



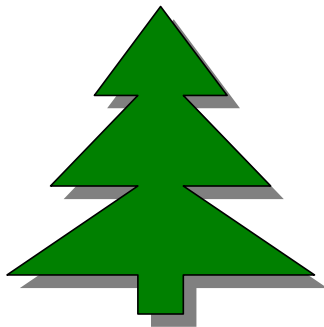
# Rescue Report

Newsletter for the Wildlife Rescue League

Volume 28, No 3 Summer 2009

## It's awards nomination time!!!

Call for nominations for recognition awards to be presented at December 6th Membership Meeting. Nominations should be sent to WRL's President by October 31<sup>st</sup>. Please send a brief statement of why the person is being nominated to James Pettinelli at [jamespettinelli@yahoo.com](mailto:jamespettinelli@yahoo.com).



Save trees! Get your newsletter fast! Receive your newsletter electronically to help WRL save resources. Just send an email to [WRL@wildliferescueleague.org](mailto:WRL@wildliferescueleague.org).

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## 2009 Wildlife Rescue League Meetings

Make Sure Not to Miss!

**Saturday, September 12, 2009 - 11:00 am - 1:00 pm**

Reston Government Center  
12000 Bowman Towne Drive  
Reston, VA 20190

**Saturday, December 5, 2009 - 11:00 am - 1:00 pm**

Mason District Governmental Center  
6507 Columbia Pike  
Annandale, VA 22003

### September Speaker:

#### Victoria Monroe

Victoria Monroe of Fairfax County's Wildlife Management program will discuss the development of the program along with recent changes. She has designed a new website, expected to launch in September, which will serve as a resource for wildlife appreciation and public education.

**HOTLINE VOLUNTEERS** – Please note that there is now a new hotline sheet (version 1.3)

### **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR FOLLOWING POSITIONS:**

Hotline Coordinator  
Transport Coordinator  
Public Relations Support  
Fundraising Coordinator  
Internal Relations Facilitator  
&  
Hotline Workers  
Transporters

## **Rescue Report**

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WILDLIFE RESCUE LEAGUE

**Wildlife Hotline: (703) 440-0800**

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### **Rescue Report Article & Photo Deadlines**

<b>Issue:</b>	<b>Deadline:</b>
<b>Fall 2009</b>	09/30/2009
<b>Winter 2010</b>	12/30/2009
<b>Spring 2010</b>	03/30/2010
<b>Summer 2010</b>	06/30/ 2010

WRL Members:

It has been an exciting and very busy summer. We've had many calls, given lots of advice, and have assisted with numerous rescues.

As interaction between people and wildlife grows in the D.C. Metro area, so too will the demand for our services. I would like to thank our members, volunteers, rehabbers, and other supporters who help us take on the difficult (but worthwhile) task of wildlife rescue.

**NEWS FLASH:** If you check out our homepage ([www.wildliferescueleague.org](http://www.wildliferescueleague.org)) you'll notice that we've added an "Animal Help Tips" link, which means that concerned citizens can now look up common wildlife issues and find solutions to them right there on our site! We hope this resource will speed the process of aid and ultimately benefit many wild animals. Although this new service is an exciting addition to WRL, I am proud to say that our hotline—that for years has been our lifeline to wildlife situations in the surrounding communities—will continue to be our primary source of assistance.

As you may have noticed, WRL is expanding further into the digital realm. In line with this change, we intend to use Constant Contact (our new e-mail service provider) to keep our supporters up to date on the most recent wildlife developments. As President of WRL, I hear many great stories and see stacks of wonderful wildlife pictures; WRL would really like to share those and Constant Contact will help us do that. We hope you enjoy it!

Thanks everyone for making this a great and productive Summer!

Sincerely,  
James Pettinelli  
WRL President

## Unusual Summer Vacation

Catching bats to help multiple agencies

By Shannon Pederson

While some peoples' idea of vacation involves packing a bathing suit for travel to a beach, mine involved checking my pre-exposure rabies vaccine titers for travel to the swamps in Southeast Missouri to catch bats. Not your idea of fun? Well, to a biologist it doesn't get much better than this. Staying up late recording data from 100+ bats and getting the chance to handle endangered species at night can be very rewarding!

You may be wondering why your newsletter editor would do such a thing. Well, I volunteer three nights out of the year to participate in Bat Blitz, hosted by the Southeastern Bat Diversity Network. Now you are wondering what exactly is Bat Blitz. Bat Blitz is a program that brings together 60+ biologists and land managers to gather important information on bats in a specific area that rotates each year. This year, we caught bats on national wildlife refuge, national forest, Army Corps of Engineers, and conservation area lands in southeastern Missouri. Using mist nets, we caught the following species: Indiana, gray, evening, big brown, red, seminole, Rafinesque's big-eared, southeastern, northern myotis (longear), tri-colored bat, and hoary.



