



Star of the Show

Cormie delighted visitors at our Winter Open House as she collected donations from the crowd, and placed them in her donation box. Cormie was able to raise nearly \$150 for the construction of her new diving pool!

Cormie's
New Pool Fund

02 Cormie Corner
Important Dates
Welcome Staff

03 Note from the Board
Volunteers Needed
Feathered or Furry?
-Mountain Beaver

04 Event Calendar
Winter Open House
Volunteer Spotlight:
Mariam Fischer



WILDLIFE CENTER
OF THE
NORTH COAST

Rescue
Rehab
Release

Wildlife Rescue Hot line:
(503) 338-0331

Injured Wildlife Drop-off:
89686 Hwy 202

Wild at Heart
Member Newsletter

Winter
2022

Helping Wildlife in Need - Connecting People with Nature

Return to the Wild - Red-tailed Hawk Gets a Second Chance

Found on the ground in Toledo, filthy and covered in lice, the hawk was in rough shape when it came to the Wildlife Center in December of last year & staff knew they were in for a challenge.

Upon intake, staff noticed bite wounds on the hawk's right leg, possibly from combative prey. Their best guess was inflammation from the wound was causing pain resulting in the hawk not wanting to put any weight on its foot, so it was put on antibiotics. As predators that rely on their talons to hunt, the hawk would need to regain use of the foot in order to be released.



After a few days, the hawk was gingerly using the right foot to eat, but wouldn't use

it to grasp a perch. Instead, it was resting on top of its knuckles, causing its talons to dig into its foot pad. The hawk was fitted with an awesome, cast-like "shoe" to help extend its toes & prevent further injury.



As time progressed, the foot wasn't improving, so staff reached out to our friends at the Cascades Raptor Center who provided insight. Their vet advised that the muscle used to extend the foot was likely damaged when the hawk's leg was wounded, and suggested an extensive physiotherapy regimen but cautioned that the prognosis was still quite guarded.

Every few days, the hawk's foot was exercised and massaged. The hawk underwent laser therapy, and continued to be monitored.

After weeks of therapy, the hawk slowly began regaining use of its right foot.



As time passed, the hawk was moved outside & began to fly again. It was moved to a larger enclosure, and every day looked a little bit stronger. After 65 days in care, the hawk was flying beautifully and displaying strong liftoff from the ground, so staff saw no reason to keep it any longer. Much to everyone's joy, the hawk was approved to return to Toledo to its home in the wild.



21

Number of Red-tailed Hawks
admitted in 2021.

43

Number of patients admitted
thus far in 2022.

1,053

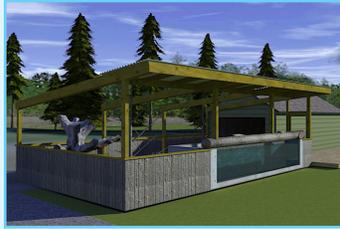
Total number of patients
served in 2021.

Cormie Corner

We are SO CLOSE & Cormie's new home is within reach!



Last newsletter, we reported that we were just \$7,000 away from our fundraising goal to build our new seabird display enclosure. We are excited to report that we are even *closer*! We are now just over \$3,000 away from our \$45,000 goal. This enclosure is a HUGE deal. This project will not only provide more meaningful conservation education opportunities to local youth and our community at large, it will greatly improve Cormie's quality of life & provide a space for any new roommates added to the program in the future! THANK YOU to all who have contributed!



Visit our website to donate & help us reach our final number.

Rehab Report: Off to Madison

Staff spent a week in Madison, WI for the National Wildlife Rehabilitators Association's (NWRA) Annual Symposium.

Josh, Ginger, and Erica all flew to Madison for a week of professional development filled with field trips, seminars, keynote speakers, and networking. Josh, who serves on the Board for the NWRA will be leading three talks. One in conjunction with Ginger on Staff Burnout: Methods to Help Keep Your Team Happy & Healthy, a roundtable discussion on leadership, and a roundtable discussion on Wildlife Rehabilitation and the Climate Crisis. This will be Ginger & Erica's first in-person symposium.



14

Spring Festival

May 14-15 we are hosting our Birds of a Feather Spring Festival. This is our Annual Spring Open House & Native Plant Sale, with free tours of our facility, fun activities for the kids, awesome raffle prizes, and visits with our Education Ambassadors.



18

Founder's Night

Our annual Founder's Night is scheduled for September 18th, 2022. No matter what the year brings, we are confident this will bring forth a joyous celebration of wildlife supporters and conservation education within our community!

A Year of Growth at WCNC

2022 marks a huge year of growth for the Wildlife Center, and we wanted to share with you some exciting changes that have been made to our staff.



Ginger Nealon
Rehab Coordinator

Ginger has been involved with Animal Care at WCNC as a volunteer and then staff since 2017. In August of 2021 Ginger accepted the position of Rehab Coordinator at WCNC.



Erica Long
Wildlife Rehabilitator

Erica joined the Animal Care volunteer team in 2020. In 2021 she was hired as seasonal staff in the hospital, and in 2022 began a full-time position as a Wildlife Rehabilitator.



Melisa Colvin
Bird Curator

Melisa has been a volunteer since 2011 & since 2017 has been working with the Ed birds on a volunteer basis. In 2022 she joined staff as the Bird Curator, overseeing the Education Ambassador Program.



Annie Cahill
Volunteer Coordinator

Annie joined the Animal Care volunteer team in 2020 & in 2021 completed an internship. She recently accepted a position as the Volunteer Coordinator and will help manage our amazing Volunteers.

A Message from WCNC Board Member, Eric Owen

As a relatively new member to the board, I am struck by how dedicated and passionate everyone involved with this organization is.

