

Annual Report 2004



North Country Wild Care

Giving Wildlife a Helping Hand

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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 regional 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.

This is the third annual report for North Country Wild Care. 2004 again brought us incredible growth. Our service area and number of volunteers expanded and along with it, the need for a "Wildlife Emergency Hotline". Donations were also up, although still way behind the actual expenses of member rehabilitators.

Highlights of our year in animal care included the successful rehabilitation of a peregrine falcon and a red fox kit that suffered severe burns and a daring technical rescue of a crow bound tight by fishline 40 feet up in a tree.

Our outdoor caging increased as individual members financed and constructed cages on their properties.

We are funded through private donations, grants and fundraising events. Our income in 2004 was \$17,641, up from \$9,627 in 2003.





NORTH COUNTRY WILD CARE

To Our Board, Members and Donors,

Enclosed is our Annual Report for 2004. As you can see by the numbers, we are still growing, but starting to define the edges of our service area. NCWC was created to respond to the need of the community for help with orphaned and injured wildlife. With the current development boom, more and more animals are being displaced from their homes and left with less and less habitat. The pattern shows that the more developed an area is, the more calls we get.

We face incredible challenges in the coming year with the increase in demand still outpacing our resources. It's more important than ever to focus on our successes and continue to foster our team approach. Volunteer work is always a struggle, everyone needs to balance their efforts with their home life and work obligations. We all need to find the strength to say no when we need to and rise to the challenges when we can. The strength found in numbers, in working as a team, is exponential. The work we can accomplish together will always diminish our individual efforts.

I'm proud of our accomplishments over the past 3 years and expect great things from this group. We have skilled and dedicated members who are able to bridge their differences and work together towards our common goal. Our dream of establishing a Wildlife Rehabilitation Center in our region grows closer each year. I truly value the friendships I've made through this organization and am continually reminded by our supporters of all our accomplishments. We have a number of new board members this coming year that I want to thank for taking on that challenge, and I also thank those who are leaving the board but served us well.

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 2005 we hope to be able to fund the staffing for our wildlife emergency hotline. This is the most important step we can take to ensure efficient and professional response to distressed animals. It is also a very important public education resource as habitat shrinks and human/wildlife encounters increase.

We also plan to expand our fundraising efforts to support the costs of expanding our service area and number of rehabilitators.

Our Public Education Program will be adding live animals to its presentations and developing an "Owl Program" funded by a grant from International Paper.

Our Animal Team Program has worked very well for us in fostering new rehabilitators and seeing that incoming animals are brought to the appropriate place. Its continued growth & evolution is planned for 2005.

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 volunteers who are licensed by the State and Federal government to care for injured, orphaned and otherwise distressed native wildlife. We have a seven member 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 Franklin, Herkimer, Warren, Washington, Saratoga, Schenectady, Schoharie and Albany Counties. Our region does not have a wildlife rehabilitation center. The nearest centers are over 3 hours south and east of us. Home-based wildlife rehabilitation is a demanding undertaking. Peer 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.

Dr. Brian Landenberger of the Schroon River Animal Hospital is our Supporting Veterinarian. Martin Auffredou, of Bartlett, Pontiff, Stewart & Rhodes PC is our attorney.

In January 2004 we had thirty members, by December we had thirty-six members. We began the year with fifteen licensed rehabilitators and fourteen licensed assistants. We ended the year with twenty seven licensed rehabilitators and three licensed assistants.

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, President 518-644-5798

Wildlife Emergency Hotline: 518-964-6740

Meetings: Third Wednesday of every month at the Lake George Association in Lake George NY.

2004 BOARD MEMBERS

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 state licensed since 1989, was approved for rehabilitation of rabies vector species in 2002, and was federally licensed in 1995 to rehabilitate migratory birds. She is our Mammal Team Leader and is experienced in handling all types 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 specialty is critical and emergency care for all wildlife and she is Team Leader for our Avian, Raptor and Songbird Teams.