Northern myotis being evaluated before release.  
Photo credit: Shannon Pederson

The data that we gather helps local agencies learn the inventory of bats on their lands. The data collectively gained by all the volunteers is more than an agency could obtain on their own in months to years of time. In turn, the agencies help sponsor the cost for the volunteers to stay and gather data. The following agencies deserve a big thanks for supporting 2009 Bat Blitz:

- US Forest Service, Mark Twain National Forest
- US Forest Service, Northern Research Station
- US Army Corps of Engineers, Lake Wappapello Project Office
- USFWS, Mingo National Wildlife Refuge
- Missouri Department of Transportation
- University of Missouri, University Forest Environmental Education Center



Wildlife students setting up poles and nets for catching bats. Photo credit: Shannon Pederson

## Memorable Hotline Calls

### Opposum Rescue

By Grace Holden

Last spring, I responded to a call from an elderly woman who had a mother opossum in her garbage bin. While the solution was simple, communicating it proved to be quite difficult. The kindly woman could not understand me and would reply with answers unrelated to my questions. Luckily, she lived not too far away, so I finally said into the phone, "I'LL BE RIGHT OVER!!"

She met me at the door, saying that it was nice of me to work on Sunday--although it was a Wednesday ☺. We walked to the side of the house, and there, deep in the bottom of the garbage bin, was the mother opossum with her babies attached. I gently tipped it on its side and told the woman I would return the next day. When I did, sure enough, the mother and her load of babies had left. I righted the bin, and left the woman a note letting her know that all was well and thanked her for caring about the opossum.

### Community Assists in Iguana Rescue

By Grace Holden

In October of 2006, a manager of a senior apartment complex called the hotline to ask for help with an iguana that had been on the side of the building for two days. Because it was on the second floor and hard to reach, the manager had not been able to find anyone to help. I made a number of calls, but was also having difficulty finding anyone to rescue the poor creature. Some people offered potentially useful suggestions, such as posting a flyer to see if anyone had lost their pet iguana. I continued making calls the following day and finally ended up calling Jessie for suggestions. She called Kimberley Sisco, who, along with a friend, arranged to go over to the apartments with a ladder. The chilled and exhausted iguana was scooped up in a blanket and brought to the Eastern Exotic Veterinary Center department of Pender Veterinary Centre. Attendants there explained it would likely not have survived without help. Once stabilized, the iguana was brought to a rehabber, who was then able to find a good home for him!

# Memorables

### Bird Concern X

By Johanne Whalon



The Hotline received a call from "Kathy" at 8:49 a.m. on Sunday, May 24. Kathy reported that her cat had alerted her to a bird on the ground in front of her apartment building from her balcony above. She observed that the adult bird was motionless and was concerned for its safety. However, because of her fear of birds, Kathy hesitated to approach it for closer examination. Dave Janiga, a volunteer with WRL who had taken the initial call, advised Kathy to throw some pebbles near the bird to encourage it to move, but Kathy was afraid she would hurt the bird. Kathy instead awakened her husband, who got out of bed and approached it. However, the bird still did not move! Dave then suggested that her husband use a broom to reach out to the bird, but Kathy said her husband had gone back to bed. She then decided to get a neighbor to help her. Together, Kathy and her neighbor hesitantly approached the bird and courageously threw some pebbles at it. To their surprise, they bounced harmlessly off the "bird". Kathy was embarrassed and apologized for having wasted our time to rescue a plastic *lawn ornament!*

### Bird Rescue

By Jerry Blondell

At 4:42p.m. on June 2nd, a very concerned woman from McLean called the Hotline to say that a wild bird was attacking her repeatedly whenever she was near her garage. She said that she had two small children and feared the bird had rabies!

When I called back just a few minutes later, amazingly the panicked woman had captured the poor bird in a trash can with holes and wanted to know where it could be taken. I immediately asked if the bird was gray, light colored underneath, had white splotches on the wings, and about the size of a robin. Yes she replied. I explained that birds never carry rabies, but mockingbirds have an incredible parental instinct - as high as her own in fact - and was just protecting its nest.

(continued on page 5)

(continued from page 4)

I told her of a similar call I received just two years and 10 days prior to hers from a family that had returned home to find that their mailbox had a nest in it. The mockingbirds were unwilling to share it with the mail and attacked anyone who approached the mailbox. They made temporary arrangements with the mail delivery person to get their mail delivered elsewhere for the duration of the nesting period - incubation lasting 12-13 days and 10-13 days until fledge. After the young had left they would need to block off the nest area because mockingbirds can have 1-3 broods in a season. Then I shared the latest research from the Proceeding of the National Academy of Sciences, published just two weeks earlier and reported by the Associated Press (5/18/09):

The study involved 10 people who varied in age, sex and amount of hair and facial hair, and dressed differently on different days, Levey [Prof. of Zoology, Univ. of FL] said. The individuals approached a total of 24 mockingbird nests. They would approach the nests from different directions and at various times of day.

