PWC – “NONPROFIT OF THE YEAR” – CA SENATE DISTRICT 17

by John FitzRandolph

Out of the multitude of worthy nonprofit organizations in California’s Senate District 17 – including much of Monterey County, all of Santa Cruz County, portions of Santa Clara County and all of SLO County – why was Pacific Wildlife Care chosen as “California Nonprofit of the Year”?

According to State Senator Bill Monning (the California Senate Majority Leader), who selected PWC as nonprofit of the year: “Pacific Wildlife Care has done a tremendous job in its rehabilitation, advocacy, and education efforts for wildlife in San Luis Obispo County. The nonprofit treats nearly 3,000 animals every year in addition to providing educational presentations at local schools and organizations.”

The Senator added: “Thank you to everyone at Pacific Wildlife Care for your dedication to the protection of California’s wildlife.”

Positive response to PWC’s honor also came from District 2 Supervisor Bruce Gibson, who said: “PWC does great work for the wonderful wildlife of the Central Coast. Their commitment to help wild animals is extraordinary and their educational programs have inspired so many youth.

“This recognition is richly deserved,” the supervisor continued.

PWC president Kimberly Perez – who traveled to Sacramento with Kathleen Dillon to accept the award at a CalNonprofits ceremony on June 6 – thanked “… All our past and present volunteers and staff for your vision and steadfast commitment to our mission. Your gift of time and talent are priceless.”

WHAT A PLACE TO BE STUCK!

by Gwen Kellas

On May 22nd I received a text from the PWC Hotline Volunteer asking if I could rescue a gull stuck inside a chimney on Moonstone Beach Drive in Cambria.

Sure, I said. I am used to ladders and getting up on roofs so saw no issue for me. When I went to check out the motel, I saw that the chimney was huge: Santa Claus could have gone down it, so I am sure a gull had no problem getting in, but, it turns out it was stuck on a ledge with a grate that stopped it from going all the way down into the motel office or from coming back up the way it went in.

I needed a net: unfortunately mine was loaned out and not returned. A few phone calls later I went over to Marcelle’s house and borrowed her net and returned to the motel.

The front desk staff was aghast that I intended to go up on the roof to perform this rescue (a ladder was even readily available due to some workers working nearby) but, the staff adamantly told me “No way!” - since their insurance would not cover me.

They called their maintenance staff. I offered rescue suggestions and warned them that gulls have a nasty bite. A charming chap went up with a buddy and one very sooty, irate gull was pulled out and crated and I delivered it to the Center.

After being cleaned up, within a few days, it was released by Pam Hartman at Leffingwell Landing on Moonstone Beach Drive. Glad we have such a great team working together for a positive outcome!
Central Coast Wildlife Festival (held May 12th in SLO Mission Plaza) a HUGE Success

Learning Among the Oak's - Leader Beverly Gingg with Oak Ambassadors performed skits and puppet shows at their Oaks Theater to the delight of all children in attendance.

Camp Natoma, one of 22 eco-partner participants, who had children's activities at their booths, showed a display of knot tying.

Earth Genius (One Cool Earth) allowed kids to dig in dirt to discover what is naturally found there and to create seed bombs.

Face painting and arts & crafts opportunities were popular locations. Sarah Blair Field paints an animal image on a little boy's face.

Wildlife Photo opportunity board (painted last year's event by Kaya) allowed parents to photograph their children as a raccoon, a fox or a bobcat.

PWC's Education Team brought 6 of our wildlife ambassadors. Kathy Duncan & Max enthral a crowd about the habitat and behavior of Great-horned Owls.
REHAB CHALLENGES by Claudia Duckworth

Each year, Pacific Wildlife Care receives many infant Cottontails, Brush Rabbits and Black-tailed Jackrabbits. These small mammals come to us for many reasons, the most common being a nest uncovered through mowing or weed trimming or the infants are discovered by a dog or cat. Early on, we had very little success with these species. There was often much despair by volunteers when we received them because most of them died.

Thanks to new protocols in the past several years and the willingness of a few volunteers to specialize in their care, our success with these fragile babies has improved. Jenni Clayton and Melinda Alvarado have successfully rehabilitated orphaned Cottontails and Brush Rabbits and Karen Todd has taken on the challenge of Black-tailed Jackrabbits.

As Karen explains, despite the name, Black-tailed Jackrabbits are hares not rabbits. Unlike rabbits, hares are born with their eyes open, fully furred and able to move around within hours of birth. They rely on speed for survival while rabbits rely on concealment. Because they are prey for many predators, a characteristic shared by both rabbits and hares is that they do not tolerate stress.

Karen, who has been rehabilitating Jacks for 7 years started because they were known to be difficult and she likes a challenge. Both species have delicate digestive systems, and maintaining their health involves fortifying their standard formula with multiple supplements. Often, despite advice from PWC to not do so, initial rescuers feed orphans causing fatal digestive problems.

Karen explains that weaning Jackrabbits can be especially hard since they love their formula and will often go on hunger strikes to avoid moving on to solid food. She spends time foraging in local fields, gathering appropriate pesticide-free grasses for her young hares.

Another challenge includes preventing habituation — their survival in the wild depends on their natural fear remaining intact and providing exercise without causing injury.

