



North Country Wild Care

2009 Annual Report

“Giving Wildlife a Helping Hand”

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Executive Summary

North Country Wild Care is a 501©3 not-for-profit organization formed in April of 2001. Although centered in Warren County, located in the southern Adirondacks in northeast New York, we have members located from Albany all the way to Chestertown. 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 eighth annual report for North Country Wild Care. Although 2009 brought in a record amount of hotline calls, the amount of animals decreased. This is due in part to informing the public to leave fledglings with the parents, and recreating nests. We were also able to network with non-NCWC rehabilitators to take animals, and gave out a lot of information to the public.

Just a few of the highlights of 2009 were:

Both a Spring and Fall fundraising dinner event

New fundraisers (local restaurants, ticket sales, garage sales)

Injured eagle

We are funded through private donations, grants, and fundraising events. With our increased fundraising events, our income in 2009 was \$29,375.

Year End	Membership	Newsletter Circulation	Income	Expenses	Animals Accepted	Hotline Calls
2001	4	222	\$1,737	\$1,509	200	
2002	22	311	\$7,411	\$6,156	400	
2003	30	641	\$9,627	\$8,700	674	
2004	41	1042	\$17,641	\$15,739	1117	3377
2005	48	1800	\$16,610	\$15,843	1400	4471
2006	58	2100	\$18,588	\$17,090	1300	5102
2007	47	2200	\$20,580	\$16,571	n/a	5436
2008	60	2600	\$18,445	\$19,954	1249	5116
2009	68	1200	\$29,375	\$16,460	981	5484

President's Message

March 31, 2010

Dear Members and Supporters,

We had some great educational sessions at our meetings this year including, overwintering animals, Environmental Conservation Officers, Wild Birds Unlimited speaking about migration patterns of native birds, Department of Environmental Conservation guest speaking about wildlife rehab, juvenile wildlife training classes, diseases in wildlife, basic pharmacology for wildlife, and information on licensing requirements and procedures. These classes were designed to help our membership gain knowledge and further understanding of wildlife stewardship.

We also implemented a new member orientation session to ensure our new members are aware of what NCWC is about and can offer, as well as getting them set up with mentors, licensing information, supplies, and pairing them with the best possible training.

One of the highlights of 2009 was the intake of an eagle that had a severely injured foot. Thankfully, it was later released. Huge thanks to all the members and non-members who contributed to the well being and release of this magnificent creature. Some other member memorable moments were: getting help from a fire department to put a chimney swift in a chimney with the rest of the colony, releasing animals once in rehab, owl and hawk rescues, new cage construction, and new members beginning their rehab experience.

North Country Wild Care will strive to continue to educate the public and grow in rehabilitation knowledge and numbers in the upcoming year.

Sincerely,

Belinda Howe
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. Wildlife 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 professionalism to this work.

Objectives for Next Year

In 2010, we planned to achieve very specific goals based on need and benefit to wildlife and to our organization.

Our first goal is to increase the size of our organization by 10 new members. Not only do we need active rehabilitators, we also need members to help on our fundraising committee.

Secondly, we want to add an additional 10 wildlife transporters. When a call comes through on the hotline for an animal in need, many times the public is unable or not willing to transport the animal to a rehabber. Transporters are a vital link between finders and rehabilitators.

Our third goal is to increase the number of North Country Wild Care rehabilitators by 3 who are rabies vector species licensed. RVS licensed rehabilitators are still in great demand in NYS for skunks, raccoons, and bats.

Description of Organization

North Country Wild Care is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization formed in April, 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, or 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, Membership Committee, Training Committee, Hotline Committee, and Clerical Committee, along with our Animal Care Teams.

We are centered in Warren County, New York, and our members are located in Saratoga, Schenectady, Albany, Montgomery, Fulton, Washington, Warren, Essex, Rensselaer, and Schoharie counties. Our region does not have a wildlife rehabilitation center. 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, medications, and to educate the public about wildlife rehabilitation.

The Schroon River Animal Hospital of Warrensburg and Ballston Spa Veterinary Clinic are our supporting veterinarians. Martin Auffredou, of Bartlett, Pontiff, Stewart & Rhodes PC, is our attorney. Rebecca Herrick, CPA PC assists us with our accounting needs. Membership in the organization is reserved for active volunteers.

We began 2009 with 60 members and, by December, we had 68 members.