Karen
Lindstadt
secretary



Karen Lindstadt joined NCWC in May 2002. She rapidly joined the ranks of our veteran rehabilitators, getting her state license, approval to work with RVS (rabies vector species) and her Federal Migratory Bird Permit 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 is our RVS Team Leader. She and her husband own and operate Lake George Day Care.

Deborah Lack
treasurer



Deborah Lack joined NCWC in August 2002, joined the board in December 2002 and was appointed to the treasurer post in October 2003. She received her state license in 2004. She heads the fundraising program of NCWC and has been very successful in this area. She is the manager of Professor Moriarty's restaurant in Saratoga Springs.

Nancy
Kimball



Nancy Kimball is a founding member of NCWC. She received her state license for wildlife rehabilitation in 2000 and Federal Migratory Bird Permit in 2003. She is especially interested in squirrels and opossums, serving as Team Leader for those Teams, and has coordinated the public education programs for NCWC for the past two years. 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. Nancy resigned from the board in December 2004 to concentrate on Animal Care.

Elise
Mahovlich



Elise Mahovlich joined NCWC in April 2002. She has worked with a variety of small mammals and birds. She has a Bachelors of Arts in journalism. She was the press contact for the organization through most of 2004. She was co-chair of our fundraising committee and chair of our Public Education Programs in 2004. Elise moved out of our area in October 2004, leaving behind a large hole in our board, our programs, and our hearts. She now runs the Living Yoga studio in Vero Beach, Florida.

Hope Brynes



Hope Brynes received her state license in 2004 and has been a member of NCWC since July 2002. She jumped in with both feet and has become experienced in handling many different species. She recently received her nursing certification and is working as a nursing assistant. She is our Team Leader for Waterfowl and Reptiles. Hope resigned from the board in December 2004 to concentrate on Animal Care.

Karin Badey



Karin Badey joined us in November 2004 to fill Elise's position. Karin has been a licensed rehabilitator and a member of NCWC since 2002. She initiated our Owl Program by writing & receiving a \$1000 grant from International Paper. She is our Training Coordinator and Public Programs Coordinator. Her rehab interests include bats, raptors and large & small mammals. She works as an Environmental Educator for the Lake George Association.

PROGRAMS OF NORTH COUNTRY WILD CARE

ANIMAL CARE PROGRAM

Purpose

Oversight of the care of animals in custody of our volunteer rehabilitators

Responsibilities

1. Assuring that animals are placed with volunteers with proper licensing and suitable training and caging for that species.
2. Assignment of mentors and supplies.
3. Coordination of animal transportation.

Implementation

1. Training - Oct - May winter training in Saratoga and Bolton Landing. Individual hands-on training during the busy spring and summer season.
2. Animal Care Teams, organized by species. The Animal Care Teams are headed by senior rehabilitators who oversee the recruitment and training of new rehabilitators
3. Participation in the New York State Wildlife Rehabilitation annual conference.
4. Spring & Fall Letters to our Partners in Animal Care
5. Operation of our Wildlife Emergency Hotline.

Teams and Coordinators

Training Coordinator Karin Badey

Supply Coordinators Nancy Kimball & Molly Gallagher

Hotline Coordinators Becky Sutton & Trish Marki

Stabilizer Team Leader Cara Huffman

AVIAN Team (all birds not listed below) Cara Huffman

Raptor Team Cara Huffman

Waterfowl & Gamebird Team Hope Brynes

MAMMAL Team (all mammals not listed below) Molly Gallagher

Deer Team Colleen Kimble

RVS Team (raccoons, skunks, bats) Karen Lindstadt

North Opossum Team (Warren & Washington) Nancy Kimball

South Opossum Team (Saratoga & Albany) Joyce Perry

North Squirrel Team (Warren & Washington) Nancy Kimball

South Squirrel Team (Saratoga & Albany) Joyce Perry

Bunny Team Meg Brown

Rodent Team Meg Brown

REPTILE & AMPHIBIAN Team Hope Brynes

PROGRAMS OF NORTH COUNTRY WILD CARE

PUBLIC EDUCATION PROGRAM

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

1. Development, scheduling and presentation of programs to the public which describe our organization and its activities
2. Publication of biannual newsletter
3. Maintenance of 1300+ mailing list
4. Website Maintenance