Much of the current improved success with these species is thanks in part to information shared with Pacific Wildlife Care by other rehabilitation centers and to the dedication of volunteers like Karen, Jenni and Melinda.

PWC continues to study and research ways to further improve our rehabilitation of these fragile animals.

Despite the improvement in rehabilitation techniques, as with any wild animal, the very best care is by the parents. These species are left alone for most of the day by the parent and usually do not need to be rescued.

Welcome New Members & Donors (January – April 2018)

Kaylee Adams
Rick Austin
B.H.E. Renewables, LLC
Andrzej Baran
T. & C. Barrilleaux
Hayley Barnes
Vanessa Barrios
Tina Benjamin
Amber Bjerre
Claudine Blackwell
Monsie & Ron Bourtayre
Lauren Brotherton
Neil Burke
Lisa & Ric Burkel
Dennis Camp
Seychelle Cannes
Shirley Carson
Steve Carle
Sarah Chacon
Juli Chun
Beth Cornelius
Rachel Cullop
Delilah Curtis
Kathy Degner
Brian Dobbs
Amanda Donovan
Hilary Elgin
Jodi Fitzpatrick
Lori Gillespe
Austin Griego
Dennis Hamil
Michael Harrod
Rebecca Hart
Daran Haug
Ariana Hlawek
Kaila & Terry Hooker
Wendy Hudson
Mary Huestis
Lori Johnston
Brice Jones
Ron Keller
Emily Kent
Zahara Keulen
Christa Lam
Brina Latham
Daniel Law
Nora & Mike Lewis
Thomas Lynch
Stephen Main
Erica Maluski
Debra Marasco-McNulty
David Mason
Brooke McCann
Kelley McCoy
Kip Meredith
Oliver Milici
Katherine Mollenkopf
Cole Moore
Johnna Moran
Frank Moustirats
Hap & Robert Patchett
April Peet
Alicia Pell
Michael Phoenix
Matt Powers
Becky & Mike Price
Robin Proffitt
I. Rałston & S.W. Bailey
Gregory Randall
Jill Rietjens
Lukas Robertson
Zoe Rossman
Sarah Rosemas
Rachael Rospond
Susan Schafer
Joseph Seitz
Cynthia Shaheen
Alexandria Simmons
D. Smith & J. Pett
Margaux Snider
Mary Strobridge
Sue Sunderland
Chyna Thomas
Marilyn Tonneson
Angela & Peter Van Trigt
Janet Wagner
Katherine Walker
Saoirse Wendy
Tom Wilzbach
Ashley Wilson
Carman Yardley
Hope Young

Filmmakers of Tomorrow is a competition sponsored by Pacific Wildlife Care at the SLO International Film Festival (SLOFF) in the Young Filmmakers of Tomorrow category. If you know an individual, group or a classroom of youth ages K-12 that are interested in creating an original short or animated film wherever you live, the 2019 SLOFF, Young Filmmakers of Tomorrow is a great way to showcase that work and win prizes.

If you want to be considered for the “Wild World We Love” award, then pinpoint a wildlife issue, connect people with a misunderstood species of wildlife, or just show your love for the natural world. Now is the time for young filmmakers to begin thinking of ideas to win the $100 prize. Entries are due in January 2019. See our website for details: https://tinyurl.com/PWCFilmContest
“Spring sprang once again with many babies at the Clinic and in homecare”

Home Rehabbers – PWC thanks our 22 home rehabilitators, who help care for animals that are young/orphaned or, needing a larger cage/aviary or, who are not well-suited for remaining in the hub-bub of a Clinic. The staff appreciates you! You carry a heavy burden spending over 50 hours from January-March.

Dani Nicholson - currently has TWELVE American Crows in homecare (Crows are a particularly difficult species and care for a dozen is a huge undertaking.)

Baby Bird Room Leads – Thank You Sharon Blakely, Claudia Duckworth, Donna Herbst and Andrea Muenter for their oversight of the Baby Bird Room & Baby Bird program - helping make this season go smoothly (our baby bird patients are thriving nicely).

Central Coast Wildlife Festival – (see related images on Page 2) Thank you to our various area leaders: Susan Belany (Children’s Art & Facepainting); Karen Venditti (Food Vendor Coordinator); Beverly Gingg (Children’s skits); Cal Poly Alpha Phi Omega Fraternity, Jermaine Washington’s Cal Poly Architecture students, Cal Poly Sprout Up Club, Zsolt & Magen Vandenmar.

PWC’s mission is to support San Luis Obispo wildlife through rehabilitation and educational outreach. We envision Pacific Wildlife Care as an advocate for wildlife. By sharing our experiences, we inspire community participation to reduce harm to our wild neighbors.

SPECIAL THANK YOUS

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Membership/Donations Save Lives

Yes, I would like to give wildlife a second chance!

- Benefactor $3,000
- Patron $1,500
- Sponsor $600
- Contributor $300
- Supporter $150
- Advocate $60
- Student/Senior/Volunteer $30
- Other ________________

I would like information on adding Pacific Wildlife Care to my will or trust.

Visit us online at www.pacificwildlifecare.org to set up a monthly subscription or pay by credit card.

Name:________________________________________________________
Phone:_________________________________ Email:______________________________
Address:________________________________________________________
City:_________________________ State:______ Zip:___________ Date: __________

Please check:  □ New Membership □ Renewal □ Donation □ I would like to volunteer

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