Basic Information

Incorporated Name:	North Country Wild Care
Mailing Address:	PO Box 63, Lake George, NY 12845
Fed ID:	14-1833103
Date of Incorporation:	April 5, 2001
Bank:	Glens Falls National Bank
Contact:	Belinda Howe, President 518-424-1193
Wildlife Emergency Hotline:	518-964-6740
Meetings:	Each third Tuesday of the month at the Landmark Motel, Rt. 9, S. Glens Falls, off exit 17 of the Northway from 7-9 pm

2009 Board Members



Belinda Howe, President – Belinda joined NCWC in May, 2006 and was treasurer before becoming president in January, 2008. She has a degree in business and a finance background. Belinda enjoys rehabilitation for bunnies and birds. She is also the fundraising chairperson.

Crystal Collier, Vice President – Crystal joined NCWC in July, 2006 and has been an active member within the group. She is a Special Education teacher of 31 years. She has been a Board member since January, 2008 and specializes in squirrel rehabilitation.

Cathy Lehmann, Treasurer – Cathy joined NCWC in July, 2006. She received her rehab license that fall, her RVS license in 2007, and is working on her federal license. She is a SUNY Cobleskill graduate with a degree in Accounting and Business Administration, as well as computer technology at ACC. Cathy works with babies of many different species.

Bernie Rouse, Secretary – Bernie became a member of NCWC in January, 2008 and became licensed in 2009. She has been Secretary since 2009 and also serves on the grant writing committee. Bernie is retired after 36 years of employment with the Civil Service Employees Association.

Frank Brosnihan, Board Member – While working as an engineer/project officer with Naval Reactors, Frank joined NCWC with his wife, Julia in 2004, and became licensed in 2005. Frank is RVS certified and specializes in rehabilitating raccoons.

Lisa Penistan, Board Member – Lisa became a member of NCWC in July, 2006 and became licensed in the fall of that year. She became involved in the new member coordinating, as well as organizing and assisting training classes. In 2008, Lisa became a Board member, is currently the waterfowl team advisor, and is working on getting her federal license.

Julie Lafountain, Board Member – As a special education teacher for elementary school children, Julie enjoys wildlife rehabilitation, specializing in squirrels. She joined NCWC 2005 and became licensed in 2006.

Programs of North Country Wild Care

Animal Care Program

Purpose: Oversight of the animals in care of our volunteer rehabilitators.

Responsibilities: Ensuring that animals are placed with volunteers with proper licensing, suitable training, and caging. Assignment of mentors and supplies. Coordination of animal transportation when necessary.

Implementation: Monthly training from October through May at the Saratoga Springs Public Library. Individual hands-on training continues throughout the year. Animal Care Teams are organized by species, led by advisors who are experienced rehabilitators that oversee the training for that species. Each member is encouraged to actively participate in the New York State Wildlife Rehabilitation Annual Conference. Spring and fall newsletters are mailed to our sponsors, donors, and partners in animal care. We maintain lists of rehabilitators within the group as well as rehabilitators in the area, partnering veterinarians, transporters, and New York State Wildlife personnel for resources. Continued operation of the Wildlife Emergency Hotline will ensure animals are placed with the appropriate rehabilitators, and the public receives information.

Teams and Coordinators

Training Coordinator:	Lisa Penistan
Supply Coordinators:	Nancy Kimball, Crystal Collier
Hotline Coordinators:	Trish Marki, Becky Sutton
Stabilizer Advisor:	Cara Huffman
Raptor Advisor:	Cara Huffman
Waterfowl Advisor:	Lisa Penistan
Bunny Advisor:	Belinda Howe
Squirrel Advisors:	Crystal Collier
Opossum Advisor:	Nancy Kimball
Other Mammals:	Cara Huffman
Deer Advisor:	Trish Marki
Rabies Vector Advisor:	Dave Larrow
Reptile/Amph Advisor:	Cara Huffman
Veterinarian Liaison:	Trish Marki

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 for assistance.

Responsibilities: Development, scheduling and presentation of programs to the public which describe our organization and its activities. Publication of our biannual newsletter along with the editing and sponsorship, maintaining the 1200+ mailing list, monthly website maintenance and updating.

Implementation: Slide show presentations and displays with basic information and animal rehabilitation stories. A number of our members have permits for non-releasable animals that are presented for live animal programs. Our biannual newsletter published in April and October. Our website updated monthly-www.northcountrywildcare.org.

Committees and Coordinators

Public Relations: Donna Topolsky
Public Education: Sue Kazilas
Newsletter Editor: Laura Von Rosk
Website Maint: Trish Marki

Fundraising Committee

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

Responsibilities: Provide direction to the organization in choosing, organizing, and coordinating fundraising events and activities. Supervising grant writing, collection cans, and soliciting raffle and auction items.

