



22nd Annual Call of the Wild Wildlife  
Rehabilitation Conference Hosted by The  
Wildlife Center of Virginia

**Best Western Inn & Suites Conference  
Center**

**November 17-19, 2017**

**Waynesboro, Virginia**

Sponsored by:

*The Wildlife Center of Virginia and*

*The Virginia Department of Game & Inland Fisheries*

# NOVEMBER 2017

## Welcome to the Wildlife Center of Virginia's 22nd *Call of the Wild* conference on wildlife rehabilitation!

We're happy to have so many dedicated wildlife professionals in one place — it's such a great opportunity for old and new friends to come together each year to learn from each other, grow in our wildlife rehabilitation skills, and relax and have fun too!

The Wildlife Center is celebrating its 35th anniversary this year and during those 35 years, we have taken in more than 75,000 patients. Many of you long-time rehabilitators have aided us with thousands of these patients — whether it's been taking “hurricane squirrels”, baby birds, neonatal opossums, or triaging injured wildlife and sending it to our hospital: we thank you. For those of you new rehabilitators in the crowd: we look forward to getting to know you and working with you over our next 35 years!

Please be sure to fill out your evaluation so that, when planning next year's conference, we can continue to meet your needs — the conference is designed for **you**, and suggestions greatly help in the planning process!

Thanks for joining us this year, and thank you for all of your hard work on behalf of wildlife everywhere.

**-The Staff of the Wildlife Center of  
Virginia**



**Door Prizes:** A number of companies from around the country have donated door prizes for this year's conference! Each participant will receive 10 raffle tickets for each day of registration. Choose which door prize(s) you would like to win, print your name on the back of your tickets, and place them in the corresponding bag. The drawing will take place on Sunday after lunch; you need not be present to win. Good Luck!

**Exhibit Area** We are delighted to have a variety of exhibitors join us this year—including several new vendors with wildlife goodies! Take advantage of those who are here and check out their information, wildlife supplies, and gift items. Get a head-start on your holiday shopping!

**Giveaway Room** Don't forget to check out all of the great free rehab supplies in the board room. We are very fortunate to receive a variety of items from UVa Hospital's MERCI program, as well as the local Wal-Mart distribution center. Many Virginia rehab groups have also contributed to the give-away room — thank you!

**Conference Completion** Certificates for continuing education will be available after lunch on Saturday (for those attending Saturday only) and Sunday (for those attending both days, or Sunday-only) at the Wildlife Center registration table. Each day of the conference is worth six hours of CE credits. Veterinarians, licensed veterinary technicians, and Animal Control Officers: please see the registration table for your designated CE certificate for qualifying classes. On the course descriptions in this catalog: ++ = approved courses for animal control officer CE [five hours available Saturday, and six hours available Sunday]. \*\* = These classes are eligible for continuing education hours for licensed veterinarians and veterinary technicians in Virginia based on 18VAC150-20-70, item 2.h. [five hours available Saturday, six hours available Sunday]

# SATURDAY

**7:30 am – 8:30 am: Check-in (and Give-Away Room opens)**

**8:30 am - 8:45 am: Welcome** (*Blue Ridge Ballroom*)

## **8:45 am - 9:45 am — SESSION 1**

### **A. Connecting with Nature: Teaching Life Lessons** (*Rockfish Gap / Afton Room*)

Kick off the conference with an inspiring session led by Dr. Mamie Parker! This discussion will highlight how we can connect kids and adults to the outdoors and will offer important tips on making those connections between everyday life and the natural world. The session will be interactive and will teach participants how to get others inspired to care more for wildlife and the environment.

*Dr. Mamie Parker, [Mamie@mamieparker.com](mailto:Mamie@mamieparker.com)*

### **B. Aw Shucks, I'm Crushed! Turtle Shell Repair Techniques**

**Lecture**++ \*\* (*Blue Ridge Ballroom*)

Learn about techniques to fix turtle fractures including how to recognize which fractures should be stabilized and which ones should be left alone! *This lecture is open to all attendees; it is required for anyone taking one of the afternoon hands-on labs.*

*Dr. Alexa Ortiz, [aortiz@wildlifecenter.org](mailto:aortiz@wildlifecenter.org)*

## **9:55 am — SESSION 2**

### **A. Once Upon a Time: Storytelling in Wildlife Education [to 10:55 am]** (*Blue Ridge Ballroom*)

Stories have the power to engage, educate, and empower. As members of the wildlife rehabilitation community, we have access to some of the most compelling stories about wildlife. Our patients' stories can convey important messages about human-wildlife interactions; they can teach people about natural history, encourage them to make better decisions when interacting with wildlife, or inspire them to support your work as a rehabilitator. As wildlife rehabilitators, it is your responsibility to help improve human-wildlife relationships by educating your community, and storytelling can be one of your most valuable tools. In this presentation, we will discuss the role of storytelling in community outreach, fundraising, and wildlife education, as well as share techniques for developing and sharing your patient stories.

*Raina DeFonza, [rdefonza@wildlifecenter.org](mailto:rdefonza@wildlifecenter.org)*

## **B. Wildlife Rehabilitation Permit Considerations in Virginia [two-hour session ends at 11:55 am]++ \*\* (*Rockfish Gap / Afton Room*)**

This session, led by the VDGIW Wildlife Permits Coordinator, will address numerous topics, including wildlife rehabilitation permit conditions, acceptable continuing education unit (CEUs) credits, and rehabilitator's continuity of operations planning. The state rehabilitation advisory committee will also be discussed, and attendees will have the chance to meet and hear from committee members.

*Randy Francis*, [randy.francis@dgif.virginia.gov](mailto:randy.francis@dgif.virginia.gov)

## **11:00 am - 12:10 pm — SESSION 3**

### **A. Safely Integrating Wild Foods into Your Rehab Practice++ (*Blue Ridge Ballroom*)**

Announcing the launch of a new online tool built specifically for rehabbers to help you use more wild plant foods in your practice! Quickly and with more confidence, know which wild plants your specific animal species are likely to eat. Get access to more than 900 plant part listings for more than 200 animals covering the use of browse, nuts, seeds, fruit and greens. Plus, we will tackle the complex topic of plant toxicities and ways to work with the fact that plants have defenses, too!

