

# The Wild Life



A NEWSLETTER FOR THE WILDLIFE REHABILITATORS OF COLORADO

JULY 2006

## INSIDE...

**Resource List  
for non-profits** p. 1

**A Note from  
CCWR President** p.2

**Member  
Spotlight** p. 3

**A Heart of Gold** p. 4

**Information from  
the DOW** p. 4

**Ready for  
Release** p. 5

**CCWR  
News Briefs** p. 6

The CCWR Board of Directors voted recently to award **Lifetime Member** status to our organization's founders, Sigrid Ueblacker and Trish Phillips. Congratulations to them both!

## The Non-Profit "Must Have" Resource List

By Kathy L. Dremann

With the never-ending duties associated with animal medicine and husbandry, who has time to open the mail and shuffle assorted paper, continually accumulating on your desk? A compromised patient is far more important than filing this month's payroll taxes, right!?! (Oops, that's going to cost you!) Because of more immediate concerns, the administrative aspects of animal welfare agencies often fall through the cracks. Unfortunately, these oversights can be expensive and sometimes, detrimental to your organization.

Take a few moments to check out (and bookmark) the following websites. A little time spent evaluating these (and other) tools can improve your agency's overall efficiency and fundraising efforts. These resources will enable you to focus most of your time where it belongs, toward the animals!

### Electronic Federal Tax Payment System (EFTPS — OnLine)

<http://www.eftps.gov/>

Streamline your payroll tax filing and payments by using EFTPS. Enrollment is relatively easy – you'll need your organization's EIN and bank information. Depending upon your organization's tax amount, you can make monthly payments on-line and file quarterly reports via QuickBooks (see below).

### QuickBooks Premier Nonprofit Edition (accounting software)

<http://quickbooks.intuit.com>

This user-friendly software manages payroll, payables and income easily and efficiently. Unlike spreadsheet programs, QuickBooks

generates financial reports and budgets, reconciles bank and charge card accounts, and produces deposit summaries and bill payment checks (just to name a few). After a careful and thorough set-up of the Chart of Accounts, QuickBooks does most of the work for you. It's well worth the initial expense to help safeguard your agency's finances.

### Mission Research — GiftWorks

(Fundraising software)

<http://www.missionresearch.com/index.html>

Unlike database, spreadsheet and word processing software, GiftWorks is specifically designed to manage your fundraising efforts by tracking donors, donations and mailings. It also integrates with QuickBooks by posting donations to the general ledger, eliminating double entry! Visit their website to evaluate its fit with your agency and download a 30 day free trial.

### Techsoup.org (technology resource)

<http://www.techsoup.org/index.cfm>

Techsoup connects non-profits with donated and discounted technology products by partnering with companies, such as Microsoft and Adobe. Their on-line "Learning Center" provides information and articles pertaining to subjects including volunteers, funding, software, web building, etc. Free software downloads are also available via the "Products" link.

### Colorado Secretary of State (website)

<http://www.sos.state.co.us/>

File your annual report or a business document (e.g. Statement of Trade Name,

Continued on p. 3



**Colorado Council for  
Wildlife Rehabilitation  
Board of Directors**

**Chairman of the Board**

Jack Murphy  
Jack@urbanwildliferescue.org

**President**

Deirdre Butler  
(303) 823-8649  
Deirdre@cogico.com

**Vice President**

Ellen Salem  
ellensalem@yahoo.com

**Treasurer**

Diana Miller  
dmiller@gncp.org

**Outreach Chairperson**

(Memberships & Newsletter Editor)  
Raegan Morgan  
CCWR\_4\_Members@msn.com

**Directors**

Joyce Benesh Williams  
Beth Bridges  
Erin Grabowski  
Lisa Oakleaf  
Kris Wagner

**Mailing Address:**

CCWR  
303 S. Broadway, Suite 200-281  
Denver, CO 80209

© 2006 CCWR. All rights reserved.  
Articles may not be reprinted  
without permission.

# A Note From the President

Dear Friend of Wildlife,

Tidings of magpies — Scold of scrub jays  
Charm of house finches — Host of lark sparrows

Just a few of the delights we've been seeing at our bird-feeders and bird-bath, with adults shadowed by their noisy and unruly off-spring! I used to wonder at how my mother could while away her time staring out the window — now I'm doing the same.

Thank goodness for these wonderful, uplifting wildlife viewing opportunities to off-set the death and destruction happening up and down the Front Range. Fort Collins, Broomfield, Westminster and now even Boulder — removing i.e. killing, prairie dogs — all in the name of "progress."

