

# ANNUAL REPORT 2003



## NORTH COUNTRY WILD CARE

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*Answering the Call of the Wild*

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Executive Summary .....	1
President’s Message .....	1
Mission Statement .....	3
Trends and Opportunities .....	3
Objectives for Next Year .....	3
Description of Organization .....	4
Board Members .....	5
Programs .....	7
Members .....	10
Animal Care .....	11
Training .....	11
Public Education .....	12
Fundraising .....	12
Finances .....	13

## 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 second annual report for North Country Wild Care. 2003 was a year of growth. We attracted a lot of press coverage over the year and added a winter training series in the Saratoga area. Our service area and number of volunteers expanded and along with it, the demand for more formalized organization and administration of the group. Donations were also up, although still way behind the actual expenditures of member rehabilitators.

Highlights of our year in animal care included the televised release of "Raiderette", a redtail who came to us emaciated, and the successful raising and release of our first bobcat. Our outdoor caging increased by 100% as individual members financed and constructed cages on their properties.

We are funded through private donations, grants and fundraising events. Our income in 2003 was \$9,627, up from \$7,410.84 in 2002.





## NORTH COUNTRY WILD CARE

To Our Board, Members and Donors,

Enclosed is our Annual Report for 2003. It was a difficult year. Despite our growth we still were stretched to our limits in handling wildlife calls. And many of us suffered great heartbreak when our raccoon population was halved by feline panleukopenia. However, the increased interest in our group by the media and public has helped attract needed funding and volunteers. The support of our work by the public and the enthusiasm of new volunteers is what helps to keep us going through the difficult times. That, and of course, the successful releases. Through our expanded winter training series we hope to double our number of licensed rehabilitators in 2004. The goal is to have enough volunteers to meet the needs of our service area, however large that winds up being.

Incredibly, we are getting volunteers willing to drive hours to get to our trainings and meetings and become a part of our group. We have new member applications from people as far south as Schoharie and as far north as Moira, a stretch of 266 miles! We are a unique organization in the area, no other network of home-based rehabilitators exists within northeastern New York State. Our group's success has even inspired a group to our west, in the Utica area, to look into forming a "sister" organization. Since our group has had such great success I'm always happy to assist and encourage others to take this path. Isolation in this profession is not a good thing. We can all gain in so many ways by networking and cooperating, sharing skills and resources.

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 2004 we plan to establish a wildlife emergency hotline staffed by volunteers. This is a necessary step for ensuring efficient and professional response to distressed animals.

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 is in the first stage of development and should be well organized by the end of the season.

## 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.

Dr. Brian Landenberger of the Schroon River Animal Hospital is our Supporting Veterinarian.

In January 2003 we had twenty members, by December we had thirty members. We began the year with eleven licensed rehabilitators and 8 licensed assistants. We ended the year with fifteen licensed rehabilitators and fourteen 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 644-5798

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

## 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 a licensed rehabilitator since 1988. She is state licensed, approved for rehabilitation of rabies vector species, and federally licensed to rehabilitate migratory birds. She is Team Leader for Large Mammals 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 has 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 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.

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.

Elise Mahovlich



Elise Mahovlich joined NCWC in April 2002. She is interested in working with all species and is working on receiving certification for rabies vector species in 2004. She has worked with a variety of small mammals and birds. She has a Bachelors of Arts in journalism and is the press contact for the organization. She is also co-chair of our fundraising committee and will take over the coordination of our Public Education Programs in 2004. She resides in Bolton Landing where she works in the alternative health field, entertainment sales and freelance public relations.

Hope Brynes



Hope Brynes, an assistant rehabilitator, 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.

# 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.
4. Winter training program.
5. Individual hands-on training during the busy spring and summer season.