*Kate Guenther*, [wildfoods4wildlife@gmail.com](mailto:wildfoods4wildlife@gmail.com)

## **LUNCH & NETWORKING – 12 noon - 1:15 pm**

### **1:15 pm — SESSION 4**

### **A. Helping Orphaned Songbirds Learn Their Song [one-hour session ends at 2:15 pm] (*Blue Ridge Ballroom*)**

This presentation covers what is known on how birds learn to sing and the time frame during which song is acquired. Discussion includes how we can best provide for the necessary learning for orphans in rehabilitation, including which species have been shown to benefit from hearing adult song on tape. Help your orphans learn to sing.

*Jean Chamberlain*, [jchamberlain1@windstream.net](mailto:jchamberlain1@windstream.net)

### **B. Rehabilitating Wildlife: Mending Human Souls [two-hour session ends at 3:15 pm] (*Rockfish Gap / Afton Room*)**

Ever feel burned out, while simultaneously feeling like you just can't give enough? "The antidote to exhaustion is not necessarily rest" remarked Brother David Steindl-Rast to poet David Whyte. "What is it then?" asked David Whyte. "The antidote to exhaustion is wholeheartedness," concluded Brother David. This interactive workshop will explore one of the most important human dimensions of wildlife rehabilitation: the the (art) of service and what it is to be a healer amidst a world of wounds.

*Jamie Reaser*, [ecos@nelsoncable.com](mailto:ecos@nelsoncable.com)

## 2:20 pm - 3:20 pm — SESSION 5

### A. Disease, Trauma, and Stabilization of Raptors ++ \*\* (*Blue Ridge*

*Ballroom LEFT*)

The lecture will encompass basic raptor anatomy, the most common infectious and non-infectious diseases, the common presentation of trauma patients, and the approach for their treatment and stabilization.

*Dr. Octavio Romo, [omof@seavs.com](mailto:omof@seavs.com)*

### B. Aw Shucks, I'm Crushed! Turtle Shell Repair Techniques *LAB* ++ \*\*

*(Blue Ridge Ballroom RIGHT)*

This hands-on lab will allow attendees to practice the shell repair techniques discussed in the morning lecture. *Attendees must attend the morning lecture. Those signed up for the lab should report to room by 2:15 pm check-in. Those who are not present two minutes after the start of the lab will forfeit their spot, and the space will be given to someone on the waiting list.*

*Dr. Alexa Ortiz, [aortiz@wildlifecenter.org](mailto:aortiz@wildlifecenter.org)*

## 3:30 - 4:30 pm — SESSION 6

### A. USFWS Law Enforcement Investigations ++ (*Blue Ridge Ballroom*)

Officers from the local U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service district will discuss how special agents work to protect threatened and endangered species. Special agents target criminal activities, such as wildlife trafficking and habitat destruction. Learn more about wildlife crime reporting and the work that local agents do on behalf of wildlife.

*Special Agent Chris Mina*

### B. Aw Shucks, I'm Crushed! Turtle Shell Repair

Techniques *LAB* [repeat] ++ \*\* (*Blue Ridge Ballroom RIGHT*)

This hands-on lab will allow attendees to practice the shell repair techniques discussed in the morning lecture. Attendees must attend the morning lecture. Those signed up for the lab should report to room by 3:25 pm check-in. Those who are not present two minutes after the start of the lab will forfeit their spot, and the space will be given to someone on the waiting list.

*Dr. Alexa Ortiz, [aortiz@wildlifecenter.org](mailto:aortiz@wildlifecenter.org)*

### C. Seed Cleaning Demo (*Wild Foods 4 Wildlife table*)

For those who attended the "Safely Integrating Wild Foods into Your Rehab Practice" lecture — see how seeds are "cleaned" and prepared as a bird seed and wildlife food. Discussion will include how to know when seeds are "ripe" and the demonstration will allow attendees to see the cleaning, threshing, and winnowing process for a variety of seeds. Sign-up at Kate's exhibit table at the conference for this demonstration. Space is limited and will be first-come, first-served for sign-ups at the conference.

*Kate Guenther, [wildfoods4wildlife@gmail.com](mailto:wildfoods4wildlife@gmail.com)*

# SUNDAY

7:30 am - 8:00 am – Check-in (and Give-Away Room opens)

8:00 am - 9:00 am — SESSION 1

**A. More Than Meets the Eye: The Basics of Avian Ophthalmology in Wildlife++ \*\*** (*Blue Ridge Ballroom*)

Take a look at avian ophthalmology and the importance of the sense of sight to birds. This session will discuss the unique qualities of the avian eye, identifying and differentiating ocular problems, and what you can do about them.

*Dr. Monica Madera, [mmadera@wildlifecenter.org](mailto:mmadera@wildlifecenter.org)*

**B. Calories, Calories, Calories (and a Few Other Things): Basic Cottontail Rehabilitation++** (*Rockfish Gap / Afton Room*)

This class will cover the basics of hand-rearing orphaned Eastern Cottontails, and will provide information that can be utilized in and tailored to a variety of settings. The focus will be on the minimum intake, tube-feeding and housing requirements necessary for successful cottontail rehabilitation.

*Kim Cole, [knorton@radford.edu](mailto:knorton@radford.edu)*

**9:10 am — SESSION 2**

**A. The Complex World of Songbirds, Simplified [90-minute session ends at 10:40 am]++** (*Rockfish Gap / Afton Room*)

With more than 450 species found in Virginia, birds are an incredibly diverse, varied, and complex group. This talk will primarily focus on the natural history of songbirds and how peculiar aspects of each species directly affects their care needs in rehab. Did you know there are some birds that will never drink water provided in a dish? Did you know there are several species that need to be tutored in song, even as adults? Did you know that a bird you are overwintering may have a completely different winter diet than its summer diet? How do you best provide for these cases? Find out all this, and more!

