

Tracks



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From the Board of Directors

by Patricia Abreu, President

Another year has passed with its full cycle of the seasons and of the challenges and blessings that came with them.

And 2008 was a good year for the Wildlife Center as well. We are proud of and grateful for the people who continue to help us fulfill our mission here at the WCSV.

Among the highlights of this year:

- Our staff of three and corps of 120 indispensable volunteers provided compassionate, quality care to more than 4,000 injured, orphaned, and displaced wildlife in our area.
- We welcomed Operations Coordinator Jen Constantin to our staff. She is enthusiastic and hardworking and is already making a difference.
- We added three new members to our Board of Directors.
- Our annual Jewels in Flight fundraising event was held in the spring at Hakone Gardens in Saratoga and was successful due to the commitment and dedication of the events team, led by Sophie Duckett and Joan Giampaolo.

We were also fortunate to enjoy the continued support of members of the communities we serve. In these difficult economic times, we greatly appreciate your generous support.

Looking ahead, I am confident that the Center will continue to thrive through the passion of its volunteers, the dedication of its staff, the involvement of its Board of Directors, and the support of those in our community who share the belief that our local wildlife is invaluable.

Although I am finishing six years as a Board member this year and must leave this role because of term limits, I will continue to stay involved with the Center. It brings me much joy.

John Olson, the incoming President, has been with the WCSV since 2006. In this role, John will be in a prime position to help the Center realize its plans for the future, including site improvements and new construction. He'll be ably assisted by the newly elected officers for 2009:

- Joan Giampaolo, Vice President
- An Lu, Secretary
- Larry Stites, Treasurer

We have a good, diverse, and talented Board that will continue to help us set our plans for the future. With your help, we will continue to improve and to grow, and we will be here for all the wild animals in need for years to come. Thank you for your participation and for your altruism. It takes many hands to do the work we do. We could not do it without you.

"[Releasing the coyotes] was, as advertised, a really thrilling experience. And we were greatly honored that my wife and I were asked if we would like to be the ones to open the cage doors and set them on their way. We gratefully accepted, and that was an unforgettable moment for us. ... We keep hoping and praying those marvelous coyotes are staying healthy, finding plenty to eat, and enjoying their newfound freedom."

– Bruce Mendenhall, WCSV Supporter

Tracks...

Tracks is a publication of the Wildlife Center of Silicon Valley.

Our Mission

To provide high quality care and rehabilitation of injured, sick and orphaned wildlife within the Silicon Valley community. Through educational programs, we foster a positive coexistence between the general public and wildlife and encourage an interest in and concern for wildlife conservation issues.

Board of Directors

President - Patricia Abreu

Vice President - John Olson

Treasurer - Larry L. Stites

Secretary - An Lu

Sophie Duckett, Joan Giampaolo, Paula Massa, Larissa Neumann, Jon Neumann, Bill Paker, Janet Alexander Thompson

Staff

Acting Executive Director - Larry Stites

Operations Coordinator - Jennifer Constantin

Animal Care Coordinator - Carmel de Bertaut

Animal Care Assistant - Ashley Kinney

Tracks Editors - Elizabeth Kricfalusi and Paula Massa

Cover photo: Six orphaned coyote pups rescued from a den in Santa Cruz



Raccoon
Ashley Kinney



The Circle of (Wild)life

When Donna McTaggart's cat Phoebe brought her a baby squirrel late Sunday night of Memorial Day weekend, Donna knew the little girl needed some special care. Fortunately, since she works as a registered nurse in the Ante Partum Unit at Good Samaritan Hospital in San Jose, Donna knew exactly what to do.

She wrapped the squirrel, whose eyes were still closed, in a blanket and placed her in a shoebox with a heating pad under half of it.



Early the next morning, Donna saw Phoebe head towards her neighbor's tree. Donna followed the cat and discovered another baby, not moving at all.

"It was curled up in a little ball and very cold, so I thought it was dead," said Donna. "I picked it up and started to warm it and it started to move!" She immediately put him in with his sister and then brought the siblings to the Wildlife Center as soon as we opened.

Since the initial examination showed no serious injuries, Donna was told that the best possible action would be to return the squirrels to where she found them in case their mother could still care for them. So she gladly took them home again, placed them back under the neighbor's tree, and kept watch. After several hours, (during which time she would bring them in occasionally to warm them up again), it was clear that their mother wasn't coming

back. So Donna made the trip back to the WCSV and, this time, left the squirrels with us, where they were placed in home care.

