

ANNUAL REPORT 2002



NORTH COUNTRY WILD CARE

Answering the Call of the Wild

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This is the first annual report for North Country Wild Care. 2002 was our first full year in existence and we grew dramatically during this time. We have developed a number of committees and programs designed to achieve our organizational goals.

North Country Wild Care is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization formed in April of 2001. We are centered in Diamond Point New York, located in the southern Adirondack region. We are a small (26 members) network of home-based licensed wildlife rehabilitators who have joined forces to enhance our individual abilities to provide care for injured, orphaned and otherwise debilitated wildlife.

We are funded through private donations, grants and fundraising events.





NORTH COUNTRY WILD CARE

August 5, 2003

To Our Board, Members and Donors,

Better late than never, herein is our first annual report for our first full year in existence. We've come a long way in a short time. As I write, the growing pains have started to show. Seems the more people we have, the more we need. Managing a volunteer organization with no paid staff is always a challenge, more so here in the North Country where we're working from our homes and spread out across four counties. So far though, our people have stepped up and met the challenges, including the increased number of phone calls, animals in distress and new volunteers. Our most immediate goal is to develop our veterans and senior rehabbers to oversee and nurture our newcomers, as we envisioned when we started.

I did rehabilitation for many years without any sort of network, organization or formal training. I learned from experience and phone calls to other rehabilitators. There is such an advantage to starting out with some guidance from veterans. And to having a support network. Rehabilitators are working with life and death situations, emotions can run high. Burn out is common in this profession, often we are told that we don't make a difference, we're interfering with nature and that the animals we're saving are nuisances that need to be controlled anyway. But we know how much we're appreciated when animals arrive, tucked in the finders shirt or carefully wrapped in blankets. People who use our services care deeply about the animals that they find in distress, and are very frustrated when they find no one to help them. Our goal is to someday have enough rehabilitators and a single hotline to call to handle our entire service area. I believe it's a very possible goal, though not be immediately achievable.

My personal goal for NCWC is to see the organization outlast me. An organization is not about one person but about the cooperation of many towards a common goal. Having formed it I feel personally responsible for seeing it to a point of stability and institution and I am fully confident that we are not far from that goal.

Sincerely,

Margarethe (Molly) Gallagher
President

MISSION STATEMENT



- To support licensed wildlife rehabilitators in the care of orphaned, injured and otherwise debilitated wildlife.
- To encourage and foster the education, licensing and training of wildlife rehabilitators
- To encourage cooperation and networking between wildlife rehabilitators.
- To educate the public about wildlife and wildlife rehabilitators.
- To encourage and foster local wildlife research.

TRENDS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Wildlife Rehabilitation is a fast growing field. Rehabilitation Centers and related organizations are increasing in number across the country. Public support and demand for services is very high and government has been slow to respond, leaving the responsibility to the volunteer community. We hope to fill the need for rehabilitation services in our community and bring a new professionalism to this work.

OBJECTIVES FOR NEXT YEAR

In 2003 we plan to continue to grow the organization and expand our public outreach programs. As we grow we will need to develop organizational tools to manage our programs. These will include the issuance of policy documents and reporting requirements for volunteers. There is a unique challenge in the management of home-based volunteers that we need to address in an innovative fashion.

DESCRIPTION OF ORGANIZATION

North Country Wild Care is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization formed in April of 2001 to support the work of Wildlife Rehabilitators. Wildlife Rehabilitators are licensed by the State and Federal government to care for injured, orphaned and otherwise distressed native wildlife. We have a Board of Directors which is responsible for oversight of the organization, a Public Education Committee, Fundraising Committee and an Animal Care Team.

We are centered in Diamond Point, New York and our members are located in Warren, Washington, Saratoga and Albany Counties. Our area does not have a wildlife rehabilitation center. Home-based wildlife rehabilitation is a demanding undertaking, support and training are critical to an individual's success. North Country Wild Care was organized to provide that support, as well as financial assistance for the various costs associated with rehabilitation such as caging, food and medications and to educate the public about Wildlife Rehabilitation.