Implementation: Annual appeal letter, collection cans placed in various stores, toner and cell phone recycling fundraiser, and the annual Baby Shower Fund Drive.

Coordinator: Belinda Howe

Membership Committee

Purpose: Assisting members new to the organization.

Responsibilities: To ensure new members are welcomed into the organization, are assigned mentors, and receive training and organizational paperwork.

Implementation: Ensuring all new members receive a binder with organizational documents, and are invited to the Yahoo group. Tracking member attendance, and recruiting new members by following up on attendance at winter training. Recruiting new members for committee involvement.

Coordinator: Lisa Penistan

Hotline Committee

Purpose: To ensure the public has a resource for injured and orphaned wildlife.

Responsibilities: Provide direction and advice to the general public when calling about wildlife. If necessary, coordinating transportation and placement of injured or orphaned animals as directed by Team Advisors.

Implementation: Recruiting new and experienced members for periodic hotline training. Ensuring transporter and rehabilitator listings are up-to-date and distributed to hotline staffers. Ensuring staffing contracts are signed and current, as well as maintaining current training materials. Coordinating monthly schedules to ensure the hotline is staffed 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Working with area veterinarians and acting as liason when vet advice is necessary.

Coordinators: Trish Marki, Becky Sutton

Members-2009

Joined	Name
4/2001	Cara Huffman**
4/2001	Nancy Kimball**
1/2002	Lainie Angel
2/2002	Meg Brown
8/2002	Karin Badey
8/2002	Becky Sutton
4/2003	Patty Rutland
5/2003	Deborah Sien
9/2003	Trish Marki
9/2003	Bernie Marki
3/2004	Julia Brosnihan
3/2004	Frank Brosnihan
5/2004	Judy Grose-Johnson
6/2004	Nancy Fragale
6/2004	Lorinda Leonardi
3/2005	Ginni Campbell
6/2005	Julie Lafountain
7/2005	Craig Coon
8/2005	Donna Topolski
1/2006	Sarah McDaniel
5/2006	Belinda Howe
7/2006	David Larrow
7/2006	Cathy Lehmann
7/2006	Lisa Penistan
7/2006	Crystal Collier
7/2006	Larry Collier
8/2006	Gary Bolster
10/2006	Mary Frances Farrell
4/2007	Sharon Dame
5/2007	Laura Von Rosk
6/2007	Denise Fuoco
7/2007	Barb Stranahan
7/2007	Rebecca Little
7/2007	Vicki Vosburgh

11/2007	Wendy Hall
11/2007	Ruth Martino
1/2008	Bernie Rouse
1/2008	Michele Provencher
2/2008	Marilee Vuignier
4/2008	Diane Hime
5/2008	Diane Wood
5/2008	Judy Jones
5/2008	Amy Ackermann
6/2008	Debbi Holden
6/2008	Grace Nichols
6/2008	Casey Card
7/2008	John Thivierge
7/2008	Kimberly Cunningham
10/2008	Gigi Giorgio
1/2009	Susan Kazilas
1/2009	Shannon Fitzgerald
2/2009	Susan Peterson
2/2009	Linda Brown
2/2009	Meghan Thomson
5/2009	Eugene VanAlen
6/2009	Georgia Naja
6/2009	Michele Nelson
6/2009	Nicole Sanders
6/2009	Kristen Eagan
7/2009	Rose Stranahan
9/2009	Tammy Davis
9/2009	Sigrid Wallace
9/2009	Pat Massey
11/2009	Bill Giorgianne
11/2009	Lynn Goldsmith
11/2009	John Hime
11/2009	Alison Farrell
11/2009	Cyndi Lehan

*We also have many volunteers who assist us with captures and transports. We work closely with non-member rehabilitators in our area.

**Founding Member

Animal Care

2009 Critter Count

In 2009, North Country Wild Care volunteers accepted approximately 981 animals representing 99 different species. 504 were released, 338 died, 45 were transferred to other rehabilitators, 70 were euthanized, 22 were still under our care at year's end, and 2 animal was permanently kept as a non-releasable educational animal. Of those animals there were: 551 mammals, 329 birds, 89 raptors, and 12 reptiles. Included in the more unusual intakes were a bobcat, a coyote, weasels, a belted kingfisher, a black duck, an egret, a bald eagle, and turkey vultures.

