions, please email
WRL@wildliferescueleague.org, or call the
Administration line at (703) 391-8625

www.wildliferescueleague.org
WRL HOTLINE: (703) 440-0800



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