In August of 2004, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service removed the black-tailed prairie dog (*Cynomys ludovicianus*) from the Endangered Species Act candidate list. However, in its decision, the Fish and Wildlife Service conceded that the species' population had declined by 98% of its historic size. Colorado's urban Front Range black-tailed prairie dog population continues to decline.

The prairie dog is a keystone species (Miller et al.1994; 2000; Kotliar et al.1999; Kotliar 2000; Hoogland 2006). Conservation of the prairie dog is important; not only for the prairie dog, but also for its grassland ecosystem. Many organisms depend on the prairie dog for survival including scarlet globe mallows, mountain plovers, burrowing owls, ferruginous hawks and more. Protection of a keystone species such as the black-tailed prairie dog is an effective way to protect whole ecosystems. Keystone species influence ecosystem structure, composition, and function in a unique way and significant manner through their activities and their effect is disproportionate to their numerical abundance.

As we go about our daily lives — the humdrum, the wildlife care, interfacing with the public — take the opportunity to share your knowledge. To affect change in actions and perceptions, education is key. Lindsey Sterling Krank, Director, The Prairie Dog Coalition, quoted recently in The DailyCamera, "Prairie dogs and associated species are declining. The earth is in a biodiversity crisis as a whole. We're really talking about how to manage wildlife for the future, so it will be here for our children to view."

One last thought - please remember to complete your survey. If you have something to share please e-mail to ccwr\_4\_members@msn.com. You are also most welcome to contact me directly via phone. We look forward to hearing from you.

Warm regards,

Deirdre Butler  
President, CCWR



**Deirdre Butler**



Continued from page 1

Statement of Registration of Trademark, etc.) on-line, obtain a "Certificate of Good Standing" (grant foundations like them!), and periodically check your organization's status to ensure you don't miss any crucial deadlines. E-filing costs less, enabling you to direct those funds saved toward other operating expenses. For instance, if the annual report is filed on paper, the fee is \$100. By e-filing this same document, you save \$90!

### Community Resource Center

<http://www.crcamerica.org/index.htm>

This resource offers a continuum of services throughout the state of Colorado, including consulting and technological assistance. Classes offered include everything from "Using QuickBooks in your Nonprofit" to "Fundraising Boards that Rock!" An on-line and printed version of the *Colorado Grants Guide* is available via their website — a "must have" for any agency serious about obtaining grant funding.

### Colorado Non-profit Association

<http://www.coloradononprofits.org/index.cfm>  
[info@npResources.org](mailto:info@npResources.org)  
(303) 894-0298 / (800) 333-6554

This website provides information regarding networking, communication and administration. Member benefits include the Non-profit Help Desk (on-line information service), information regarding current trainings (e.g. Volunteer Management and Grant Writing seminars) and non-profit conferences, bookstore discounts, public policy efforts/updates and more. Dues are based upon the organization's annual budget.

---

After a long day of admitting patients, cleaning cages, preparing food, administering medications, bandaging wounds and mopping the floor, the mounds of paper piling up on your desk can seem overwhelming. With a little organization, some forethought and a list of invaluable resources, these administrative duties need not be so daunting! ❖

*Kathy L Dremann is a CCWR member and the Office Manager at Colorado Horse Rescue in Longmont. She has 17 years of animal welfare non-profit experience.*

Photos by Gary Crandall

**T**om and Cec Sanders are the only staff of Wet Mountain Wildlife in Wetmore. Retired school teachers, they have dedicated their lives to caring for wildlife. Here is their story:



**Cec and Tom with their hands full!**

"Our love for animals and our attempts to assist them extend back to before we were married, 34 years ago. We became involved with wildlife rehabilitation by helping Glenna "The Bird Lady" Beck in Pueblo with small mammals and wild birds.

## Member Spotlight

*Wet Mountain Wildlife*

"Twenty years ago there were not many rehabilitators and we began getting calls on larger species. After successfully raising a pronghorn and whitetail deer in town, we decided to look for a more suitable location to deal with the big guys.

"There are few large animal rehabbers in the state. We have taken in over 100 bear cubs in the past twenty years. The most memorable year was 2002, the terrible drought year, when we received 15 orphan cubs. Another unforgettable year was 1998 when we had 18 fawns. We have also had the opportunity to raise and release 17 mountain lions. Our bears and lions are always released by the DOW.



**Bottle feeding a baby badger.**

"In 1992 we were asked to care for a 6-month-old mountain lion that had been confiscated. At that time we became a sanctuary as well as a rehab facility. We now have two mountain lions and a bobcat, plus 24 exotic birds. A third resident mountain lion died this past February.