Implementation

1. What is Wildlife Rehabilitation? A slide show with basic information and stories about our rehab patients
2. Owl Program - a program yet to be developed using live birds aimed at school children
3. Newsletter, published in April & October
4. Website - www.northcountrywildcare.org

Committees and Coordinators

Public Programs Coordinator - Karin Badey (Elise Mahovlich Jan - Sept)
Childrens Programs Coordinator - Karin Badey
Owl Program - Karin Badey
Public Relations - Elise Mahovlich (vacant at end of year)
Publications Coordinator - Kathy Lineaweaver
Mailing List Coordinator - Wauneata Waller
Webmaster - Joyce Perry
Newsletter Editor - Ann Russell

PROGRAMS OF NORTH COUNTRY WILD CARE

FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE

Purpose

To solicit funds for use in achieving the goals of the organization.

Responsibilities

1. Providing direction to the organization in choosing fundraising events and activities
2. Organizing and holding events. Attendance at others events.

Implementation

1. Annual Appeal Letter (December)
2. Annual Raffle (October)
3. Collection Cans
4. Celebration of the Living Earth (May)
5. Annual Dinner at Professor Moriarty's (Jan)
6. Wild Blues Benefit at the Stony Creek Inn (**September**)

Coordinator - Debbie Lack

MEMBERS

Rehabilitator Members

Joined	Name	Description
4/2001	Colleen Kimble	Colleen is a former Animal Control Officer and has experience with almost all species found in our area. She is on the board of the Warren County SPCA and Glens Falls Kennel Club and is a founding member, also the first non board member, of NCWC.
1/2002	Lainie Angel	Lainie works at the Schroon River Animal Hospital as a veterinary technician. She was voted in as a Board Member in December.
3/2002	Jenny Massaro	Jenny owns the Adirondack Pack Basket, a Warrensburg shop which sells Adirondack collectibles.
4/2002	Meg Brown	Meg has a soft spot for bunnies, both domestic and wild, and served as our bunny team leader for 2004. She is a licensed, practicing masseuse.
8/2002	Becky Sutton	Becky has experience working for veterinarians, a valuable background for this work and was instrumental in launching our hotline.
10/2002 11/2004	Sharon & Jack Domster	The Domsters received their state and federal licenses in 2003. Their concentration is on birds of prey. They moved to Canada in November where they continue to rehab.
11/2002	Joyce Claire Perry	Joyce joined NCWC with as an experienced rehabilitator. She works primarily with mammals and specializes in opossums & raccoons.
12/2002	Erika Burkowski	Erika has been especially helpful in rescue and transport. She is an artist who has donated her talents to the design of our t-shirts.
2/2003	Linda Nichols	Linda's interest is primarily small mammals, with an emphasis on & squirrels.
4/2003	Judy Brown	Judy was capturing, stabilizing and transporting wildlife in Queensbury long before she joined us a member in 2003. She relocated to North Creek at the end of 2004.
4/2003	Patty Rutland	Patty owns the Patty-Cake Shop, a bakery in Ballston Spa. She has worked primarily with squirrels.
5/2003	Deborah Sein	Deborah has worked primarily with squirrels and has provided much needed assistance with transports.
6/2003	April Wescott	April has worked primarily with squirrels and pigeons and has done many rescues and transports.
9/2003	Georgie	Georgie worked with squirrels and waterfowl primarily in