Between staff, volunteers, donors, board and committee members, and more, WCNC is incredibly fortunate to have such widespread support throughout our community, and able to do so much important work for local wildlife.



Last October, we held our annual board retreat at the center, planning for 2022's priorities and goals. I am excited to be involved for another year as we strive to increase capacity and continue to improve in wildlife rehabilitation, education, conservation, and organizational excellence, the four major themes identified in the strategic plan that we finalized and adopted last year. WCNC will accomplish specific goals set in these areas, with the help of all the aforementioned people to make it happen. I cannot stress enough how crucial the community support is to this organization and how much every bit helps. We have an exciting year ahead of us, and it's as critical a time as ever to contribute in whatever ways we can to WCNC. Thank you all so much for being here with us and empowering us to do such great work!



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 Reception Volunteers to help answer phones and arrange patient transports, 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 medication to seventy common murre.

\$50



Can provide this White Pelican with daily swims.

Feathered or Furry?

Fun Facts About Our Wildlife Patients

Aplodontia rufa. Perhaps the most primitive rodent species, mountain beavers aren't really beavers at all. They got their name, because of their large incisors that they use to gnaw bark and cut off limbs, but they are much smaller than beavers and have short, furry tails.

Habitat: Mountain Beavers are endemic to their region and are found only in a narrow band between the west slopes of the Cascades & the Pacific coast, that stretches from British Columbia south to northern California. They love the Pacific Northwest's damp climate, and build their extensive burrow systems in dense, moist forests on ferny slopes.

Food: Mountain beavers are herbivores and forage on the tops & bottoms of a wide array of plant foods like ferns, salal, nettles, fireweed, bleeding heart, salmon-berry, brambles, dogwoods, vine maples, willows, alders, and conifers.

Interesting Facts: Mountain beavers have been around in their current form since the Miocene, a geological era that stretches from about 5-25 million years ago. They are considered living fossils with bone structures that predate all other North American rodents.



Mountain Beaver

Event Calendar

February 5th: Winter Open House

February 16th: North Coast Trivia Showdown

May 14th-15th: Birdathon

May 14th & 15th: Birds of a Feather Spring Festival

July 22nd & 23rd: Conservation Film Festival

August 6th: Summer Open House

September 18th: Founder's Night

October 29th: Birds of a Feather Fall Festival

November 22nd: Giving Tuesday



Winter Open House Was a Success!

This year we have four open houses planned throughout the year. This is a step towards our ultimate goal of being open to the public more frequently. Thank you to everyone who showed up to our Winter Open House, it was so much fun! Cormie had a great time putting on a show for our visitors, and demonstrating just how good she is at collecting donations! Thank you to Brim's Farm & Garden, and Finn Ware for donating raffle prizes, and to Scott Justus for donating plants to sell. Our next Open House will be our Birds of a Feather Spring Festival, formally known as our annual Spring Open House & Native Plant Sale. It will be two days on May 14th & 15th. This year will include more activities for the kids, and we will be kicking off our annual Birdathon at the start of the event, and wrapping it up at the conclusion. Cormie will be back to say, "hello!" We hope to see you there! Learn more at www.CoastWildlife.org.



Volunteer Spotlight: Mariam Fischer

Q) When did you first get involved with the Center? And what drew you to it?

I first got involved at the wildlife center in May of 2020, and I was drawn to the work because I have always had a passion for animals, and have wanted to work with them



my whole life, and WCNC was the first place to allow me to volunteer under 18. I was enraptured by the work, and soon began to spend much of my time volunteering!

Q) What do you love/has kept you involved?

I immediately felt a draw to the work I was doing, even if the tasks were somewhat mundane like doing laundry in the beginning. Having a way to feel like I was making a difference in the clinic, and broader than that, in the world, was hugely impactful on my mental health in the beginning of the pandemic, and my ability to interact directly with the animals was without a doubt influential in that it inspired me to not only come back for more shifts, but also gave me higher aspirations for my interest in animals sciences. This fall as I enter my freshman year of college, I will be pursuing biological sciences, bringing with me the knowledge and skills I have gained in my time at the center.

Q) What is the coolest/most memorable experience you have had?

The most memorable experience for me so far has been honestly the entirety of my internship. It was a large chunk of my summer, and I came in two to three times a week for full day shifts. I found this experience to be really meaningful in that I fell into the routine easily, and was able to get a feel for what a job in the field could look like. One particular memory I have is releasing a bald eagle at a lookout point and watching it soar out over the trees. It was a very humbling experience to watch it, and I think everyone watching felt very grounded observing the freedom we had brought to the bird. I loved spending so much time there over the summer, and I'm really looking forward to this summer to be able to do it again!



Every once in a while we get the pleasure of meeting a young person who truly inspires us with their passion, and that is what it is like working with Mariam. Being able to foster her natural talent for animal care has been a privilege and a joy. Thank you Mariam, for your hard work and friendship! You renew our hope for the future, and we can't wait to watch you continue to do great things for wildlife.



Board Members and Staff

JEN ZAMON
Board President

ERIC OWEN
Member

KYLEEN AUSTIN
Interim Vice President

NIKKI FOWLER
Treasurer

JOSH SARANPAA
Executive Director
josh@coastwildlife.org

KARI HENNINGSGAARD
Admin Coordinator
kari@coastwildlife.org

GINGER NEALON
Wildlife Coordinator
ginger@coastwildlife.org

MELISA COLVIN
Bird Curator
melisa@coastwildlife.org

ERICA LONG
Wildlife Rehabilitator
erica@coastwildlife.org

ANNIE CAHILL
Volunteer Coordinator
annie@coastwildlife.org