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LTWC'S Web Site: [www.ltwc.org](http://www.ltwc.org)

## Wishing You Very Happy New Year!

### The Release of a Bald Eagle

Lake Tahoe Wildlife Care announced that they would be releasing a Bald Eagle at Carson Pass - on April 14, 2013 - and the public would be invited.

More than 60 people accepted the invitation and made the 25 minute drive from LTWC to the release point which overlooks Red Lake.

It was a beautiful Sunday in April with a coating of ice still covering the lake more than 1,000 below.

Pete Van Arnum, a LTWC volunteer and a Lieutenant with El Dorado County Sheriff, was selected to release this bird due to his service as one of the three 'Eagle Team Leaders'.

For the previous three weeks, volunteers exercised the eagle at the Lake Tahoe Golf Course, which showed a lot of 'green' due to the lack of an extended winter for the 2012-13 season. It worked out very well for us and we would like to thank Kevin Sommerfeld, the General Manager at LTGC, who allowed us to utilize his driving range to make sure the eagle was in shape to be released back to the wild.

As Pete released the bird, it began to soar as it was dropping in altitude. After descending 500' or so, it caught a thermal and began to climb in altitude. The crowd cheered with enthusiasm and joy, watching the eagle return back to the wild.

We watched as it flew over the area, NEVER coming to rest. Finally, the eagle flew out of sight to a destination 'it' would select.

(Continued on Page 5)



April 14, 2013. Release day for this Bald Eagle which came to LTWC 4 months earlier. Pete Van Arnum, LTWC Volunteer and Lt. with El Dorado Sheriff's Dep't. was the volunteer we chose

### IN THIS ISSUE!

Secretary's White-Out	Page 2
Notes from Niesie	Page 3
A New Volunteer's Perspective	Page 4
SnowSports Week Flier	Page 6
Did You Know	Page 7
LTWC Annual Report (2012)	Pages 8 & 9
Chips - the Bobcat	Page 11
Membership Info	Page 15
'Club' Members	Back Page

by Tom Millham, LTWC Secretary/Treasurer

## A Hung Up Coyote



Well, in case you missed this one, you missed one of the most interesting photos we have been a part of in over 35 years. We posted this picture (above) on our Facebook page and within ONE WEEK, more than 50,000 people had seen this. As of this date (Christmas 2013), over 61,000 people have witnessed this photo.

Here is how it came down. We got a phone call early one morning, telling us about a coyote which was 'stuck' on a fence. Well, we have had this happen many times before, and 'most of the time', by the time we get out there, the coyote has freed himself (or herself, as the case may be) and it is a wasted trip. So, this time, since it was in the Tahoe Keys area, I called Board Member Emeritus, Bob Dietz, who also is a co-founder of LTWC, who lives in the Keys area, and asked him if

## THE QUILL

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This is what a 'well' constructed nest (or den) looks like when first year bear cubs hibernate while in their final stage of rehabilitation. This photo (by LTWC) was taken December 10, about 3 days AFTER the straw was introduced to this year's cubs. FIRST, they received about 11 trash bags of pine needles to set up their den. Then, after they had done a good job with that, they received these 4 bales of straw. You can 'bearly' see one of the cubs to the right of the verticle tree trunk, 'under' the bottom log platform. The platform is 'normally' about 3 1/2' above the concrete floor. You can watch on our web cam ([www.ltwc.org](http://www.ltwc.org)) to see if there will be any movement UNTIL Fish and Wildlife come to release them, which should be some time in late January or February. That is, except the Lebec cub. He will have a 'spring' release in March or April down south, on the Grapevine, where he came from.

(Secretary's - Cont'd. from page 2)

he could check it out and see if I 'really' needed to come out there and deal with this situation.

Within 5 minutes, Bob called back and said, "Yes. You had better get down here!" So, I gathered up our catch pole, animal handling gloves, a blanket and a pet carrier. When I got there, I saw what you just saw. This coyote had - apparently - attempted to jump this wrought-iron fence and either slipped or mis-judged. Either way, the 'spikes' at the top of the fence had penetrated his groin area AND - - - - had surfaced through the skin on his back, near his tail!!