Joined	Name	Description
9/2003	Trish & Bernie Marki	Trish was instrumental in getting our hotline up and running. She & Bernie took on the rehab of mostly bunnies and rescues of just about everything. They plan to become RVS certified in 2005
1/2004	Angie Rogers & Kathy Esposito	Kathy & Angie joined us together, received their licenses in 2004 and have assisted with many transports.
3/2004	Frank & Julia Brosnihan	Frank & Julia dove right into rehab, attending all our training courses and starting in 2004 with squirrels and bunnies. Frank plans to get RVS certified in 2005.
3/2004	Ann Russell	Ann also received her license in 2004 and found a passion in Opossums.
5/2004	Judith Grose-Johnson	Judy was already an experienced rehabilitator when she joined us. She helps us with our down south transports and rehabs various species, both mammals and birds.
5/2004	Astrid Lascar	Astrid started out assisting with transports but hopes to start rehabbing soon.
6/2004	Kim Lawrence	Kim moved to NYS from Georgia with years of rehab experience, mainly with mammals. She lives at the Canadian border and concentrates on raccoons and skunks.
6/2004	Nancy Fragale	Nancy is also a very experienced rehabber, having her licenses since 1995. Its an honor and an asset to have her join the group. Her concentration is on small mammals and songbirds.
6/2004	Lorinda Leonardi	Lorinda is a board member of the Wildlife Rehabilitation Education Network centered in Albany. She works mostly with small mammals.

Other Volunteer Members

- Wendy Burkowski, member since 7/2002, assists with our public education programs, transports and copying.
- Wauneata Waller, member since 9/2003 maintains our mailing list and mails our donation thank yous.
- Pat Loyas, member since assists us with transports.
- Kathy Lineaweaver, member since 2/2004

Non-member Volunteers

Data Entry

- Nancy Davis

Hotline Staff

- Leigh McGuire
- Angela Lunz

We also have a number of people who assist us with captures and transports, most notably in 2004, Victor & Janine Gennett, licensed rehabilitators in Washington County and Dottie & Craig Coon.

ANIMAL CARE

2004 Critter Count

In 2004 North Country Wild Care volunteers accepted 1117 animals representing 92 different species. 558 were released, 312 died, 138 were transferred, 72 were euthanized and 9 were still under our care at year's end. Of those animals there were: 646 Mammals, 464 Birds, and 7 Reptiles. Included in the more unusual intakes were a peregrine falcon, a partridge, a bobcat, 12 flying squirrels, 5 screech owls, 5 great blue herons, 4 killdeer, a broad-winged hawk, 3 fishers, 3 great horned owls, 4 killdeer, 2 woodcocks, 2 painted turtles, a cormorant, a weasel, a, 2 kestrels, a porcupine, and a snowshoe hare.

Top species handled

212 Eastern Cottontails
138 Gray Squirrels
82 Raccoons
68 Virginia Opossums
66 American Robins
36 Mallards
29 European Starlings
28 Mourning Doves
37 Mice
26 House Sparrows

Top Causes of Distress

470 Parents whereabouts unknown
103 Collision with vehicle
89 Unnecessary human intervention
78 Injured by cat
56 Unknown
51 nest removed/tree cut
51 Parents known hit by car
46 Injured by unknown animal
33 Injured by dog
22 Injured by natural predator

Our biggest news in 2004 was the establishment of our Wildlife Emergency Hotline. Sponsored by Marie Murphy of Prudential Manor Homes, the hotline started up in March. The call volume was astounding. Seemingly overnight, our service area doubled.

April	May	June	July	August	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
128	582	761	583	470	272	196	103	96	3,191

Cage Construction

Molly Gallagher constructed a 12' x 10' walk-in outdoor cage and Ann Russell began construction on an Opossum cage.

Cara Huffman received a camper for the use of skunk rehabilitation.

