



SUMMER 2020

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PWC CALENDAR

Due to Covid-19, all in-person trainings and events were canceled.

Monthly Board Meeting —
Second Tuesday of the month
4:30 PM (now via Zoom).

PWC STATS

(January – May)

- 981 Wildlife Cases
- 16 Homecare Volunteers caring for over 90 animals
- Hotline Volunteers took over 1,100 calls
- 64 Rescue Transporters logged over 3,150 hours and 19,350 miles



A big shout-out of gratitude to ALL of our Volunteers, Staff and Wildlife Friends for the extra time & financial support that we have seen as we maneuver our 'essential' services through the COVID-19 pandemic!



giving wildlife a

Second Chance

CENTER DIRECTOR'S REPORT *By Vann Masvidal*

The relative quiet of winter's animal care came to a halt this month (March) when we began receiving seabirds with wounds believed to have been caused by shark bites. I can't think of an animal with a higher degree of difficulty for treatment than a seabird with a wound, and we received about 20 of them!

Dr. Riggs has been performing surgeries on the birds, some of them taking as long as three hours, and some of the birds required multiple operations to suture their wounds.

We've begun incorporating a post-surgery rinse of the wound sites using warm water in our seabird room, as the birds' wounds cause their feathers to become contaminated, creating poor waterproofing. A few of these birds have been released but most are still in our care (as of the end of March).

After the wave of shark-bitten birds, we got a wave of oiled seabirds. The high winds that took place throughout much of March caused ocean upwelling that brings the natural seepage to the surface.

We had an additional 20 oiled animals come in (this includes the animals from the oil spill).

Then, after the wave of oiled seabirds, we began receiving numbers of emaciated ones. These were birds who were weak, barely

hanging on in the wild, when the rigors of the storms caused them to come ashore. We have 25 seabirds in care.

Baby songbirds have begun to come in, with our first nest of House Finches added to a hatchling already in our care.

PWC's "busy season" has begun!



The fawn shed at PWC was converted to a turtle shed during March & April. Photo by Vann Masvidal

- 1 Acorn Woodpecker
- 3 American Crow
- 2 Anna's Hummingbird
- 2 Barn owl
- 4 Black Rat
- 2 Black-legged Kittiwake
- 1 Botta's Pocket Gopher
- 5 Brush Rabbit
- 1 Bushtit
- 3 California Gull
- 1 California Quail
- 2 Canada Goose
- 3 Cedar Waxwing
- 11 Clark's Grebe
- 1 Cliff Swallow
- 3 Common Poorwill
- 5 Desert Cottontail
- 3 Domestic Duck
- 8 Eurasian Collared-dove
- 1 Glaucous-winged Gull
- 1 Great Egret
- 7 Great Horned Owl
- 3 Hermit Thrush
- 2 House Finch
- 2 House Mouse
- 1 Lesser Goldfinch
- 1 Long-billed Curlew
- 7 Northern Raccoon
- 1 Pacific Loon
- 1 Pacific-slope Flycatcher
- 2 Pied-billed Grebe
- 1 Red-eared Slider
- 2 Red-shouldered Hawk
- 3 Red-tailed Hawk
- 2 Red-throated Loon
- 11 Rock Pigeon
- 1 Roof Rat
- 2 Ruddy Duck
- 1 Rufous Hummingbird
- 1 Russian Tortoise
- 1 Snow Goose
- 1 Snowy Plover
- 2 Southern Alligator Lizard
- 1 Townsend's Warbler
- 1 Turkey Vulture
- 8 Virginia Opossum
- 15 Western Grebe
- 1 Western Grey Squirrel
- 13 Western Gull
- 11 Western Pond Turtle
- 1 Western Screech Owl
- 1 Whimbrel
- 2 White-crowned Sparrow
- 1 Yellow Canary
- 1 Yuma Myotis
- 174 Total

UNIQUE SPRING RESCUE

By Sam Peck

As an RTV (Rescue Transport Volunteer) I've learned that not all wildlife rescues result in an animal simply being picked up from a member of the community and being brought back to PWC's Clinic "for repairs." Some are the result of an animal getting itself trapped or in an otherwise impossible situation that needs immediate help.