In January 2002 we had four members, three of which were board members, by December we had twenty-two members with a board of seven. We began the year with three licensed rehabilitators and 2 licensed assistants. We ended the year with eleven licensed rehabilitators and seven licensed assistants.

In 2002 Dr. Brian Landenberger of the Schroon River Animal Hospital agreed to be our Supporting Veterinarian.

Basic Information

Incorporated Name: North Country Wild Care

Mailing Address: 848 Coolidge Hill Rd, Diamond Point NY 12824

Fed ID #: 14-1833103

Date of Incorporation: April 5, 2001

Bank: Glens Falls National

Contact: Molly Gallagher 644-5798

Meetings: Third Wednesday of every month at Conservation Park in Bolton Landing

BOARD MEMBERS (AS OF DECEMBER 2002 ELECTIONS)

- Molly Gallagher
President
- Molly Gallagher is one of the founding members of North Country Wild Care. She has been president of the group since its establishment in April of 2001. She has been a licensed rehabilitator since 1988. She is state licensed, approved for rehabilitation of rabies vector species, and federally licensed to rehabilitate migratory birds. Her focus is on large mammals but has experience with a variety of wildlife. She has a degree in biology and experience running an animal shelter and as a veterinary technician. She works for the Lake George Park Commission as an Environmental Analyst and resides in Diamond Point.
- Cara Huffman
Vice President
- Cara Huffman, also a founding member, is a veterinary technician with extensive training in the care of wildlife. Cara relocated to our area from California where she worked as a Veterinary Technician for over 10 years. In California she volunteered for the Wildlife Center of Silicon Valley, Native Animal Rescue and Injured and Orphaned Wildlife. She is responsible for NCWC's rehabilitator training programs and general oversight of animal care. Her specialties include critical and emergency care for all wildlife with an emphasis on the care of raptors. Cara was NCWC's secretary in 2001 & 2002.
- Karen Lindstadt
secretary
- Karen Lindstadt joined NCWC in May 2002. She has rapidly joined the ranks of our veteran rehabilitators, getting her state license and approval to work with RVS (rabies vector species) in record time. RVS care is one of the more demanding challenges we face, there is a critical state-wide shortage of rehabilitators that are RVS certified. Karen has learned critical and emergency care procedures through our training and lots of hand-on experience. She and her husband own and operate Lake George Day Care.
- Jack Domster
treasurer
- Jack Domster joined NCWC in Fall 2002 along with his wife, Sharon, after speaking with members at an NCWC exhibit booth. He plans to specialize in birds of prey. He is active in international capital equipment sales in the chocolate & confectionery industries and has degrees in both Metallurgical Engineering and Accounting.
- Nancy Kimball
- Nancy Kimball is a founding member of NCWC. She received her state license for wildlife rehabilitation in 2000. She is especially interested in squirrels (red, gray and flying) and opossums and coordinates the public education programs for NCWC. Nancy has a BS in Nursing and a Master's in Public Health and is a certified clinical nurse specialist. Her day job is providing mental health services to Hamilton County residents. She has been a full time resident of the Adirondack Park for the past 15 years.

- Elise Mahovlich Elise Mahovlich has been a member of North Country Wild Care since April, 2002. She is interested in working with all species and is interested in receiving certification for rabies vector species. She has worked with a variety of small mammals. She has Bachelors of Arts in journalism and is the press contact for the organization. She resides in Bolton Landing where she works in the alternative health field, entertainment sales and freelance public relations.
- Deborah Lack Deborah Lack joined NCWC in August 2002. She is an assistant rehabilitator under Molly's license. She is part of the fund-raising team of NCWC and has been very successful in this area. She is the manager of Professor Moriarty's restaurant in Saratoga Springs.