### Implementation

1. Winter Training - Oct - April winter training in Saratoga & Bolton
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

### Teams and Coordinators

**TRAINING COORDINATOR** \_\_\_\_\_ (position not yet filled)

**SUPPLY COORDINATOR** \_\_\_\_\_ (position not yet filled)

**TRANSPORTER Team** Becky Sutton

**STABILIZER Team** Cara Huffman

**AVIAN Team** (all birds not listed below) Cara Huffman

**Raptor Team** Cara Huffman

**Songbird 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. Publication of the Wildlife Journal (published by Lake George Mirror)
4. Maintenance of 800+ mailing list
5. 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
4. Website - [www.northcountrywildcare.org](http://www.northcountrywildcare.org)
5. Wildlife & Wilderness Festival at UpYonda
6. Wildlife Journal published in the Lake George Mirror and on our website

### **Committees and Coordinators**

Public Programs Coordinator - Elise Mahovich  
Nancy Kimball, Karin Badey, Linda Nichols, Wendy Burkowski  
Childrens Programs Coordinator - Karin Badey  
Linda Nichols, Wendy Burkowski  
Owl Program - Karin Badey  
Public Relations - Elise Mahovich  
Publications Coordinator - Kathy Lineaweaver  
Mailing List Coordinator - Wauneata Waller  
Webmaster - Joyce Perry

## **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

#### **Implementation**

1. Annual Appeal Letter (December)
2. Annual Raffle (October)
3. Collection Cans
4. Earth Day, Conservation Day
5. Lake George Dinner Theatre

#### **Committee**

Coordinators - Debbie Lack & Elise Mahovich

# MEMBERS

## Rehabilitator Members

- Colleen Kimble, state and federally licensed rehabilitator with seven years experience. Colleen is a former Animal Control Officer and has experience with almost all species found in our area and specializes in mammals and songbirds. She is on the board of the Warren County ASPCA and Glens Falls Kennel Club.
- Lainie Angel received her state license in 2002. She is currently enrolled in a veterinary technician course.
- Jenny Massaro received her state license in 2002. She owns the Adirondack Pack Basket, a Warrensburg 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.
- Karin Badey received her state license in 2002. She works for the Lake George Association, a not-for-profit organization as an environmental educator. She plans to head our Owl Program, an educational program financed by a grant from International Paper.
- Becky Sutton is an assistant rehabilitator. She has experience working for veterinarians, a valuable background for this work and is our transport coordinator.
- Sharon & Jack Domster received their state and federal licenses in 2003. Their concentration is on 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. She is an artist who has donated her talents to the design of our t-shirts.
- Linda Nichols joined us in February 2003. She works at the locally famous Rockhill Bakery. Her interest is primarily small mammals.
- Judy Brown joined us as an official member in April of 2003 but has been an active transporter for much longer. She plans to be available mostly for stabilization and transport of animals. She received her state license in 2002.
- Patty Rutland joined us in April 2003. She owns the Patty-Cake Shop, a bakery in Ballston Spa. She has worked primarily with squirrels this year as an assistant.
- Deborah Sein received her state license in 2003 and joined us in May. She has worked primarily with squirrels and assistance with transports.
- April Wescott joined us in June 2003 and has worked primarily with squirrels as an assistant.
- Toochie & John Lynch joined us in September. They are assistants under Molly's license.
- Pat Loyas joined us in September.
- Georgie Bortell officially joined us in September but had worked with us prior to that with squirrels primarily. She plans to launch an on-line store for us in 2004.
- Trish & Bernie Marki joined us in September. They plan to get their licenses and RVS certification in 2004.

## Other Volunteer Members

- Wendy Burkowski assist with our public education programs, transports and copying.
- Lisa LaMothe assists us with data entry.
- Nancy Davis assists us with data entry.
- Wauneata Waller maintains our mailing list and mails our donation thank yous.

## ANIMAL CARE

In 2003 North Country Wild Care volunteers accepted 674 animals representing 73 different species. 311 were released, 218 died, 91 were transferred, 45 were euthanized and 9 were still under our care at year's end. Of those animals there were: 409 Mammals, 264 Birds, 0 Reptiles and 1 Amphibian. Included in the more unusual intakes were a bobcat, 6 belted kingfishers, 3 bats, an osprey, a long eared owl, a saw whet owl and a double crested cormorant. Our first baby of the year was a red fox who came in on March 31.