Once the squirrels were old enough and strong enough, Donna was thrilled to have the opportunity to release them in her own backyard, where she continues to see them to this day.



Although Donna definitely went over-and-above in trying to help these animals, she insists it was nothing special. "I was only doing what comes naturally to me, caring for someone in need."



Good Samaritan Heeds Coyote Cries for Help

On a Sunday evening in late April, Monique Lee received a phone call from a UCSC student (who prefers to remain anonymous). The student and his girlfriend had heard cries coming from outside his off-campus dorm room and they had discovered two young coyote pups at the entrance to a den eight feet up a cliff face.

Monique, who began her rehabilitation experiences as a volunteer with the WCSV in 1999, is the go-to coyote person for Native Animal Rescue in Santa Cruz. The student told her he had spotted the pups several times over the previous day, but had seen no sign of their mother. Monique asked him to try to contain the pups and she would come check them out. However, when he went back, the pups had retreated back into their den where he couldn't reach them. He left them some food and water and gave up for the day.

He returned the next day but still had no luck capturing the animals. Monique then contacted her fellow volunteer, Nanette Hardin, who went that evening with her husband, Dave Zollo, to try to reach the pups, even trying to increase the opening of the den—again without success. She noted, however, there appeared to be not two, but four pups inside.

On Tuesday, Monique, Nanette, and the student brought pick-axes and other tools and went to work. After three hours of clinging to the steep slope and working to widen the opening, Monique was finally able to reach in and grab one of the pups by the hair and pull him out.

"Until that point, we weren't sure if they needed our help or not," said Monique. "But when we felt how ice-cold he was, we knew it was a rescue."

After the tenacious team had pulled out four pups and were preparing to leave, they suddenly discovered two more pups inside the den. When they finally had all six in hand, Monique took them home where she was able to warm them up, hydrate them, and offer them some formula. The pups were about 2-3 weeks old and weighed between 400-600 grams.

Because Native Animal Rescue doesn't have the facilities for housing coyotes, Monique had already contacted WCSV's Animal Care Coordinator, Carmel de Bertaut, who provided home care for two weeks. She then brought them back to the Wildlife Center where they were housed indoors for a few weeks, then moved into the outdoor predatory mammal enclosure. There, they continued to thrive for another four and a half months. During this time, more coyotes continued to arrive at the Center.

Over two days in early October, 12 coyotes were successfully released in the Diablo foothills. The WCSV wishes to extend our gratitude to that one compassionate college student—and Native Animal Rescue volunteers Monique, Nanette, and Dave—who refused to give up on these helpless animals and whose persistent efforts gave the young pups their greatest possible chance at survival.



2008 OPERATIONS IN REVIEW

The recent noticeable drop in the number of animals receiving care at the Center is a sure sign we're approaching the end of the year. That makes this a good time to reflect on what we've been able to accomplish over the past ten months or so.

The number of animals received in 2008 was about the same as in 2007; we'll be reporting more details once the year is complete and our statistics have been finalized.

Certainly one of the highlights of this year was the successful raising and releasing of 12 coyotes, a record for the Center. We were very excited when we received the first group of coyote pups in the spring, and thrilled with their release in October, which we were able to share with some major donors. Refer to the story on page 3 for more details.

Some additional accomplishments:

- Establishment of an Animal Care Advisory Committee, which discusses and evaluates our approach to animal care. One example is the treating of cat-caught birds with antibiotics to increase their rehabilitation and release rate.
- Improved support for our Animal Care Supervisors (volunteer shift leaders), including monthly meetings to share ideas and expand their role in setting our animal care policies and procedures.
- The addition of two educational animals—Jet, a Red-shouldered hawk and Yankee, a California gopher snake—as well as new volunteers for our education and outreach programs.

- Laying the foundation for a more effective volunteer development program through a significant expansion of our training classes to enhance volunteers' rehabilitation skills.
- A comprehensive review of our hydration protocol to help optimize the care we provide, given the complexities of wildlife rehabilitation.