*Elizabeth "Haley" Olsen-Hodges, [ehaleyoh@gmail.com](mailto:ehaleyoh@gmail.com)*

**B. Starvation: When Nutrition and Fluids are the Problem and the Solution Lecture [one-hour session ends at 10:10 am] ++ \*\*** (*Blue Ridge Ballroom*)

Animals are what they eat and drink. Discussion will include information about essential nutrients, types of fluids, and rehabilitation diets. Attendees will know more about the diagnosis, treatment, and prognosis of emaciation patients including mammals, reptiles, and birds. Participants will learn about the benefits and contraindications of fluids and nutritional support in starvation cases. This lecture is open to all attendees; it is required for anyone taking one of the afternoon hands-on labs.

*Dr. Ernesto Dominguez, [edominguez@wildlifecenter.org](mailto:edominguez@wildlifecenter.org)*

## 10:15 am - 10:45 am — SESSION 3

### A. Batty, It's Cold Outside!++ (Blue Ridge Ballroom)

Bat rehabbers in the mid-Atlantic and northern states are seeing an increase in winter bat calls. In fact, in some parts of Virginia, winter bat intakes outnumber those for orphan season. Learn how to triage these increasingly common cases, and when and how to intervene.

*Leslie Sturges*, [lsturges@savelucythebat.org](mailto:lsturges@savelucythebat.org)

## SESSION 4

### A. Rodenticide Toxicosis [10:55 am - 11:55 am]++ \*\* (Blue Ridge)

Rodenticides, colloquially referred to as rat poison, are ubiquitously used for pest control. These rodenticides, however, are affecting not only the mice and rats that they target, but also wild animals, through primary and secondary consumption. Rodenticides exist in various forms, with anticoagulant rodenticides being the most commonly used and most well known, and this talk will focus primarily on anticoagulant rodenticides. Discussion will include the mode of action of anticoagulant rodenticides, clinical signs, diagnostics, and treatment for anticoagulant rodenticide toxicosis in wildlife. This talk will focus mostly on anticoagulant rodenticide toxicosis in raptors, but will touch on other wildlife species that may be affected by anticoagulant rodenticides.

*Dr. Kristy Jacobus*, [Kristy.Jacobus@citywildlife.org](mailto:Kristy.Jacobus@citywildlife.org)

### B. Starvation: When Nutrition and Fluids are the Problem and the Solution *Lab* [11:05 am - 12:05 pm]++ \*\* (Rockfish Gap / Afton Room)

The lab will offer hands-on practice with fluid administration (subcutaneous, intraosseous, and oral), gavage and tube feeding, and energy and fluid calculations.

Participants will practice on mammal, reptile, and bird cadavers. *Attendees must attend the morning lecture. Those signed up for the lab should report to room by 11:00 am for check-in. Those who are not present two minutes after the start of the lab will forfeit their spot and the space will be given to someone on the waiting list.*

*Dr. Ernesto Dominguez*, [edominguez@wildlifecenter.org](mailto:edominguez@wildlifecenter.org)

## LUNCH & NETWORKING – 12 noon - 1:10 pm

## 1:10 pm - 2:10 pm — SESSION 5

### A. Diarrhea Cha-Cha-Gone: Combatting the Effects of Lactose Intolerance in Neonate Mammals++ (Blue Ridge Ballroom)

Diarrhea in neonate mammals is difficult to control once it has initiated, so the ultimate goal is prevention. Neonate opossums are particularly susceptible to persistent diarrhea, and research has confirmed that this is because young marsupials are lactose intolerant. Recently, a study was conducted on neonate opossums that resulted in successfully preventing diarrhea caused by lactose intolerance. Come hear about this home rehabber's delve into the scientific world, discover what this "secret weapon" is, and learn the implications for other neonate mammals.

*Tanya Lee*, [mtde.lee@gmail.com](mailto:mtde.lee@gmail.com)



**B. Starvation: When Nutrition and Fluids are the Problem and the Solution** *Lab* [repeat]++ \*\* (*Rockfish Gap / Afton Room*)

The lab will offer hands-on practice with fluid administration (subcutaneous, intraosseous, and oral), gavage and tube feeding, and energy and fluid calculations. Participants will practice on mammal, reptile, and bird cadavers. *Attendees must attend the morning lecture. Those signed up for the lab should report to room by 1:05 pm for check-in. Those who are not present two minutes after the start of the lab will forfeit their spot, and the space will be given to someone on the waiting list.*

Dr. Ernesto Dominguez, [edominguez@wildlifecenter.org](mailto:edominguez@wildlifecenter.org)

**2:20 pm - 2:50 pm — SESSION 6**

**A. Fur and Fenders: Research and Mitigation to Reduce Animal-Vehicle Collisions on I-64** (*Blue Ridge Ballroom*)

Virginia is consistently among the top 10 states with the highest number of deer-vehicle collisions, with more than 60,000 of these crashes in recent years. The Virginia Department of Transportation has targeted a section of I-64 on and near Afton Mountain for safety and mobility improvements because of a high number of crashes and traffic stoppages, many of which result from deer and other wildlife attempting to cross the interstate. This presentation describes ongoing research and mitigation by the Virginia Transportation Research Council, VDOT's research division, to reduce wildlife-vehicle collisions along I-64. A camera monitoring study is being conducted to determine the effectiveness of newly installed wildlife fencing along existing underpasses. The fencing is designed to increase the use of underpasses by wildlife and to decrease collisions.

*Bridget Donaldson, Virginia Transportation Research Council*

**B. How to Take the Paper (and Some Work) out of your Paperwork**\*\* (*Rockfish Gap / Afton Room*)

After the last cage has been cleaned and the last gaping mouth has been fed, no one looks forward to the pile of paper records that need updating. This lecture will discuss how a free, online record-keeping system (WILD-ONe) can assist not only with your daily admissions and dispositions, but also keep you in contact with current and potential donors and generate your state and federal annual reports within seconds!