TRAINING

In 2004 NCWC offered eight classes in its Winter Training Program for wildlife rehabilitators. They were held at the Saratoga Library in Saratoga Springs. These training classes have been held every year since 2000 to provide local training for rehabilitators and those interested in becoming rehabilitators. Courses offered were A General Overview of Wildlife Rehabilitation, Handling Phone Calls, Patient Assessment, Emergency Care & Injection Techniques, Wound Management, Fracture Care & Bandaging, Transport & Capture, Raising Baby Birds, and Raising Baby Mammals.

Eleven of our rehabilitators attended the New York State Wildlife Rehabilitation Council's annual conference held October 1, 2 & 3 in Owego NY. Attendees were Molly Gallagher, Elise Mahovlich, Nancy Kimball, Colleen Kimble, Joyce Perry, Patty Rutland, Lainie Angel, Judy Brown, Frank & Julia Brosnihan and Karin Badey.

Kim Lawrence, Frank Brosnihan & Judy Brown completed the full day RVS training offered by the Department of Environmental Conservation at the conference. Nancy Kimball, Patty Rutland, Julia Brosnihan and Joyce Perry attended a Two Day Squirrel Workshop presented.

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 the North Country Professional Business Womens Association (Chestertown), the Delmar Home School, Lake George Association, NY Science Teachers workshop (Albany), in 2004. We also did educational talks on the Telethon for the SPCA of Upstate NY and at Gore Mountain's 4th grade Discovery Day.

We published a Spring and a Fall newsletter and expanded and revamped our website. Costs of our newsletter printing and mailing have been covered by sponsorship, however, our mailing list has grown so much that, starting with the fall newsletter costs are exceeding sponsorship. Our website was created and is maintained by our members.

FUNDRAISING

We held our first annual fundraising dinner on January 23 at Professor Moriarty's in Saratoga Springs which netted about \$2500. On September 12 we held a "Wild Blues Benefit" luncheon with local blues musicians which netted about \$1000.

We attended a number of events in 2004, bringing our tabletop display with canopy, educational materials and items for sale. Events included the Warren County Youth Fair, The Living Earth Celebration in Glens Falls, Quality of Life Expo in Glens Falls, Wheelabrator in Hudson Falls, the Girl Scout River Walk in Schenectady, Five Rivers Fall Festival in Delmar, Wild Birds Unlimited First Anniversary in Wilton and the Sportsman's Show in Albany

We sent out an annual appeal letter at the end of the year to our mailing list of over 1000. This brought in \$3677.

Our annual raffle brought in almost \$1500.

FINANCES

INCOME

TOTAL Donations	16,316.26
1,078.00	2003 Appeal
1,025.00	2004 Appeal
250.00	Memorial
2,033.00	With Animal
1,770.00	Newsletter
2,845.18	Misc

TOTAL Fundraising	7057.08
4,718.30	Fundraising Events
735.78	Collection Cans
1,486.00	Raffles
117.00	Public Programs

TOTAL Sponsorship	1,583.00
1,325.00	Newsletter Sponsor
258.00	Hotline Sponsor

TOTAL INCOME 17,641.26

EXPENSES

TOTAL Animal Care	10,203.25
1,097.56	Caging
2,734.90	Food
1,526.70	Formula
504.25	Hotline
1,556.24	Medical
633.42	Printed Material
2,150.18	Supplies

TOTAL Education	2,923.94
70.00	Owl Program
2,420.35	Newsletter, brochures, website
50.00	Public Programs
41.35	Public Relations
342.24	Rehabber Training

TOTAL Business Expenses	2,611.42
916.40	Fundraiser Expense
1,023.00	Insurance
10.00	Licenses and Permits
447.47	Office Supplies
214.55	Postage

TOTAL EXPENSES 15,738.61

	2001	2002	2003	2004
Income	\$1,736.65	7,410.84	9,627.13	17,641.26
Expenses	\$1,509.29	6,156.28	8,700.16	15,738.61
Net Income	227.36	1254.56	926.97	\$1,902.65
Bank Balance	227.36	1,326.92	2408.89	\$5,745.91