We hope to build on these accomplishments in 2009, with special focus on broadening and deepening our volunteer base and expanding our education and outreach efforts. In light of the current economic situation, we anticipate it's going to be a very challenging year. Without doubt, however, our mission of advocating and caring for the wildlife of Silicon Valley remains as important as ever, and we're extremely fortunate to have so many people who share our commitment to the well-being and protection of wildlife.

Young Pups Get New Digs

Thanks to volunteer Bill Paker for his quick response in building a suitable space to house our record number of coyotes until they were old enough to be moved to the outdoor predatory mammal enclosure.



Carmel de Bertaut

Squirrels Gone Wild

We don't know if it's because of the bumper crop of acorns last



Elizabeth Kricfalusi

year or some other reason, but 2008 brought a bumper crop of squirrels to the Center. A normal spring season might find 115 squirrels making their way to us and the summer season average is around 175. This year, we had 163 in the spring and more than 250 in the summer!

The WCSV would like to thank our indefatigable volunteers who really stepped up to help us deal with this unprecedented influx. We couldn't have done it without the dedicated support of our home care volunteers who took in extra orphans and our Center animal care volunteers who came in for extra shifts to help make sure all our furry creatures got properly fed and cared for.

- Our **Annual Meeting** will be held on Thursday, February 19, 2009 at 6:00 p.m. The location has not been finalized, so please check the WCSV website (www.wcsv.org) or call the Center (408-929-9453) in early 2009 for details.



- If you're planning to donate to the Center this year, don't forget to check to see if your employer will provide a **matching donation**. Your contribution will go twice as far toward helping our wild neighbors.
- Are you a people person? Consider joining our **Education and Outreach Team** and share your appreciation of wildlife with local schoolchildren and community groups. Contact program coordinator Jen Constantin for more information.



Oh Deer: How to Deal with Fawning Season

The California Mule Deer and the Black-Tailed Deer are closely related and range over much of California. With the rapid development of rural areas, deer are losing their natural habitats and are being forced into suburbia. They now live close to our homes and towns. In a world where contact with wildlife is more frequent, we may need to change some of our behaviors to find ways to live with them. To coexist with deer, they must be understood.



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Deer give birth to their young from April through June. A deer may have between one and three babies, with two being most common. A fawn is born with its eyes open, is able to stand in ten minutes, and can walk in seven hours. Young fawns stay with their mothers through the following winter.

Healthy baby fawns are left alone by their mothers while the mothers forage for food. Unfortunately, often a lone fawn is picked up by people who mistakenly think the fawn has been abandoned. The fawn is then brought to a wildlife center by well-meaning people for rehabilitation. Sadly these fawns have been taken from their mother unnecessarily.

In cases like these, the fawns should be immediately returned to the exact location where they were found and then left alone. If the doe senses someone nearby, she will not return to her baby. Once she senses the

potential danger is gone, however, she will rejoin her young.

The only time a fawn should be picked up and taken to a wildlife center is if it is obviously ill or injured. If a fawn is wandering aimlessly and crying, that may be an indication the mother may have been hurt and will not return. In such a situation, call the WCSV for advice. Do not try to give it food or liquids of any kind, including water.

The fawn's natural predators are cougars, coyotes, bobcats, and domestic dog packs. Too often we receive deer that have been injured by dog attacks. Usually these deer do not survive. There are leash laws in many parts of

If you encounter a fawn lying quietly in the woods, do not disturb it. The mother is likely nearby and will return to her baby once you are gone.

Silicon Valley, so it is important to abide by those laws and keep dogs confined to their own territory.

Fawns are born scent-free and have white camouflage spots that protect them from predators. The doe continues to keep her babies scent-free by consuming her fawn's urine and droppings. This is another reason why humans should never touch a fawn.

Leaving human scent on its body will attract predators to the fawn. If you have touched a fawn and are returning it to where it was found, please do the following:

- Put on rubber gloves and get a towel.
- Rub the towel in the grass and then wipe the fawn's body with the towel to remove any human scent.
- While still wearing the gloves, return the fawn to the place where it was found. Now the fawn is once again scent-free and waiting for its mother to return.