*Leigh-Ann Horne, LVT, [lhorne@wildlifecenter.org](mailto:lhorne@wildlifecenter.org)*

**3:00 pm - 4:00 pm — SESSION 7**

**A. The Canary in the Coal Mine: The Connection Between Human, Animal and Environmental Health** ++ \*\* (*Blue Ridge Ballroom*)

Learn about the diseases that affect you and the world around you. This session will cover the role of wildlife in the "One Health" initiative by discussing the health concerns of animals and humans and emphasizing the importance of staying safe while caring for your patients.

*Dr. Peach Van Wick, [pvanwick@wildlifecenter.org](mailto:pvanwick@wildlifecenter.org)*

# PLEASE REMEMBER TO TURN IN YOUR EVALUATIONS AND NAME BADGES AT THE REGISTRATION TABLE!

THANK YOU, AND TRAVEL SAFELY

## SPEAKERS

JEAN CHAMBERLAIN HAS BEEN A REHABILITATOR FOR ABOUT 25 YEARS, SPECIALIZING IN RAPTORS FOR 20 YEARS. SHE PRESENTS MANY WILDLIFE EDUCATION PROGRAMS EACH YEAR FOR WILDLIFE REHAB, INC. IN THE WINSTON-SALEM AREA. SHE ORGANIZES AND HELPS TEACH THE WILDLIFE REHABILITATION COURSE AT FORSYTH TECH. SHE DESIGNED AND TEACHES THE WILDLIFE REHABILITATORS OF NORTH CAROLINA'S REFRESHER AND BASIC COURSES. SHE HELPED ORGANIZE WRNC'S FIRST SYMPOSIUM AND HAS BEEN CHAIR OF THE SYMPOSIUM COMMITTEE SINCE. JEAN IS PAST PRESIDENT FOR WRNC AND IS ON WRNC'S BOARD. SHE CREATED RAPTOR ID ON IWRC'S WEBSITE AND IS ON THE CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE FOR IWRC'S COURSES. JEAN IS CURRENTLY PRODUCING RECORDINGS AND CREATING A WEBSITE ON BIRDSONG. SHE IS ACTIVE IN FORSYTH AUDUBON AND COORDINATES THEIR HAWK WATCH PROGRAM EACH SEPTEMBER AT PILOT MOUNTAIN. JEAN HAS AN UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE IN MATHEMATICS AND TWO YEARS OF POST-GRADUATE WORK IN HUMAN INFORMATION PROCESSING. SHE IS RETIRED AFTER A CAREER IN INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY.

RAINA DEFONZA GREW UP IN THE CITY OF PITTSBURGH UNTIL HER FAMILY RELOCATED TO THE SEASIDE-SUBURBS OF OCEAN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY. AT AN EARLY AGE, RAINA DEVELOPED A LOVE FOR EXPLORING THE NATURAL WORLD, AS WELL AS A DEEP APPRECIATION OF AND RESPECT FOR WILDLIFE. WHILE PURSUING A DEGREE IN ART AND LIBERAL STUDIES AT RUTGERS UNIVERSITY, AND EVENTUALLY STOCKTON COLLEGE, RAINA TOOK COURSES IN WILDLIFE STUDIES TO BETTER DEVELOP HER UNDERSTANDING OF THE NATURAL WORLD. DURING AND AFTER COLLEGE, RAINA SPENT SEVERAL YEARS WORKING FOR LARGE AND SMALL LEGAL AND EDUCATION NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS, DEVELOPING HER BUSINESS SENSE AND CLIENT RELATIONS SKILLS. AFTER ACCEPTING A POSITION AS A NATURALIST AT CATTUS ISLAND COUNTY PARK IN TOMS RIVER, NEW JERSEY, RAINA REALIZED HER TRUE PASSION OF CARING FOR WILDLIFE AND TEACHING PEOPLE ABOUT HUMAN-WILDLIFE INTERACTIONS. FOLLOWING THAT PASSION, RAINA RELOCATED TO VIRGINIA IN AUGUST 2012 TO BEGIN HER CAREER AS AN OUTREACH COORDINATOR AT THE WILDLIFE CENTER. AS OUTREACH COORDINATOR, SOME OF RAINA'S RESPONSIBILITIES INCLUDE CONDUCTING PUBLIC EDUCATION PROGRAMS, POSTING CONTENT ON THE WILDLIFE CENTER WEBSITE, AND PARTICIPATING IN THE MODERATED DISCUSSIONS ALIGNED WITH THE "CRITTER CAM".

DR. ERNESTO DOMINGUEZ GREW UP IN MEXICO CITY. AFTER TWO YEARS OF STUDIES IN MEDICAL SCHOOL (2003-2005), HE QUIT MED SCHOOL TO FOLLOW HIS DREAM OF BECOMING A VETERINARIAN. DR. ERNESTO GRADUATED FROM THE NATIONAL AUTONOMOUS UNIVERSITY OF MEXICO (UNAM) SCHOOL OF VETERINARY MEDICINE IN 2013. DURING HIS LAST YEAR OF VETERINARY SCHOOL, DR. ERNESTO SPENT SOME TIME DOING HIS GRADUATION PROJECT IN AVIAN ORTHOPEDICS AT THE WILDLIFE CENTER OF VIRGINIA. AFTER GETTING HIS DEGREE, HE COMPLETED DIFFERENT POSTGRADUATE TRAINING IN WILDLIFE CENTERS AND ZOOS AROUND THE WORLD, INCLUDING THE BELIZE WILDLIFE AND REFERRAL CLINIC, ARCAS WILDLIFE CENTER IN GUATEMALA, THE MARYLAND ZOO IN BALTIMORE, AFRICAM SAFARI ZOO IN MEXICO, AND THE JOHANNESBURG ZOO IN SOUTH AFRICA. FROM SEPTEMBER 2015 TO JUNE 2016 HE COMPLETED AN INTERNSHIP IN RAPTOR MEDICINE AND SURGERY AT THE RAPTOR CENTER AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA. DR. ERNESTO IS CURRENTLY THE HOSPITAL DIRECTOR OF THE WILDLIFE CENTER OF VIRGINIA; HE IS A CERTIFIED WILDLIFE REHABILITATOR, AND HE IS PURSUING BOARD CERTIFICATION BY THE AMERICAN COLLEGE OF VETERINARY PREVENTIVE MEDICINE.