This was one recent case when the PWC Hotline Volunteer called me to say they had a "weird one" (my favorite kind!) involving a snake that was tangled in plastic netting. The caller was a North County vineyard owner who said they could not free the snake and that it may be injured. So, I drove out to investigate.

I found a beautiful King Snake caught in a large ball of tight-mesh fruit tree netting. It had tried to wiggle its head through the netting while the small mesh holes kept gathering around its neck and eventually had a strangle-hold on the snake behind its head. It could



not go forward or backward, just stuck in the middle of the mass of netting.

I have learned from being an RTV, that one has to be prepared for anything! Once out in the boonies, it's too late to wish you had wire-cutters, a saw or scissors. So, I have a tool box with anything I might need available in my truck.

In this case, I got out scissors, my gloves and reading glasses and started cutting into the netting. The snake was not helpful as it kept wrapping itself around my arms and hands. Once I got down to the snake itself I had to be very careful as the netting was tight against its skin.

Using the point of the scissors, I eased the back of the blade along the skin to cut the netting away. It took half an hour to free the snake. I held and looked it over for any injuries. I found none, so I let it go. This was to the delight of the family watching me like it was a show!

Once again, I am looking forward to the next "weird one!"

IN MEMORY of NANCY MUENTER

By Andrea Muentner

I want to share a little story with you about my mother-in-law, Nancy. Many years ago (like 15 years) I attended a California Council for Wildlife Rehabilitator's symposium in San Diego. I stayed the night at Nancy's house the night before, because she lived in Sherman Oaks, which was only 2 hours from San Diego.

I had a baby opossum that I was taking care of at the time. I left it in its enclosure in the room where I had slept and headed off to San Diego for the day. That afternoon I get a frantic phone call from Nancy. She went in to check on the little opossum and it was gone!

I didn't have enough experience with opossums back then to know that if the lid is not secure enough, they can climb out. Nancy looked everywhere, under the bed, in the closets, under the dresser, under everything!

So I left the symposium a little early to help calm her down and look for the missing animal. When I arrived two hours later, she was laughing! She had pulled back the covers of my bed and voilà!

Nancy Muentner was a supporter of one of our long-time volunteers, Andrea Muentner and her volunteer work with PWC. She generously

donated her beautiful stained glass artwork for our fundraising auctions. Nancy passed away in February this year and her son, Stan, and his family kindly asked Nancy's friends to donate to PWC. As of April 30, PWC has received over \$1,600 in Nancy's memory.



*Tidings of Comfort
and Joy*

This is the 2019 Christmas card that she sent out to all the people who are now donating in her memory. The event still resonated with her after all these years.



Photos by Claudia Duckworth

PWC BOD UPDATE

Introducing Kate Capela
Board Treasurer

After graduating from Cal Poly SLO with a degree in Animal Science, I was fortunate to be offered an animal care position with the California Living Museum doing wildlife rehabilitation and the care of their animals that were not suitable for release back to the wild.

My rehabilitation work taught me how important the role of wildlife rehabilitation is to our local ecosystems and our community at large.

From there, I spent over 12 years with the Charles Paddock Zoo in Atascadero, managing the animal care staff and all aspects of the animal collection, education department and maintenance.

After that, I moved to the Central Coast Aquarium as their Aquarium Manager, managing the public side of the aquarium and their volunteer base.

In every job I have had, I have been expected to manage funds, track numbers, and account for financial gains and losses in some capacity. I am appreciative of the opportunity to serve **Pacific Wildlife Care** as Treasurer.



Kate Capela

COVID-19, PWC, AND MY NEW LIFE *By Claudia Duckworth*

I've been asked to briefly describe how Covid-19 has changed the way I volunteer for Pacific Wildlife Care.

Previously, in the spring and summer, I would be a Team Leader in the Baby Bird Program. This means one or two 8 hour days madly trying to keep up with all the chores required to ensure all the babies are fed, cleaned and medicated in the Baby Bird Room.