If you see an adult deer with a broken leg or other injury, leave the animal alone unless

On the Road

Thousands of deer are killed annually by being hit by a vehicle. Following are a few tips for making your drive safer for you and the deer:

- Heed wildlife warning signs and adhere to the speed limit.
- Where forest or fields are on both sides of the road, look for wildlife at all times. Be particularly attentive during dawn, dusk and nighttime hours.
- At night, always watch for reflection from the eyes of deer and other nocturnal animals.
- If a deer "freezes" in your headlights, stop if safe and turn your headlights off and on so the animal can pass.
- When you see brake lights, it could mean the driver ahead has spotted deer. Stay alert!
- If one animal crosses the road ahead of you, stop and watch; there will probably be others.
- Deer hooves slip on pavement. A deer may fall in front of your vehicle just when you think it's jumping away.
- If you accidentally hit and kill a deer, move it far off the road. Often a doe will be killed and her fawn is still there in harm's way. The living fawn(s) will stay by its dead mother and/or dead sibling for hours.
- If an adult deer is hit by a vehicle and wounded, immediately call Animal Services or the non-emergency number of the local police for assistance. Please do not let the deer suffer.
- Do not touch an injured deer as they have sharp hooves, which can be very dangerous.

it can't stand up. Even though the injury may take a long time to heal, this is preferable to the trauma that would be caused by chasing and capturing the animal. The ability of wild animals to heal and their adaptability to some injuries are quite amazing.

How Your Holiday Shopping Can Help Local Wildlife

In tough economic times, we know it's difficult for our supporters to find those extra dollars to donate to the Wildlife Center. But there's a way you can increase your contributions that won't cost you a penny.

The WCSV is registered with the eScrip program, where participating merchants make donations to us on your behalf whenever you shop with them. The program contributes more than \$6,000 to the Center annually, proving that a lot of little donations can really add up!

There are no fees involved and you can still enjoy any sales or other specials offered by the participating retailers, which include many popular local and online merchants, such as Safeway, Macy's, and Amazon.com.

Some merchants will require you pay for your purchases using specific cards before they will make a donation to the Center. For example, Safeway requires you use their Safeway Club Card at checkout and Macy's

requires one of their store-branded credit cards. Other retailers will accept any major credit or debit card.

To see the list of stores that participate, the percentage of sales they contribute, and which cards they accept, go to www.escrip.com, click on About the Program, Family of Merchants, and choose your region and category of stores where you shop.

Online Shopping

You can also shop online through eScrip by going to its site and clicking on the Online Mall link.

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You'll see a list of all the online retailers who participate and how much of your purchase they will contribute to the WCSV. When you click on a company's name, a separate window will open for your shopping.

If you have any questions about how the program works, call the Center for more information.

Five Easy Steps To Sign Up with eScrip

1. Go to www.escrip.com and click on the Sign Up button.
2. Search for Wildlife Center of Silicon Valley, then click on its name when it comes up. You have now identified us as a group you want to support.
3. On the next screen, enter your name and contact information.
4. Next, select which loyalty, debit, and credit cards to associate with the program, referring back to the requirements of the stores where you shop. (This is done over three screens: one for grocery and eScrip cards, the second for general credit and debit cards, and the third for store cards.)
5. You'll now have a chance to review all the information entered. Click Confirm to complete your registration.

That's it! Now, whenever you shop at a participating merchant and pay with one of your registered cards, the company will automatically make a donation to the Wildlife Center.

*Think a small donation can't make a difference?
Check out how much it costs to feed these animals
for a week and see how every dollar helps...*

- \$5** Songbirds, waterbirds, and opossums
- \$10** Raccoons
- \$15** Squirrels
- \$35** Predatory birds
- \$70** Foxes
- \$105** Coyotes



Food for Thought

The WCSV would like to thank the following grocery stores for their generous in-kind



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donations of produce that kept our growing animals well fed throughout the season.

Cosentino's Markets, San Jose

Trader Joe's, Campbell

Whole Foods Market, Campbell

Zanotto's Family Market, San Jose



WCSV and PG&E: A Powerful Partnership for Wildlife

It's popular these days for companies to promote their commitment to the environment, especially because it's "cool" to be ecologically responsible. And while even one action taken to preserve the ecosystem is a good thing, working toward sustainable solutions and partnerships with like-minded organizations demonstrates a higher level of commitment.

In June, the Wildlife Center was contacted by Andi Henke, a Wildlife/Conservation Biologist with Pacific Gas and Electric Corporation (PG&E). Andi notified us that we were being recommended for a grant for "assistance with nesting bird issues pertaining to PG&E projects." The company had called the Center several times in the spring, needing information on how to work around nesting sites for ravens, cormorants, and a killdeer.