BRIDGET DONALDSON IS A SENIOR ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH SCIENTIST WITH THE VIRGINIA TRANSPORTATION RESEARCH COUNCIL, THE RESEARCH DIVISION OF THE VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION. SHE HAS 16 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE IN ECOLOGY AND INFRASTRUCTURE RESEARCH AND IS ACTIVE IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF MEASURES TO REDUCE THE IMPACT OF ROAD PROJECTS ON THE ENVIRONMENT. MUCH OF HER WORK INCLUDES RESEARCH AND IMPLEMENTATION OF MEASURES TO REDUCE ANIMAL-VEHICLE COLLISIONS.

RANDY FRANCIS IS THE WILDLIFE PERMITS COORDINATOR FOR THE VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF GAME AND INLAND FISHERIES. HE HAS LAW ENFORCEMENT EXPERIENCE ON THE FEDERAL, STATE AND LOCAL LEVELS. DURING HIS 39-YEAR CAREER, HE HAS SERVED AS AN INVESTIGATOR FOR FOUR VIRGINIA STATE AGENCIES, THE UNITED STATES NAVY, AND LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES.

KATE GUENTHER WAS A FRONT-DESK COORDINATOR OF THE WILDLIFE CENTER OF VIRGINIA FOR FIVE YEARS. SHE'S AN AMATEUR NATURALIST WHO PICKS BERRIES AND LOOKS FOR OPOSSUMS.

KIMBERLY HALL IS A RETIRED RADFORD UNIVERSITY PSYCHOLOGY INSTRUCTOR. ALTHOUGH SHE SPECIALIZES IN RACCOONS AND SKUNKS, AS THE ONLY ACTIVE REHABILITATORS IN THE NEW RIVER VALLEY SHE AND HER HUSBAND DON INTAKE AND TRANSPORT ANY NUMBER OF SPECIES FOR AND TO NEARBY REHABBERS. WHEN SHE'S NOT CARING FOR ANIMALS OR DRIVING ALL AROUND CREATION, KIM IS WRITING MURDER MYSTERIES AND SHORT STORIES.

LEIGH-ANN HORNE WAS BORN AND RAISED IN TEXAS. SHE WAS A COMPETITIVE FIGURE SKATER FROM ELEMENTARY SCHOOL THROUGH HIGH SCHOOL. SHE GRADUATED FROM SOUTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY IN 2001 WITH A DEGREE IN ANIMAL BEHAVIOR AND MOVED TO VIRGINIA THAT SAME YEAR. LEIGH-ANN COMPLETED AN ANIMAL-CARE PRECEPTORSHIP AT THE WILDLIFE CENTER IN 2001 AND THEN WAS HIRED TO BE THE WEEKDAY FRONT-DESK COORDINATOR. AFTER A YEAR-AND-A-HALF SHE ENROLLED IN THE VETERINARY TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM AT BLUE RIDGE COMMUNITY COLLEGE. DURING SCHOOL SHE CONTINUED TO WORK AS THE RECEPTIONIST, AS WELL AS ASSISTING THE REHABILITATION STAFF AND THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT. LEIGH-ANN EARNED HER VETERINARY TECHNOLOGY DEGREE AND BECAME A LICENSED TECHNICIAN IN 2005. SHE IMMEDIATELY TRANSFERRED INTO THE ROLE OF LVT AT THE CENTER. HER CURRENT JOB RESPONSIBILITIES INCLUDE PERFORMING IN-HOUSE DIAGNOSTICS; TEACHING VETERINARY AND VET TECH STUDENTS; WORKING WITH THE VET STAFF TO COMPLETE DAILY PATIENT TREATMENTS; SUPERVISING THE DIAGNOSTIC INTERN, VET TECH STUDENTS, AND HOSPITAL VOLUNTEERS; MAINTAINING HOSPITAL INVENTORY AND SEEKING MEDICAL DONATIONS; AND WORKING WITH THE VETERINARY DIRECTOR TO DEVELOP WILD-ONE (THE CENTER'S MEDICAL RECORD DATABASE). LEIGH-ANN WAS ELECTED TO THE EXECUTIVE BOARD OF THE VIRGINIA ASSOCIATION OF LICENSED VETERINARY TECHNICIANS FOR 2011-2012.

KRISTY JACOBUS IS A WILDLIFE VETERINARIAN AND CLINIC DIRECTOR AT CITY WILDLIFE, INC. IN WASHINGTON, DC. SHE IS A 2014 GRADUATE OF TUFTS CUMMINGS SCHOOL OF VETERINARY MEDICINE. KRISTY HAS HAD A LONG-STANDING INTEREST IN WILDLIFE AND HAS COMPLETED NUMEROUS EXTERNSHIPS, ELECTIVES, AND RESEARCH PROJECTS IN THE FIELD OF ZOO AND WILDLIFE MEDICINE. FOLLOWING GRADUATION, SHE COMPLETED A ONE-YEAR ROTATING INTERNSHIP IN SMALL-ANIMAL MEDICINE AND SURGERY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA VETERINARY HOSPITAL AND THEN A ONE-YEAR WILDLIFE AND CONSERVATION MEDICINE INTERNSHIP AT THE TUFTS WILDLIFE CLINIC.