For four days the same student would approach and touch a nest, and then leave. The birds began reacting to them in advance starting on day three \_ fleeing the nest, sounding alarms and dive bombing the researchers.

"You may be walking by a bird and think it's just minding its own business. But if there is a nest nearby, you are its business," Levey said.

The researchers were surprised that the response was as rapid and dramatic as it was, Levey said.

It might have been expected from crows, ravens and parrots \_ birds known to be highly intelligent \_ but not from songbirds living in a natural setting, he said.

When, on the fifth day, a different student would approach the mockingbird nest, the birds didn't respond in advance.

And even on the days when they were attacking a person they perceived as a threat, the birds ignored dozens of other passers-by.

I sent her a link to the story which showed a photo of a mockingbird attacking a woman's head and grabbing her hair with its feet:

<http://blogs.discovermagazine.com/80beats/2009/05/19/mockingbird-to-annoying-human-hey-i-know-you/>

The woman emailed me back less than an hour after she had called our hotline and said, "Jerry, fascinating. Thanks for the information and the reassurance that it will go away if we tolerate it for a few weeks!"

Wildlife Rescue League would like to welcome its newest hotline volunteers:

*Antonia Alba*

*Jessica Arconti*

*Niki Crawford*

*Bruce Garfinkel*

*Kim Pettinelli*

*Chris Sakach*

*Kathleen Werkheiser*



Eastern newt seen at Mountain Lake Biological Station near Blacksburg, VA. Photo credit: Shannon Pederson

## **WRL Leadership Directory**

### **Board of Directors 2009-2010**

**PRESIDENT:** James Pettinelli

**VICE-PRESIDENT:** Pam Fulmer

**SECRETARY:** Grace Holden

**TREASURER:** Kelly Eigler

**MEMBERS AT LARGE:** Jennifer Legasca, Kimberley Sisco, Lauren Melichar

### **Committees 2009-2010**

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**PUBLIC EDUCATION:** Linda Jasper

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**MEDICINES BUYER:** Erika Yery

**MEALWORMS BUYER:** Yvonne Young

**SUPPLY DEPOTS:** Amo Merritt, Nora Missell, Erika Yery

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**WEBMASTER:** Harry Williams