TEAMS & COMMITTEES

Animal Care Team

The Animal Care Team is comprised of senior rehabilitators who oversee the recruitment and training of new rehabilitators.

- Purpose
Oversight of the care of animals in custody of our volunteer rehabilitators
- Responsibilities
Assuring that animals are placed with volunteers with proper licensing and suitable training and caging for that species. Mentors are assigned by species handled.
- Achievements
 - Well attended seven month winter training program.
 - Individual hands-on training is regularly conducted during our busy spring and summer season.
 - High attendance at the New York State Wildlife Rehabilitation annual conference.
 - Increase in licensed volunteers of over 300%.

Public Education Committee

- Purpose
To educate the public about Wildlife Rehabilitation and our organization; what they can do to avoid the need for our services; how they can help us in our work; how to determine if wildlife truly needs assistance and how to contact us.
- Responsibilities
Development, scheduling and presentation of programs to the public which describe our organization and its activities.
- Achievements
 - Development of a slideshow and basic presentation for use by members.
 - Presentations for numerous civic, community and children's organizations.
 - Publication of biannual newsletter.
 - Website developed and brochure broadly distributed.
 - Development of a mailing list of over 400.

Fundraising Committee

- Purpose
To solicit funds for use in achieving the goals of the organization
- Responsibilities
Providing direction to the organization in choosing fundraising events and activities
- Achievements
 - Receipt of two grants in 2002
 - Successful raffle and fundraising events through the year
 - Successful annual appeal to supporters

VOLUNTEERS

Rehabilitator Members

- Colleen Kimble, state and federally licensed rehabilitator with seven years experience. Colleen is the Town of Queensbury Animal Control Officer. She has experience with almost all species found in our area and specializes in mammals and songbirds.
- Lainie Angel received her state license in 2002. She is currently enrolled in a veterinary technician course at a local college.
- Jenny Massaro received her state license in 2002. She owns a local shop which sells Adirondack collectibles.
- Meg Brown received her state license in 2002. Meg has a soft spot for bunnies, both domestic and wild, and has stepped up to fill a gap in the rehabilitation of Eastern Cottontails. She is a licensed, practicing masseuse.
- Hope Brynes, an assistant rehabilitator, has jumped in with both feet and taken on all sorts of animals and challenges. She recently received her nursing certification and is working as a nursing assistant.
- Karin Badey received her state license in 2002. She works for a not-for-profit organization as an environmental educator. She is interested in putting together educational programs using non-releasable wildlife.
- Becky Sutton is an assistant rehabilitator. She has experience working for veterinarians, a valuable background for this work.
- Sharon Domster joined us in October, with her husband Jack (see Board Members). They are interested in working with birds of prey.
- Joyce Claire Perry is a state licensed rehabilitator with several years experience. She works primarily with mammals and specializes in Opossums.
- Erika Burkowski received her state license in 2002. She has been especially helpful in rescue and transport.
- Barbara Lyons is an experienced wildlife rehabilitator who moved to our area from Florida where she worked with many different species.

Other Volunteer Members

- Wendy Burkowski helped us to network with the girl scouts and with our public education programs.
- Lisa LaMothe helped us in data entry.
- Dawn Faller joined us as a member in 2002 but has taken a leave due to family health issues.

ANIMAL CARE

In 2002 North Country Wild Care volunteers accepted 496 animals representing 78 different species. 213 were released (43%), 182 died, 57 were transferred, 36 were euthanized and 8 were still under our care at year's end. Of those animals there were: 230 Mammals, 261 Birds, 4 Reptiles and 1 Amphibian. Included in the more unusual intakes were a fisher, a weasel, a goshawk, a great blue heron, 7 wild turkey eggs, 3 cedar waxwings, 2 wood ducks and a great horned owl.