TANYA LEE IS A LICENSED WILDLIFE "HOME REHABBER" FROM ROANOKE, VA. SHE ATTENDED JAMES MADISON UNIVERSITY FOR BOTH UNDERGRAD AND GRADUATE SCHOOL, RECEIVING A MASTER'S DEGREE IN EARLY CHILDHOOD SPECIAL EDUCATION. SHE TAUGHT PRESCHOOL SPECIAL EDUCATION IN FAIRFAX, VA FOR FIVE YEARS AND THEN "RETIRED" TO RAISE HER FAMILY. ONCE HER SECOND SON STARTED SCHOOL, SHE BEGAN VOLUNTEERING AT A LOCAL WILDLIFE CENTER AND GOT HOOKED. EVENTUALLY, SHE DECIDED TO GET LICENSED AND CONVINCED HER HUSBAND TO CONVERT THEIR BASEMENT INTO A WILDLIFE ORPHANAGE. SHE CURRENTLY WORKS PART-TIME, SHOPPING FOR THE ONLINE GROCERY STORE THAT SHE CO-OWNS, BUT HER FULL-TIME (OFTEN 24 HOUR/DAY) JOB IS REHABBING. SHE REHABS SMALL MAMMALS, INCLUDING SQUIRRELS, CHIPMUNKS, AND MOST RECENTLY, BUNNIES. BUT HER SPECIALTY IS OPOSSUMS, SPECIFICALLY NEONATE OPOSSUMS. SHE HAS OFTEN BEEN REFERRED TO AS "THE OPOSSUM LADY" AND HER LICENSE PLATE THAT DECLARES, "I BRAKE FOR OPOSSUMS" IS VERY FITTING. SHE CAN FREQUENTLY BE FOUND ON THE SIDE OF THE ROAD HANDLING ROADKILL, CHECKING POUCHES FOR ORPHANED OPOSSUMS. DON'T YOU?

DR. MONICA MADERA IS FROM ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA AND HAD DREAMED OF BECOMING A VETERINARIAN SINCE SHE WAS A LITTLE GIRL. DR. MONICA SOLIDIFIED HER PASSION FOR VETERINARY MEDICINE WHEN SHE BEGAN WORKING AS AN ASSISTANT IN HER HOMETOWN VETERINARY CLINIC. DR. MADERA RECEIVED HER BACHELOR'S DEGREE IN BIOLOGY AT VIRGINIA TECH IN 2012. SHE CONTINUED ON TO EARN HER DOCTORATE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE AT VIRGINIA-MARYLAND COLLEGE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE IN 2016. SHE BEGAN HER WILDLIFE CAREER DURING VETERINARY SCHOOL BY BECOMING A REHABILITATION EXTERN WITH THE WILDLIFE CENTER OF VIRGINIA IN THE SUMMER OF 2013, THEN CONTINUED WORK WITH THE WILDLIFE CENTER DURING HER CLINICAL YEAR OF VETERINARY SCHOOL AS A VETERINARY STUDENT EXTERN IN 2015. DR. MONICA HAS ALSO HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO WORK WITH THE SMITHSONIAN NATIONAL ZOO AND MEMPHIS ZOO. AFTER HAVING LIVED IN BLACKSBURG, VA FOR EIGHT YEARS, SHE MOVED BACK TO THE DC METRO AREA, RELOCATING IN GAITHERSBURG, MARYLAND, TO COMPLETE A ROTATING SMALL-ANIMAL INTERNSHIP AT VCA VETERINARY REFERRAL ASSOCIATES TO ADVANCE HER CLINICAL KNOWLEDGE. SHE IS EXCITED TO BE BACK IN BEAUTIFUL WAYNESBORO TO WORK WITH THE WILDLIFE CENTER OF VIRGINIA FOR A ONE-YEAR VETERINARY INTERNSHIP. SHE HOPES TO BROADEN HER KNOWLEDGE IN WILDLIFE MEDICINE AND CONSERVATION. WHEN NOT WORKING, DR. MONICA ENJOYS BEING OUTDOORS AND RELAXES BY BIKING, SWIMMING, AND PLAYING VOLLEYBALL.

SPECIAL AGENT (SA) CHRIS MINA STARTED WORKING FOR THE U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE (SERVICE), OFFICE OF LAW ENFORCEMENT IN 2011. SA MINA CONDUCTS INVESTIGATIONS THAT INCLUDE WILDLIFE TRAFFICKING AND THE ILLEGAL TAKE OF FEDERALLY PROTECTED SPECIES. PRIOR TO WORKING FOR THE SERVICE, SA MINA WORKED FOR THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, ANIMAL AND PLANT INSPECTION SERVICES, INVESTIGATIVE AND ENFORCEMENT SERVICES. SA MINA HOLDS A BACHELORS OF SCIENCE DEGREE FROM VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE AND STATE UNIVERSITY (VIRGINIA TECH).

ELIZABETH "HALEY" OLSEN-HODGES IS THE RESIDENT "BIRD NERD" AT SOUTHWEST VIRGINIA WILDLIFE CENTER OF ROANOKE AND IS CURRENTLY A STUDENT WITH HOPES OF GETTING A DEGREE IN WILDLIFE CONSERVATION FROM VIRGINIA TECH. SHE HAS SIX YEARS OF REHABILITATION EXPERIENCE AS A VOLUNTEER AT THE WILDLIFE IN NEED CENTER IN WISCONSIN, THE WILDLIFE CARE CLINIC IN IOWA, AND FLORIDA WILDLIFE HOSPITAL AND SANCTUARY IN FLORIDA. SHE IS AN ACTIVE MEMBER OF THE NEW RIVER VALLEY BIRD CLUB, A VIRGINIA MASTER NATURALIST, A SECOND VIRGINIA BREEDING BIRD ATLAS (VABBA2) VOLUNTEER, A BIRDER, AND IS INTERESTED IN HOW WILDLIFE REHABILITATION, CONSERVATION SCIENCE, AND CITIZEN SCIENCE CAN ALL WORK TOGETHER TO COMPLIMENT AND HELP EACH OTHER.

