



Goodbye Dear Friend

Flynn, American Kestrel

Flynn came to the Wildlife Center in 2014 after a wing and foot impact injury deemed him unreleasable by another wildlife hospital in Oregon. He was a special little bird, and it was impossible to not fall in love with him as soon as you met him. Flynn passed away from underlying injuries on July 22nd. He is going to be sorely missed here by all of us at WCNC.



Helping Wildlife in Need - Connecting People with Nature

Rescue Rehab Release

*Wildlife Rescue Hot Line:
(503) 338-0311*

*Injured Wildlife Drop-off:
89686 Hwy 202*

*Wild at Heart
Member Newsletter*

Fall

2020

Caring for Wildlife During a Pandemic

Out of respect for our health care workers, volunteers, and the community, the Wildlife Center of the North Coast took our pandemic response very seriously.

On March 18th, 2020 the Wildlife Center of the North Coast alerted its Animal Care team that it would be closing to volunteers until further notice.

Our full-time Rehab Coordinator, Pauline Baker had left earlier in the year and the new coordinator's move was pushed back.

Caring for wildlife was deemed essential, and there were patients that still needed daily care. We were prepared for the tragic possibility that we might have to stop in-taking patients.

With volunteers at home, and no full-time rehabber to oversee the hospital,

E.D., Josh Saranpa hired on Rehab Intern, Alex Morris to help with wildlife care. For the first few weeks all wildlife rehab was done by Ginger and Alex (rehab techs), Melisa (bird curator), and Josh while the team anxiously awaited the arrival of the new hire, Patrick.

When Patrick started in April, we didn't yet know that it would be a long while before we could fully reopen to volunteers.

As things progressed, we slowly started welcoming back volunteers, with new protocols and guidelines in place to help

reduce the risk of exposure to COVID-19.

WCNC has amazing volunteers, who despite the associated risk, were eager to return to their weekly routine of caring for local wildlife.

The team willingly adopted new safeguards such as, staggering shifts, wearing masks, social distancing, and increased sanitization protocols.

We cannot thank our volunteers enough for their hard work and dedication, and you, our Wild at Heart

Members for your continued support and concern for local, native wildlife, and the Wildlife Center of the North Coast throughout this pandemic.



Rehab Tech Alex cares for a baby otter.

594

*Number of patients
admitted so far this year*

204

*Number of aquatic birds
released this past Spring*

34

*Number of new volunteers
so far this year*

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Welcome



2020 has been a challenging year in many ways. The pandemic brought the world to a screeching halt, and now Oregon is in the middle of a battle against wildfires that are displacing both humans and wildlife alike.

I would like to take this moment to thank each and every one of you for your continued support of the native wildlife we share our community with. All of you have enabled us to continue to treat the injured, orphaned, and sick wildlife, as well as provide our meaningful conservation education programs.

On behalf of the staff, volunteers, education animals, and patients: THANK YOU!

06

Annual Founder's Event

This year instead of a dinner we are hosting an online fundraiser on November 7 at 6pm. Everyone is invited, so please logon to show support for your favorite Wildlife Center! Look for registration & sponsor info at CoastWildlife.org.

A Species of Concern

The shrill call of a Black Oystercatcher perks the ears of bird lovers along the Oregon Coast.

Besides their easily recognizable vocalizations, Oystercatchers are loved for their striking orange bills that they use to pluck off food near the shoreline.

Oystercatchers are a Species of Concern on the Oregon Coast for their low population numbers. Mating pairs bond for life and return to the same sites every summer where they lay 2 or 3 small eggs in a depression scraped into the rocks, just above the high tide line.



Last June, an observer in Ecola State Park watched a large wave wash two tiny chicks out of their nest. The next day, the parents were gone and the chicks were stuck between some offshore rocks, so she enlisted the help of a nearby surfer who heroically paddled them to shore.

It was a joyful moment this past August as the WCNC team released the lone survivor back to the site it was rescued where it has since been seen foraging for food!

NOV
2021

19

Save the Date

We're looking ahead to 2021 when we might socialize in person once again! Please mark your calendar for September, 19th 2021 for our 5th Annual Founder's Event!