Top species handled		Top causes of distress	
Gray Squirrel	171	Parents whereabouts unknown	320
Eastern Cottontail	155	Unknown	87
Virginia Opossum	45	Collision with a vehicle	86
American Robin	40	Injured by cat	81
Raccoon	35	Nest removed/tree cut	76
Red Squirrel	31	Parents known killed by car	62
White Tailed Deer	28	Unnecessary human intervention	37
House Sparrow	26	Building or construction	34

Our Wildlife Emergency Hotline, established in 2004, continued to increase in demand and popularity. The Hotline was sponsored by Adirondack Dundee in 2009. Below is a history of the quantity of calls made to the Hotline by month and year.

Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
2004			19	159	692	757	599	476	277	196	104	98	3377
2005	131	81	91	229	579	926	746	786	398	200	159	145	4471
2006	86	77	109	411	867	1083	722	767	484	200	147	149	5102
2007	112	113	140	336	952	1203	941	734	438	182	133	152	5436
2008	111	96	140	386	733	947	791	716	445	258	362	131	5116
2009	161	128	162	355	982	1125	918	734	429	198	134	158	5484

Training

In winter 2009-2010, North Country Wild Care offered eight classes as part of our annual Winter Training program designed for rehabilitators. These were held at the Saratoga Springs Public Library and taught by Cara Huffman, member and veterinary technician. These classes have been held each year since 2000 to provide local training for rehabilitators and those interested in becoming rehabilitators. Courses offered were:

- Introduction to Wildlife
- Physical Assessment
- Wound Care & Bandaging
- Pharmacology
- Telephone Tips
- Raising Baby Mammals
- Capture & Transport of Injured & Orphaned Wildlife
- Raising Baby Birds

We had members attend the annual New York State Wildlife Rehabilitation Council Conference held in Lake George in November. They attended classes to further their knowledge of various animals.

Public Education

North Country Wild Care offers a slideshow program to community groups which describes the organization, how to become a wildlife rehabilitator, what to do when an injured or orphaned animal is found, and presents highlights of our animal care. We presented programs to various elementary schools, contributed to the Our Towne Ballston Spa kid's section for the National Wildlife Week in April, 2009, had an Earth Day Fair display at the Caldwell Library, worked with Boy/Girl Scouts, and had presentations at other libraries, day camps, as well as community gatherings.

We published Spring and Fall Newsletters and continued to update and improve our website. Costs of our newsletter printing and mailing have been covered partially by sponsors and by donations. Due to rising costs, we will be scaling back our newsletter mailing list to people donating within the last three years only.

Fundraising

In 2009, NCWC expanded its fundraising ventures to include fundraisers at local restaurants. We held a Spring Fundraiser at Panza's restaurant on Saratoga Lake in May that included a dinner, dessert, and silent auction. Our keynote speaker was Ward Stone, who talked about our environment and wildlife issues. This brought in \$2,444 and greatly assisted towards supplies, medication, and food for our patients.

Our Annual Appeal Letter brought in \$3,239 which was sent out to our mailing list of over 1200.

We also hosted a garage sale at the Warrensburg annual town garage sale as well as the Ballston Spa annual garage sale and took in \$3,009 in donation cans and donations for goods.

North Country Wild Care had eight donation cans at various businesses in the region that collected \$863.

The majority of additional donations received were from the public with animals we took in.

Finances

Income	
Donations	
Newsletters	\$1,185
Collection Cans	\$863
Donation with Animal	\$2,494
Miscellaneous Donations	\$3,009
Merchandise Donations	\$1,326
Sponsors	
Newsletter Sponsors	\$300
Programs	
Public Program	\$1,489
Fundraising	
Baby Shower	\$3,819
Appeal Letter(08,09)	\$6,089
Garage Sale	\$3,029
Misc Fundraisers	\$5,772
Total Income	\$29,375

Expenses	
Animal Care	
Food	\$1,239
Medical	\$599
Formula	\$2,125
Supplies	\$620
Fundraising	
Garage Sale Expense	\$20
Merchandise Expense	\$413
Appeal Letter Expense	\$285
Baby Shower Expense	\$1,375
Miscellaneous Expense	\$3,161
Business Expenses	
Material Printing	\$135
Insurance	\$1,236
Postage	\$145
Office Expenses	\$680
Educational Expenses	
Miscellaneous Educational Exp	\$1,172
Hotline Expense	\$647
Newsletter Expense	\$2,073
Rehabber Training	\$535
Total Expenses	\$16,460