DR. ALEXA ORTIZ WAS BORN AND RAISED IN VANCOUVER, WASHINGTON, WHICH IS JUST NORTH OF PORTLAND, OREGON. SHE BECAME A THIRD-GENERATION ATTENDEE OF OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY IN 2009. DR. ALEXA WAS ALWAYS INVOLVED WITH AND INTERESTED IN LIFE SCIENCES AND BIOLOGY BUT DID NOT DECIDE TO BECOME A VETERINARIAN UNTIL AFTER FRESHMAN YEAR OF COLLEGE. SHE BEGAN VOLUNTEERING AT A LOCAL WILDLIFE REHABILITATION CENTER AND SUDDENLY BECAME AWARE THAT WILDLIFE VETERINARY MEDICINE WAS THE SCIENTIFIC FIELD SHE WANTED TO PURSUE AS A CAREER. DR. ALEXA ATTENDED THE CUMMINGS SCHOOL OF VETERINARY MEDICINE AT TUFTS UNIVERSITY FROM 2013-2017. SHE CONTINUED TO EXPAND HER INTEREST IN WILDLIFE MEDICINE THROUGHOUT SCHOOL BY WORKING FOR THE TUFTS WILDLIFE CLINIC DURING THE SCHOOL YEAR AND COMPLETING WILDLIFE RESEARCH DURING THE SUMMERS. DR. ALEXA COMPLETED RESEARCH IN NORTHERN NEW MEXICO FOR A SUMMER LOOKING AT THE CONTRACEPTIVE EFFECTS OF AN IMMUNOCONTRACEPTIVE VACCINE IN WILD HORSES. THE FOLLOWING SUMMER, SHE WORKED FOR THE BIODIVERSITY RESEARCH INSTITUTE AND THEIR COMMON LOON GENERAL HEALTH ASSESSMENT PROJECT. CONCURRENTLY, DR. ALEXA ALSO WORKED FOR THE MAINE AUDUBON SOCIETY, EDUCATING THE PUBLIC ABOUT THE BIOLOGY OF COMMON LOONS AND THE HAZARDS OF LEAD FISHING TACKLE IN THE NORTHEAST. DURING HER CLINICAL ROTATIONS, DR. ALEXA COMPLETED VARIOUS WILDLIFE-RELATED EXTERNSHIPS AT THE CENTER FOR REHABILITATION OF WILDLIFE (CROW) CLINIC IN SANIBEL, FLORIDA, SAN DIEGO ZOO, CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE, AND OREGON DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE. DR. ALEXA IS INTERESTED IN POPULATION MANAGEMENT AND CONSERVATION MEDICINE. SHE IS EXCITED TO LEARN AND GROW AS A CLINICIAN AT OUR CLINIC FOR THE NEXT SIX MONTHS!

CURRENT BOARD MEMBER OF THE CHESAPEAKE CONSERVANCY, DR. MAMIE PARKER IS THE FORMER ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF FISHERIES AND HABITAT CONSERVATION AT THE U. S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE (FWS). PRIOR TO THIS POSITION, SHE MADE HISTORY WHEN APPOINTED THE FIRST AFRICAN AMERICAN FWS REGIONAL DIRECTOR OF THE 13 NORTHEASTERN STATES. DR. PARKER HAS AN EXTENSIVE AMOUNT OF EXPERIENCE AS A FISH AND WILDLIFE BIOLOGIST AND AN EXECUTIVE. SHE SERVED AS THE ECOSYSTEM COORDINATOR IN THE GREAT LAKES AND BIG RIVERS REGION AND WORKED IN MANY PROGRAMS INCLUDING THE NATIONAL FISH HATCHERIES, NATIONAL WETLANDS AND COASTAL MAPPING, CONTAMINANTS, INVASIVE SPECIES, MARINE MAMMALS, WETLAND RESTORATION AND PROTECTION PROGRAMS AMONG OTHERS. PARKER WAS DESIGNATED THE AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL FOR THE NEGOTIATIONS WITH GENERAL ELECTRIC CORPORATION TO CLEAN UP THE HUDSON RIVER AND PLAYED A MAJOR ROLE IN HELPING TO PROTECT OUR NATION'S WATERS FROM INVASIVE SPECIES SUCH AS THE ASIAN CARP AND SNAKEHEAD FISH. THIS EXTENSIVE AMOUNT OF EXPERIENCE LED HER TO RECEIVING THE ANNUAL IRA GABRIELSON AWARD, AN AWARD GIVEN BY FWS LEADERS TO THE MOST OUTSTANDING LEADER. THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES PRESENTED DR. PARKER, A SENIOR EXECUTIVE SERVICE MEMBER, WITH THE PRESIDENTIAL RANK AWARD, THE HIGHEST AWARD GIVEN TO GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES. SHE HAS APPEARED ON THE STEVE HARVEY SHOW AND FEATURED IN DUDLEY EDMUNDSON'S BLACK AND BROWN FACES IN AMERICA'S WILD PLACES. SHE IS AN AUTHOR IN THE AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY'S MOST RECENTLY RELEASED BOOK ENTITLED "THE FUTURE OF FISHERIES". THE GOVERNOR OF ARKANSAS INDUCTED HER INTO THE ARKANSAS HALL OF FAME FOR HER ACCOMPLISHMENT AS THE FIRST ARKANSAS NATIVE TO RISE TO THE HEAD OF FISHERIES IN THIS COUNTRY. PARKER IS A LEADER IN VARIOUS ORGANIZATIONS AND SERVES ON THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE ASSOCIATION; DEFENDERS OF WILDLIFE; AND THE CHESAPEAKE CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIP STEERING COMMITTEE. THE COUNCIL OF WORLD WOMEN LEADERS, UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF FORMER SECRETARY OF STATE MADELEINE ALBRIGHT AND WOMEN PRIME MINISTERS, AWARDED HER WITH AN ASPEN INSTITUTE FELLOWSHIP.

JAMIE K. REASER HAS A PASSION FOR BRINGING PEOPLE INTO THEIR HEARTS, INSPIRING THE HEARTBEAT OF COMMUNITY, AND, ULTIMATELY, EMPOWERING PEOPLE TO LIVE WITH A HEART-FELT DEDICATION TO MOTHER EARTH. SHE HAS WORKED AROUND THE WORLD AS A CONSERVATION ECOLOGIST, ENVIRONMENTAL NEGOTIATOR, COMMUNICATION PSYCHOLOGIST, AND WILDERNESS RITES-OF-PASSAGE GUIDE. HER AWARD-WINNING WRITING EXPLORES THE INTER-RELATEDNESS OF NATURE AND HUMAN NATURE. SHE HAS BEEN A SUPPORTER OF THE WILDLIFE CENTER OF VIRGINIA FOR MORE THAN 30 YEARS.