According to Andi, the information and referrals we provided were very helpful, demonstrating to PG&E that the Center's work "is a great example of community-based environmental stewardship."

In September, PG&E awarded us a \$500 grant to cover expenses related to general operating support.

In a further demonstration of partnership, the Center was added to the PG&E Campaign for the Community program. The company website describes this program as an "annual employee and retiree giving campaign to raise money for nonprofit organizations and schools." An impressive employee contribution vehicle, the campaign had received \$3.9 million in pledges as of March 2008. Including the Center in the list of potential recipients will provide PG&E employees—many of whom are active volunteers in their communities—with increased exposure to, and awareness of, the valuable work we do.

You can learn more about PG&E community involvement online at www.pge.com/about/community. And the next time you hear the name PG&E, hopefully you'll remember their partnership with the Center for the good of the environment.

Why I Volunteer

I volunteer at WCSV because, in 1999, I found an injured Cooper's Hawk while leaving work and agonized over what to do to address his suffering. The Humane Society referred us to WCSV and I was so impressed with the response and follow-up that ensued, I signed up for the next volunteer presentation. Since then, I have been working as a home care provider on the squirrel team and my life has been enriched as a result.



Bonnie Noehr
Volunteer since 1999

I've been volunteering at the Wildlife Center for about 6 months. I started volunteering because my mom heard about the Center and thought I would enjoy it since I've always loved animals. I have wanted to be a veterinarian since I was about 7, so volunteering at the Wildlife Center is a really great experience!



Emily Sanda
Volunteer since 2008

SAVE THE DATE! JEWELS IN FLIGHT 2009

Saturday, May 9th

At a private home
in the east San Jose
foothills.



Tracks



Wildlife Center of Silicon Valley

A Rehabilitation, Release & Educational Facility

3027 Penitencia Creek Road • San Jose, CA 95132



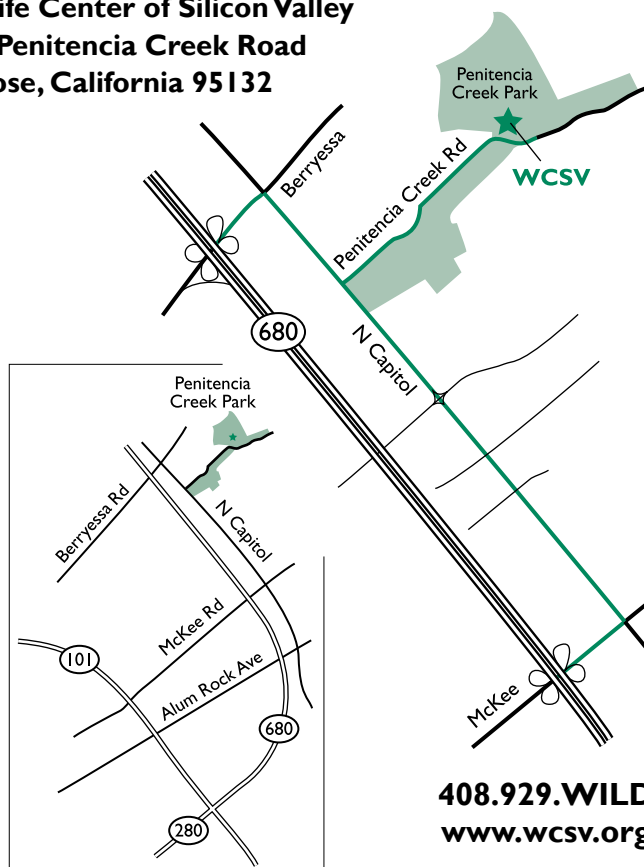
Great Gift Idea: Hummingbird Bag

Wildlife lovers will enjoy displaying their support for the WCSV with this beautiful canvas tote bag adorned with a stunning shot of three hummingbirds perched on a twig against a backdrop of colorful flowers. Photo by renowned hummingbird photographer Don Jedlovec. These unique bags are now available at the WCSV for \$15.



How to Contact Us

Wildlife Center of Silicon Valley
3027 Penitencia Creek Road
San Jose, California 95132



408.929.WILD
www.wcsv.org

WCSV is a leased facility of the Santa Clara County Parks & Recreation Department