"In 1992 we found it necessary to become a non-profit organization. Cost of food, caging for the larger animals and veterinary bills was more than our teaching salaries could provide. With private donations and grants we have been able to constantly upgrade our facility.

*Continued on p. 4*

# A Heart Of Gold

By Sigrid Noll Ueblacker,  
Birds of Prey Foundation

When I first met Anna Gold at the Colorado Humane Society in Henderson Colorado in 1981, she sat behind a huge desk that was covered with mountains of paperwork. To my amazement I began to realize that there was more on her desk than what met the eye. Amongst these mountains of papers were little containers with cheeping little birds of all ages, food dishes of all sorts, pipettes and other utensils to feed the orphaned birds.

Anna was one of the first rehabilitators I met, along with Catherine Hurlbutt (who is now in her early 90's), Manya Vas and Vona Bates. During her lifetime, Anna happily took in hundreds of orphaned and displaced birds each spring and summer. Later, she cared for her charges in Thornton and often referred little owls, kestrels, poor wills and nighthawks to me.



Photo by  
Shannon Jacobs,  
printed with her  
permission.

What I loved most about Anna was her great, sometimes quite sarcastic sense of humor. And she never minded to add a few choice words during a conversation. She loved life and I adored her cheerful and

positive outlook on life. We were always laughing when we met.

Anna had a heart of gold. But that heart of gold failed her in the past years. Early this year she died peacefully in the midst of her family in Pennsylvania. I know she has a special place in heaven now for all she gave so generously, including the many happy moments and laughter we remember her for. ❖



## Information from the Colorado Division of Wildlife

### CDOW's Website: It's a Good Thing

The DOW website offers a plethora of information for those seeking to become licensed wildlife rehabilitators and those who already are.

For prospective rehabilitators, you can use the website to find applications to become a wildlife rehabilitator or for special permits. Two documents pertinent to rehabilitation — Chapter 0, *General Provisions Index* and Chapter 14, *Wildlife Rehabilitation Index* — can be downloaded directly from this site. Both provide a lot of worthwhile information.

Also found at this website is the Public List of Colorado Rehabbers, Zoonoses Information, and the Wildlife Rehabilitation Facility Inspection Form.

Remember, to become a Wildlife Rehabilitator, you must, among other requirements, do the following:

1. **act as a provisional wildlife rehabilitator under the supervision of an established rehabilitator**
2. **develop caging that is appropriate for the wildlife species you intend to rehabilitate**
3. **have your facilities inspected and approved by your local District Wildlife Manager**
4. **view a series of training videos provided by the DOW**
5. **ensure that the rehabilitation of the wildlife species you are applying for is not in violation of any local ordinances, zoning codes, laws, etc.**

The link to the Division of Wildlife's website also has basic zoonoses information that is pertinent to rehabilitation. This information is a good resource for all rehabilitators, not just new applicants.

#### Colorado Division of Wildlife's website:

<http://wildlife.state.co.us/RulesRegs/SpecialPermits/Applications/Applications.htm>

### Member Spotlight, Continued from p. 3

"Looking back at the different species we have been privileged to work with, we think deer are probably the most difficult to raise. They are dependent on you for a long time and are very time consuming. Bears require tons of food and are extremely sloppy. We try to feed big cats a natural diet of rabbits, deer and elk meat, which can be hard to come by. One of the most incredible critters to care for is the badger.

"Wildlife rehab is our life. Our advice to anyone interested in this volunteer endeavor is this: Be willing to put forth a total commitment. The animals that we are entrusted with come first. Everything else is put on hold." ❖

# Ready for Release:

## *Confessions of a Nervous Nellie*

By Raegan Morgan

**R**elease. It's the ultimate goal — what we all work so hard for. That moment — when the cage door opens and the bird we've nurtured back to health takes its first flight back into freedom — should be sheer exhilaration for me. And it is... really. But I must confess, that moment is often tainted with just a hint of nervousness. Call me a mother hen, but I can't help but worry about them. Will they make it? Will they hunt? Will they live long and prosper?

I've certainly released enough birds in my years as a raptor center volunteer that you'd *think* I'd be over these issues. But I suppose it's a lot like raising your own kids — you want them to succeed *and* to flourish.

Don't get me wrong. I don't doubt that the birds are ready for release. This is strictly a personality flaw on my part. We check our release criteria list twice before every release (these criteria apply to other species as well):

- **Physical Health:** Are all injuries completely healed? Is the bird's flight perfect (for owls, silent)? Do both feet work? Both eyes and ears? Is the bird physically fit? Can it catch prey?