NATIVE TO MEXICO CITY, DR. OCTAVIO ROMO GRADUATED CUM LAUDE FROM THE NATIONAL AUTONOMOUS UNIVERSITY OF MEXICO (UNAM) IN 2013. HE THEN WORKED AS A SMALL-ANIMAL AND EXOTIC ANIMAL VETERINARY PRACTITIONER IN MEXICO, WHILE SIMULTANEOUSLY OBTAINING HIS LICENSE TO PRACTICE IN THE UNITED STATES. IN 2014, HE BEGAN WORKING AT AN AVIAN AND EXOTIC ANIMAL PRACTICE IN SOUTH FLORIDA, GAINING EXPERIENCE UNDER THE GUIDANCE OF THE PRACTICE OWNER. DR. ROMO JOINED SEAVS IN 2016 TO PURSUE ADDITIONAL FOCUSED TRAINING THROUGH THE COMPLETION OF A ONE-YEAR VETERINARY INTERNSHIP IN AVIAN AND EXOTIC ANIMAL MEDICINE. DR. ROMO HAS KNOWN THAT HE WANTED TO BE AN EXOTIC ANIMAL VETERINARIAN SINCE CHILDHOOD, BUT HIS LOVE FOR BIRDS WAS SOLIDIFIED DURING A STUDENT EXTERNSHIP AT THE SOUTH FLORIDA WILDLIFE CENTER, ONE OF THE LARGEST WILDLIFE REHABILITATION CENTERS IN THE UNITED STATES. HE HOPES TO SOMEDAY BECOME BOARD CERTIFIED IN AVIAN PRACTICE. WHEN NOT TAKING CARE OF HIS PATIENTS, DR. ROMO ENJOYS RIDING HIS BICYCLE THROUGH THE STREETS AND TRAILS OF NORTHERN VIRGINIA, HIKING WITH HIS FIANCÉ AND THEIR DOG MAGGIE, READING A GOOD SCIENCE FICTION NOVEL OR COMIC BOOK WITH ONE OF HIS TWO CATS ON HIS LAP, AND GOING TO THE MOVIES. IN ADDITION TO HIS DOG AND CATS, DR. ROMO SHARES HIS HOME WITH A RAT AND A LEOPARD GECKO. LESLIE STURGES IS THE PRESIDENT OF THE SAVE LUCY CAMPAIGN, A CONSERVATION AND EDUCATION ORGANIZATION BASED IN VIRGINIA. SHE TRAINED WITH BAT WORLD SANCTUARY IN 2001 AND HAS BEEN REHABILITATING BATS EVER SINCE. SHE HAS WORKED EXTENSIVELY WITH BIOLOGISTS IN VA, MD, AND PA, U.S. FOREST SERVICE, AND U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE ON BAT RELATED ISSUES. SHE SITS ON THE NATIONAL BAT WEEK STEERING COMMITTEE, REGULARLY PRESENTS AT CALL OF THE WILD, LEADS WORKSHOPS IN BAT REHABILITATION, AND PRESENTS AT BAT WORKING GROUP MEETINGS WHILE LEADING A FIVE-PERSON REHABILITATION GROUP IN FOUR VIRGINIA COUNTIES.

SHE REALLY NEEDS SOME VOLUNTEER HELP!

DR. PEACH VAN WICK GREW UP IN THE SMALL TOWN OF PEARL, MISSISSIPPI AND, FOLLOWING IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF HER PARENTS AND OLDER BROTHER, ATTENDED MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY AFTER HIGH SCHOOL. DR. PEACH HAD ALWAYS KNOWN SHE WANTED TO BE A VETERINARIAN, SO WHILE SHE WAS AN UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT, SHE SPENT THREE YEARS WORKING THREE DIFFERENT POSITIONS AT MSU'S COLLEGE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE. DR. PEACH ATTENDED MSU'S COLLEGE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE FROM 2011-2015; WHILE SHE ENJOYED WORKING WITH CATS AND DOGS, SHE ALSO BECAME EXTREMELY PASSIONATE ABOUT DIRECTING HER CAREER PATH IN A WAY THAT WOULD BENEFIT THE "UN-OWNED" ANIMALS OF THE WORLD, PARTICULARLY FREE-RANGING WILDLIFE. THIS INTEREST IN WILDLIFE WAS SOLIDIFIED WHEN DR. PEACH STUDIED ABROAD IN SOUTH AFRICA AND HAD THE CHANCE TO WORK WITH FREE-RANGING AFRICAN SPECIES IN A CONSERVATION MEDICINE COURSE. DURING HER THIRD YEAR OF VET SCHOOL, DR. PEACH ENROLLED IN HER SCHOOL'S DVM/MS DUAL DEGREE PROGRAM IN ORDER TO PURSUE A MASTER'S DEGREE IN POPULATION MEDICINE. SHE RECEIVED HER DVM IN MAY OF 2015 AND SPENT THE NEXT TWELVE MONTHS COMPLETING HER MASTER'S BY GAINING EXPERIENCE AND EXPOSURE TO DIFFERENT ASPECTS OF WILDLIFE MEDICINE AND CONSERVATION. DR. PEACH SPENT TIME AT THE AUDUBON INSTITUTE IN NEW ORLEANS, THE SOUTHEASTERN COOPERATIVE WILDLIFE DISEASE STUDY, AND, OF COURSE, THE WILDLIFE CENTER OF VIRGINIA. ADDITIONALLY, DR. PEACH PROVIDED RELIEF WORK AT VARIOUS SMALL-ANIMAL PRACTICES IN NORTH ALABAMA BETWEEN HER EXTERNSHIPS. SHE IS EXTREMELY EXCITED TO BE BACK IN WAYNESBORO JOINING THE WCV TEAM AND IS MOST LOOKING FORWARD TO WORKING WITH BEARS, RAPTORS, AND CONTRIBUTING TO PUBLIC OUTREACH EFFORTS.

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Contact Us The Wildlife Center of Virginia invites you to share your thoughts, ideas, and suggestions. Feel free to contact, at any time:  
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