A Place to Perch

We would like to offer a huge thank you to volunteer Randy who, with the help of his friend and volunteers Whitney and Melisa, built a new enclosure for our Ambassador owl, Odin. After a request on Facebook, we were overwhelmed with love and support & are so grateful for everyone who reached out to help with this project both in funding and construction. We are happy to report that the enclosure has been completed, and Odin is settling into her new home tucked between the trees.

Thank You!

A huge thank you to Maryann & Steve Sinkler, Melisa & Luke Colvin, Whitney & Randy Anderson-Arndt, Anderson Painting, and Clatsop Health & Life Insurance for helping make this project a reality.



Odin the Western Screech Owl has been enjoying her new enclosure's numerous perches.

Rehab Coordinator Makes Astoria Home

Difficulties of moving during a pandemic were compounded by the challenge of being understaffed during wildlife rehab's busiest season, but Patrick rose to the challenge.

Patrick Hogan started as the Rehab Coordinator at WCNC in early April, 2020. He was a perfect fit for the position due to his strong knowledge base and extensive seabird rehab.

During his first weeks Oregon lockdown, and WCNC's volunteers electronic updates while trying

WCNC is fortunate to have supporters and volunteers who 1,000+ patients a year possible, but Patrick would have to wait to meet them in person.

Hundreds of baby ducklings poured through the hospital doors, and Patrick arrived first thing in the morning and stayed until after dark to make sure every animal was properly cared for. Slowly, volunteers began returning to work, and Patrick has been grateful to have the support of such a hard-working team of individuals dedicated to wildlife and wildlife conservation.



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experience in

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team received
to stay busy at home.

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make admitting

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Would you like to volunteer?

We have lots of opportunities for people to volunteer on and off-site, no experience necessary!

We have plenty of opportunities to help! We are looking for on-site Animal Care and Reception Volunteers, as well as off-site Rescue and Transport Volunteers.

Email: volunteer@coastwildlife.org for more info!

Your Donation Makes a Difference!

\$5



Can feed this
Northern
Saw-whet
owl for one
week.

\$10



Can provide
this Red-
tailed Hawk
with release
ready testing.

\$20



Can provide
daily medica-
tion to sev-
enty common
murre.

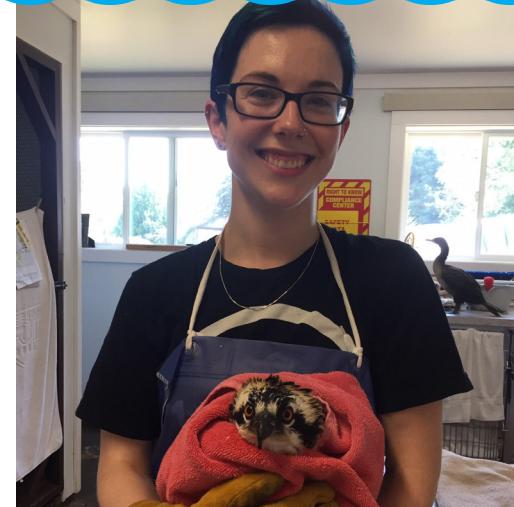
\$50



Can provide
this American
White Pelican
with daily
swims.

Odin the Owl

Odin came into care at WCNC in 2014 after being found on the road near Astoria with an injury to her right eye. Through live prey testing it was determined that she was not able to hunt on her own and therefore unreleasable. The decision was made to add her to the education program and she has lived at WCNC ever since. Her new enclosure provides the wooded surroundings that her species prefers, which will help reduce stress and make her more comfortable.



A Win for Wildlife

Earlier this year we happily welcomed Ginger Nealon as rehab staff.

To better serve our local wildlife, the Wildlife Center of the North Coast hired on an experienced Rehab Tech to help run hospital operations part-time. Ginger started volunteering for the Wildlife Center in June 2017 before being hired on as permanent staff. **3**

Changing Times



Last summer's Jr. Naturalist Summer Camp

Program received such great feedback from parents and students that we had big plans to add more sessions catering to different age groups and experience levels.