- **Psychological Health:** Does the release time correspond to the bird's natural behavior (diurnal/nocturnal)? Does the bird have a healthy fear of humans/predators (not tame or imprinted)? Has it been kept in a low-stress environment with members of its own species? Can it recognize and hunt for food? Has captive life mimicked wild life as much as humanly possible (diet, variable perching surfaces; shelter from/exposure to the elements; interesting vistas and plenty of enrichment)?

- **Habitat:** Does the release site provide suitable habitat with abundant food? Have migratory patterns and habits been considered? Is this a place I would want to be if I were that creature?

I recently experienced a most incredible release. I had the privilege to accompany a Snowy Owl, on behalf of the Birds of Prey Foundation, to Alaska's North Slope for release in the Coleville River Delta — ideal



*Raegan and her son, Parker, release a Great Horned Owl near Windsor that was rehabilitated at the Birds of Prey Foundation.*

habitat if you are a snowy owl! True to form, I worried all the way up there: Could she handle the cold? Silly question. Would she recognize a lemming? What if, what if, ad nauseum!

When the time came to open the door and set her free, I stopped worrying. I knew this bird, and I knew if ever a bird had a fighting chance at survival in the wild, this owl did. And in my heart I knew — just like I've known with all the others I've released — that we've done everything possible to ensure a successful release.

For me, there's nothing left to do but cheer them on as they fly away home. ❖



*Raegan cheers for the Snowy as she flew away into the white Arctic wilderness.*



**CCWR**

*News Briefs*

**SAVE THE DATE!**

The next CCWR 2007 Annual Symposium is scheduled for February 10-11, 2007.

Look for location, schedule, and registration details to be published in future issues of *The Wild Life*.

**RETURN YOUR SURVEYS & CLAIM YOUR PRIZE!**

The CCWR Board of Directors wants to hear from the rehabilitation community about issues concerning them. Surveys were mailed in early July.

If you received your survey, please take a few moments and fill it out. Your input is very important and the board will take action based on the responses received.

If you did not receive a survey in the mail but would like to voice your opinion, please e-mail your name and address, along with a survey request to: CCWR\_4\_members@msn.com.

The first 15 to return their survey will receive a 25% discount off their 2007 Symposium registration, and everyone who returns a survey will be placed in a drawing for a \$30 gift certificate to either Home Depot or King Soopers.

**GET INVOLVED WITH CCWR**

**NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE:** If you have writing and interviewing skills, please contact Raegan Morgan, *The Wild Life* Editor, 970-532-1153 or e-mail ccwr\_4\_members@msn.com.

**SYMPOSIUM COMMITTEE :** Help plan CCWR's annual 2-day wildlife rehabilitation symposium. Contact Deirdre Butler, Symposium Chair, at (303) 823-8649 or e-mail: Deirdre@cogico.com.

**Time to Renew Your Membership!**

**CCWR 2006-07 Membership Application/Renewal**

(Memberships run from April 1 through March 31).

Check one:  New Member \$10  Renewal \$10

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (best place to reach you): \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

*In an effort to save resources, e-mail is CCWR's primary method of communicating. We promise not to share your e-mail address outside the organization. Thank you.*

Are you a licensed rehabilitator? Y N If Yes, how long? \_\_\_\_\_

Areas of expertise: \_\_\_\_\_

Other areas of interest: \_\_\_\_\_

- I would like to be nominated to the Board.
- I wish to help with the following sub-committee(s):
  - Newsletter  Education/Seminars/Symposium
  - Grants/Awards  Outreach
  - Nominating  Video/Library Maintenance
- Other ways I can help: \_\_\_\_\_

Please send with check (payable to CCWR) to: CCWR Membership, 303 S. Broadway, Suite 200-281, Denver, CO 80209

**About *The Wild Life***

*The Wild Life* is a quarterly newsletter for members of CCWR and is published in April, July, October, and January. We encourage you to share this newsletter with volunteers, staff, and colleagues.

We strive to publish well-researched information that is up-to-date, interesting and helpful. However, information in *The Wild Life* is provided only as a service to our members and is not intended to be directive, nor applicable in all circumstances. Members are always advised to seek counsel from their veterinarian and DOW officials on matters applicable to their locale.

Suggestions and contributions are welcome. To submit an article or other contribution for consideration, please e-mail it to: CCWR\_4\_Members@msn.com, or send it to Raegan Morgan, CCWR Outreach Chair, 1913 Glenview Drive, Berthoud, CO 80513. We hope you enjoy the publication.