There are great Rehab Techs and volunteers who work tirelessly to help and when you are done, you are exhausted but you can go home and take several days to recover before doing it all over again.

This year, I volunteered to do House Finches and House Sparrows from home to avoid the chance of getting or spreading the Covid-19 virus. I really didn't think it through. It feels just as "crazy" but it is full-time and I am on my own!

I miss the Center, the staff and volunteers but a plus is that between feedings and cleanings and endless tiny doses of Flagyl, I can play with my dogs and get a few things done around the house.

The *best* part of caring for these babies at home is seeing the whole process: from nestling to fledgling to self-sufficiency and then, they are ready for release. Working at the center, you only see portions of the process and often, the birds you cared for one week are gone the next!

Welcome New Members & Donors *(January – April 2020)*

Cindy Marie Absey	Elizabeth & Paul Dengele	Kathleen Janzen	Julie McGuire	Alexis Reynolds
Judith Apple	Reni Dolan	Kim Lang	Briana Milstead	Lu Rutters
Morro Bay Art Association	Dolphin Cove Motel	Anika Lewis	Rae Murphy	Rick Saval
Kevin Ayers	Erika Dutton	Tracie Loscotoff	Jocelynn Nadeau	Elaine & Leonard Skaist
Heather Baer	Alexandra Fairfield	Karen Lund	Renea Nicodemus	Peggy Smith
Elizabeth Beal	Joel Farley	Victor Lund	Niner Wine Estates	Alex Smith
Alisa Belzil	Paulette Ferrari	Kathanne Lynch	Mikaela Ortega	Christopher Staley
Ann Bettencourt	Geri Flesher	Christina MacDonald	Sarah Palt	Bruce Stamp
Martin Black	Thomas Fowler	& Richard Barret	Deborah Patchen	Burney Stephens
Michael Brundage	Carol Frate	Linda Madeira	Chantel Paul	Lynda Steinbeck
Shelbi Cannon	& Lawrence Schwankl	Rebecca Maples	Cathy Peterson	Sam & Sherri Stoddard
Nancy & Tim Carr	Kambria Galindo	Allison Marizza	Maggie Prittie	Lauren Tarica
Bethany Chester	Elise Hamilton	John Marriott	Alyssa Queen	Mireille & William VanTrigt
Cassidy Clark	Lori Harris & Jack Gregory	Hannah Martinez	Danielle Guay	Riley Vinge
Patricia Cobler	Corryn Haynes	Constance & James Marcus	& Jonathan Rakofsky	Colleen Weddle
Kimbell & Brown Construction	Terri & David Housley	Julie Mattson	James Ray	Kurt Wilson
Nick Cook	Barbara Howder	Matthew Maxon	Elizabeth Ray	Patricia Wurdeman

Remind friends/family to leave baby fawns alone
 (if lying quietly) as mom WILL return!



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

- Shirley Goetz** - tracking down Canada Goose families for fostering our babies into
- Martha Haack & Morgan Berden** - sewing fabric masks for facility personnel
- Lansing Moran** - providing large basket of snacks for clinic workers each week

- Judy Schneider** - bringing in baked goods for Mother's Day
- Hannah Shinnerl** - filling in on many extra shifts
- Claudia Duckworth, Andrea Muentner, Kelley Nelson, Dani Nicholson & Becky Price** - taking on extra baby bird homecare duties
- Bob Peak** - taking on the monumental task of renesting/reuniting baby raptors throughout our county



Membership/Donations Save Lives

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

- | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|---------|---|-------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor | \$3,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> Supporter | \$150 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Patron | \$1,500 | <input type="checkbox"/> Advocate | \$60 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sponsor | \$600 | <input type="checkbox"/> Student/Senior/Volunteer | \$30 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Contributor | \$300 | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ | |
- I would like information on adding Pacific Wildlife Care to my will or trust.

Visit us online at 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
 Please mail completed form with check to Pacific Wildlife Care, PO Box 1134, Morro Bay, CA 93443

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