### Top species handled

192 Gray Squirrel  
83 Eastern Cottontail  
37 Raccoon  
26 Red Squirrel  
25 European Starling  
25 Virginia Opossum  
23 Mallard  
22 Bluejay  
22 American Robin  
17 House Sparrow  
15 Rock Dove (pigeon)  
12 Mourning Dove  
10 Red Fox

### Top Causes of Distress

265 Parents whereabouts unknown  
55 Unnecessary human intervention  
54 Injured by unknown animal  
45 Collision with vehicle  
43 Unknown  
41 Injured by cat  
38 nest removed/tree cut  
35 Parents known hit by car

In 2003 Karen Lindstadt joined Molly Gallagher in the care of raccoons. She constructed a 16' x 20' walk-in outdoor cage at her own expense. Jack & Sharon Domster jumped into the care of raptors, constructing an 8' x 8' indoor intermediate care cage and a 16' x 20' outdoor flight cage at their own expense. Cara Huffman erected a 4' x 8' cage that was donated by a former rehabilitator.. We now have 6 rehabilitators with outdoor walk-in cages. These are essential for the care of most animals, raptors and large mammals in particular.

## TRAINING

In 2003 NCWC expanded its Winter Training Program for wildlife rehabilitators to include classes in Saratoga Springs as well as Bolton Landing. 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 October to April. Courses offered include A General Overview of Wildlife Rehabilitation, Handling Phone Calls, Patient Assessment, Emergency Care & Injection Techniques, Wound Management, Fracture Care & Bandaging, Raising Baby Birds, and Raising Baby Mammals.

Fifteen of our rehabilitators attended the New York State Wildlife Rehabilitation Council's annual conference held October 31, Nov 1 & 2 in Hamilton NY. Attendees were the entire NCWC board plus Meg Brown, Joyce Perry, Patty Rutland, Georgie Bortell, Trish & Bernie Marki, Lainie Angel and Karin Badey.

Elise Mahovlich, Trish & Bernie Marki and Karin Badey completed the full day RVS training offered by the Department of Environmental Conservation at the conference.

## **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, Westmount Nursing Home, Glens Falls Senior Center, the Warrensburg Over-50s Club and Gore Mountain's Fourth Grade Discovery Day. We received a donation of a much needed slide projector in November.

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. 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 2003, bringing our tabletop display with canopy, educational materials and items for sale. Events included the Albany Expo, Glens Falls Earth Day Festival, Conservation Day in Bolton Landing, the Warrensburg Garage Sale, and Up Yonda's Wildlife & Wilderness Festival.

We received one grant in 2003, a \$1000 from International Paper for the development of an Owl Program.

We sent out an annual appeal letter at the end of the year to our mailing list of over 800.

The Lake George Dinner Theatre donated the proceeds from their September 4 performance, totaling \$913.

Our annual raffle netted \$370.

## FINANCES

### *INCOME*

TOTAL Donations	7,877.13
771.00 2002 Appeal	
621.45 Collection Can	
1028.10 Fundraising Events	
4.50 Earth Day	
9.00 Albany Expo	
59.50 Conservation Day	
42.00 Holiday Party Raffle	
913.10 LG Dinner Theatre	
875.00 Memorials	
1154.46 Misc	
1515.00 newsletter	
370.00 Raffle	
66.00 For throw net	
56.00 Public Programs	
1420.12 With Animal	
Grants	1,000.00
Newsletter Sponsors	750.00
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TOTAL INCOME	9,627.13

### *EXPENSES*

TOTAL Animal Care	4,505.73
2395.06 Food	
505.72 Medical	
70.83 Printed Material	
631.11 Caging	
903.01 Supplies	
TOTAL Education	3,492.83
1795.83 Printed Material	
763.52 Owl Program	
603.07 Public Programs	
330.41 Rehabber Training	
TOTAL Office Supplies	480.52
340.77 Misc	
139.75 postage	
Fundraiser Expense	221.08
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TOTAL EXPENSES	8,700.16

	2001	2002	2003
Income	\$1,736.65	7,410.84	9,627.13
Expenses	\$1,509.29	6,156.28	8,700.16
Net Income	227.36	1254.56	926.97
Bank Balance	227.36	1,326.92	2408.89