When we realized this summer's in-person camp was not going to be appropriate, we quickly converted to an online format. Camp Coordinator, Emily Townsend put together a week-long set of fun and engaging activities that kids could do at home. Participants kept nature journals, played games, dissected owl pellets, learned about native wildlife, and drew birds with local artist Katie George.

It Takes a Village...

A young American White Pelican sat abandoned in a patch of brambles on Alderbrook slough. Luckily, two local kayakers came upon the bird in need & stepped up to help in a big way.

Last summer Astoria Mayor, Bruce Jones and his wife Linda came across the young pelican. They could tell from its down and pin feathers that it wasn't old enough to fly yet. After calling the Wildlife Rescue Hotline, the pair of kayakers decided that they would save the day, and Linda paddled the bird to shore on her lap. We are so grateful to live around people who are concerned for the needs of local wildlife. Thank you to Bruce and Linda for your care and compassion! You're both wildlife heroes!



Astoria Mayor Bruce Jones and wife Linda posted the event to Facebook.

Volunteer Spotlight: Karin Hunt

Karin has been a WCNC volunteer since the fall of 2019. She learned of the center after a bald eagle was injured on her property, Batwater Station, located on Bradbury Slough off of the Columbia River.

"In 2003, two bald eagles appeared at Batwater and started building a nest on Crim's Island across from us. That year Bob Hope and Katharine Hepburn passed away, so we named them Hep and Hope."

In 2017, it was Hope that WCNC volunteers retrieved from her pasture, and after about a month of rehab Josh and several volunteers returned to release him. After this experience Karin told Josh she'd love to volunteer!

Hep and Hope have continued to have babies every year (except this year when their nesting tree blew down).

"They have been busy building a new nest and I'm sure we will be graced with babies next year. They normally don't start nesting until they are around 5 years old so that means these raptors are around 21. If it wasn't for WCNC, Hope would not have made it," Karin remarked.

Karin feels fortunate to have started learning "the ropes" from Jerri and Karen who have volunteered for many years.

"Much attention is given to keeping the wildlife abodes clean and sanitary. We even wash the fish of scales and oil so that recovering birds stay

cleaner. I do more laundry in one day at WCNC then in a whole month at my house," Karin continued to say,

"It is very gratifying to see our rescues recover for release. Arrivals are injured, weak or emaciated, they make amazing progress before release. Responsible plastic disposal would make a huge difference in their environment. It also makes you realize how, we as humans, can make a difference in their lives by not using lead shot or rat bait.

I'm committed to preserving habitat and wildlife. My biggest joy was breaching a levee at Batwater which flooded 26 acres. This summer I released 25 rescued ducklings in our wetlands providing great joy as I watch them thrive.

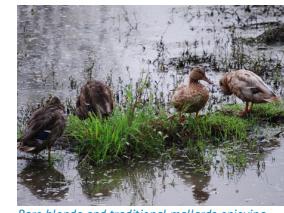
My other joy is meeting the volunteers who have the same passion and commitment of helping wildlife. It's a huge effort across many skills, I've met teachers, carpenters, tech people, retirees, and students.

I want to give a special thanks to the backbone of WCNC including Patrick, Josh, Melisa, & Kari who have dedicated their lives to helping my "critter friends".

And we would like to give a special thanks to you, Karin! We appreciate you for your willingness to help in anyway that you can, your positive attitude, and your love of wildlife. You are truly a joy to be around, and we absolutely love having you as part of the WCNC family!



"Hope" being released at Batwater Station in 2017.



Rare blonde and traditional mallards enjoying Batwater Station.

Osprey nest at Batwater Station.

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Board President

JOSH SARANPAA

Executive Director

josh@coastwildlife.org

ANDREW MATTINGLY

Vice President

PATRICK HOGAN

Rehab Coordinator

patrick@coastwildlife.org

MELISSA LAHTI

Secretary

KARI HENNINGSGAARD

Admin Coordinator

kari@coastwildlife.org

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GINGER NEALON

Rehab Tech

ginger@coastwildlife.org

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