Top species handled:

- 89 Gray Squirrels
- 61 Eastern Cottontails
- 33 Robins
- 27 Raccoons
- 27 Rock Doves (Pigeons)
- 23 European Starlings
- 18 Barred Owls
- 14 Opossums
- 17 Mourning Doves

Top Causes of Distress:

- 185 Parents whereabouts unknown
- 59 Unknown
- 48 Collision with vehicle
- 40 Unnecessary human intervention
- 35 Injured by cat
- 14 Injured by unknown animal
- 11 Injured by natural predator
- 11 Collision with window/building
- 11 Injured by dog
- 10 Parents known hit by car

Due to the numbers received and ease of care, most of our volunteers start their training with gray squirrel orphans. In 2002 we constructed 5 intermediate squirrel climbing cages. We provided formula and feeding tools to our volunteers. Many volunteers purchased small mammal cages and two had walk-in cages constructed in their backyards. We were able to rehabilitate raccoons for the first time as one member received state approval and constructed outdoor caging dedicated to that species (as required). We sent out informational packets twice during the year for the local veterinarians to foster greater communication and cooperation.

TRAINING

In 2002 NCWC continued its Winter Training Program for wildlife rehabilitators. This training opportunity was originated in 2000 to provide local training for rehabilitators and those interested in becoming rehabilitators. It generally runs through the winter, from September or October to April or May. Courses offered include A General Overview of Wildlife Rehabilitation, Handling Phone Calls, Patient Assessment, Initial Care & Injection techniques, Wound Management, Fracture Care & Bandaging, Raising Baby Birds, and Raising Baby Mammals. Also offered was a make-up course for those joining classes late and a workshop on raising Opossums.

Nine of our rehabilitators attended the New York State Wildlife Rehabilitation Council's annual conference held in October in the Buffalo NY area.

PUBLIC EDUCATION

NCWC offers a slideshow program to community groups which describes the organization, explains how to become a wildlife rehabilitator, advises what to do when an injured or orphaned animal is found and presents highlights of our animal care. We presented this program to Up Yonda Environmental Center, Audubon, the Diamond Point Library, Up Yonda's Wildlife & Wilderness Festival, Kiwanis and Gore Mountain's Fourth Grade Discovery Day.

We published a Spring and a Fall newsletter and expanded our website. Costs of our newsletter printing and mailing are covered by sponsorship. Our website was created and is maintained by our members. A local periodical, The Lake George Mirror, ran our series of Wildlife Journals through the summer. We received a small stipend for each article, which was used for the care of wildlife.

FUNDRAISING

We attended a number of events in 2002, bringing our tabletop display with canopy, educational materials and items for sale. Events included the Bolton Rescue Squad Crafts Fair, the Warrensburg Garage Sale, and Up Yonda's Wildlife & Wilderness Festival. We had a display at the Warren County Fair and educational materials at the Washington County Fair.

We received two grants in 2002, a \$100 grant from the WalMart Corporation for general expenses and a \$1000 grant from the Pearsall Foundation for rehabilitator training.

We sent out an annual appeal letter at the end of the year to our mailing list of over 400.

FINANCES

INCOME

TOTAL Donations	5,535.88
260.00 2002 Appeal	
826.44 Collection Can	
894.44 Fundraising Events	
423.26 July Crafts	
78.60 Sept Crafts	
203.83 Garage sale	
85.75 Wildlife fest	
103.00 Xmas	
1,688.00 Misc	
435.00 newsletter	
539.00 Raffle	
893.00 With Animal	
Grants	1,100.00
Newsletter Sponsors	375.00
Sales at Events	399.96

TOTAL INCOME	7,410.84

EXPENSES

TOTAL Animal Care	3,083.50
818.96 Food	
267.05 Medical	
20.00 Printed Material	
1,977.49 Supplies	
TOTAL Education	2,593.60
772.97 Printed Material	
185.09 Public Programs	
1,635.54 Rehabber Training	
TOTAL Office Supplies	280.35
102.50 Misc	
177.85 postage	
Filing Fees	25.66
Fundraiser Expense	93.71
Gifts of appreciation	79.46

TOTAL EXPENSES	6,156.28