**HOTLINE TRAINING COORDINATOR:** Jackie Pettinelli

**STATISTICS MANAGER:** Jerry Blondell

**CONSTANT CONTACT DATABASE MANAGER:** Steve Nunes

**WEB SITE DESIGNER:** Michael Ridley

**ADMINISTRATIVE EMAIL RECEPTION:** Antonia Alba

*Rescue Report* Newsletter

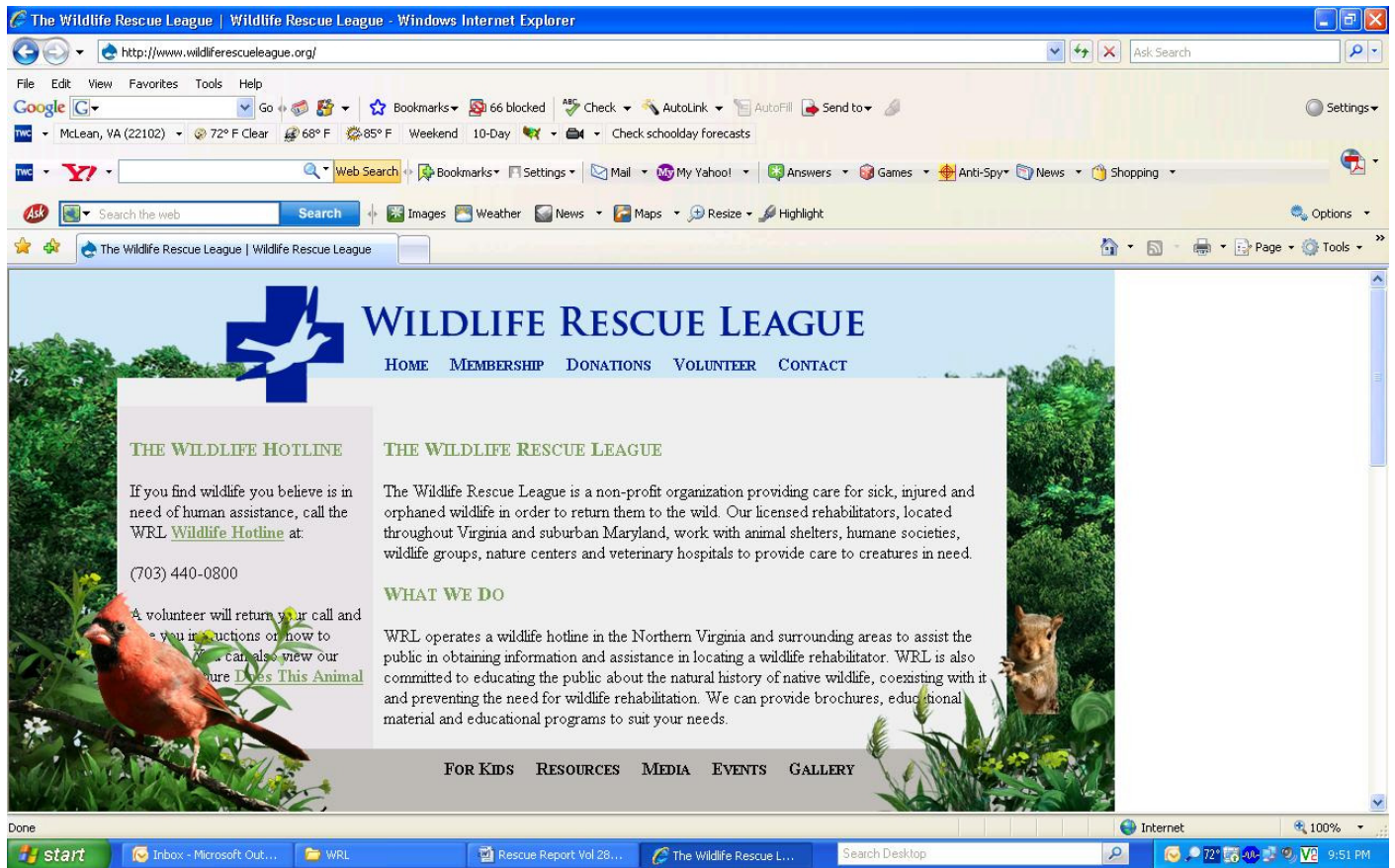
**EDITOR:** Shannon Pederson

**TEXT EDITOR:** Kathleen O'Connor

**DISTRIBUTION:** Nancy O'Malley

To contact WRL Board and Committee Members,  
please email to [WRL@wildliferescueleague.org](mailto:WRL@wildliferescueleague.org) or call our  
administration line at (703)391-8625.

## Check out our newly remodeled website!!! [www.wildliferescueleague.org](http://www.wildliferescueleague.org)



## Wildlife Rehabilitation Classes

### Danville Science Center – October 3, 2009

#### *Introduction to Wildlife Rehabilitation: 10am-12pm*

Interested in helping wildlife, but not sure where to start? Join the Wildlife Center of Virginia for an introduction to ways in which you can help Virginia's wild animals. Learn new ways to co-exist with your wild neighbors, how to determine if a baby animal is really an orphan, and what to do if an animal is injured. You'll also find out where to get the right wildlife advice and come to understand wildlife laws. Discover ways to get involved, including how to become a permitted wildlife rehabilitator.

#### *Introduction to Raising Orphaned Mammals: 1pm-4pm*

This basic beginner's course on raising orphaned mammals focuses on the rehabilitation of orphaned Eastern gray squirrels, Southern flying squirrels, Virginia opossums, and Eastern cottontails. Natural history, general care, proper nutrition, diet and feeding, housing, release criteria, and problems and solutions are all covered. Class is designed for those who are going through the rehabilitation permitting process or the new rehabilitator.

To register, please call 540-942-9453 or email your name, address, and classes of interest to [outreach@wildlifecenter.org](mailto:outreach@wildlifecenter.org). Once received, the outreach coordinator will email a confirmation letter with directions as well as payment instructions. **In order to guarantee your place in a class, pre-payment is required.** Walk-ins are welcome, but are not guaranteed class manuals or certificates of attendance. Refunds are given if written requests are received five days or more prior to classes. No refunds will be given for cancellations made after the deadline or for no shows.



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Falls Church, VA 22040  
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## Upcoming Events:

**Saturday, September 12, 2009 - 11:00 am - 1:00 pm**  
**Membership Meeting**  
Reston Government Center  
12000 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston, VA 20190

**Saturday, October 3 – 10:00 am – 12:00 pm** Introduction to Wildlife Rehabilitation class  
**1:00pm – 4:00 pm** Introduction to Raising Orphaned Mammals class  
Wildlife Center of Virginia; [outreach@wildlifecenter.org](mailto:outreach@wildlifecenter.org); 540-942-9453

**Saturday, October 31**

### **Call for Awards Deadline**

Submit your nomination to WRL President, James Pettinelli, at [jamespettinelli@yahoo.com](mailto:jamespettinelli@yahoo.com).

**Saturday, December 5, 2009 - 11:00 am - 1:00 pm**

### **Membership Meeting**

Mason District Governmental Center  
6507 Columbia Pike, Annandale, VA 22003