OUCH!!!

The call we had received was from some TKPOA employees who were cleaning up the lagoon and saw this coyote in distress. Once I walked over to the coyote, he made NO attempt to bite at me or become aggressive at all. I had no idea how long he had been 'hanging' there, but, I was sure it was a while. He was literally 'hanging' upside down, after being 'Shish-Ka-Bobbed' by this fence.

(Continued on Page 3)



Since we had SOOOOO many bears last year, I wanted to share this photo with you. Taken by Sherry Eddy (South Lake Tahoe) she - as well as other neighbors - were aware of this mom who had taken up residency under a winter vacated house to use for her den. Lo and behold, on April 14, 2013, out comes this mom with her newest little cub. The best we can 'guesstimate' this little guy/girl weighs is about 4 pounds. Mom won't let them come out of the den until they can climb a tree and this one is 'very' close to accomplishing that feat. Thanks, Sherry.

(Secretary's - Cont'd. from page 2)

After surveying the situation, I put on my gloves, grabbed the catch pole and walked toward the coyote. I put the noose around his head. Again - - NO aggression. I was able to take his right front let and also put it into the noose. That way, when I tightened it up, it would not choke the animal, having part around the 'back' of his neck and the other end around his front leg or 'arm-pit' - if you will.

I then tightened up the noose around his neck and leg. The next step was to try and get his body free from the fence. So, I put my right hand under the belly. Lifting the catch pole with my right hand and his belly with my left, I made one sudden 'JERK' to free him from the fence. It worked. And - - to my surprise - - there was 'very' little blood.

I put him into the pet carrier and took him for X-Rays. Again, to our astonishment, NO BROKEN BONES nor was there any internal damage (kidney, spleen, stomach, etc.). He was then sewn up (both under belly and on the back) and placed in one of our cages for one week. We gave him pain medication and some antibiotics.

Within just a few days he was moving around with no noticeable damage and we released him back to the wild. A successful release? Yes. But, WOW - - - what a story!!

# Notes from Niesie

by Denise Upton, President, LTWC

## Rodenticides - Hidden Threat to our Wildlife

There's a threat looming out there. A threat to our wildlife we are "supposed" to be living in harmony with. Many of us are unaware of this threat. Here's the scenario: We're sitting in our living room and "something" catches our eye-running across the floor-did we really just see something? Then soon after we open the pantry and find droppings- it's confirmed- mice have moved into your house and you HAVE to get rid of them! Quickly! We run to the hardware store and we have a choice - old fashioned snap traps where we have to remove the dead mouse carcass-yuck! OR how about those nifty bait stations where the mice go in get some poisoned bait and we never see them again! Sounds like a "no brainier" right? Well let me get you up to speed on what REALLY happens when the mice "take the bait" so to speak.

First of all, let me give you a little lesson in rodenticide 101. The most popular brand of poison bait is D-Con. The key ingredients are brodifacoum, bromadiolone, difethialone or difenacoum.

These are all what they call "2nd generation" rodenticides and are anti-coagulants that result in death from internal bleeding. In June of 2012 the EPA announced they are starting the process to ban 2nd generation rodenticides from the consumer market. In March 2013 the EPA started regulatory action to remove 12 D-con products from shelves of "some" retailers as the company Beckett Benckisen (the manufacturer of D-Con) has refused to voluntarily remove these products. Even if these actions are imposed you will still be able to purchase these products at some Farm & Ranch Supply stores.

Why all the fuss over a few mice and some poison bait stations you ask? Mice are not where the story ends- it's just the beginning. First of all thousands of dogs and cats are exposed to this bait and injured or killed every year even though the bait stations are "supposedly" sealed. From 1993-2005 12-15,000 children under the age of 6 were reported to have exposure to rodenticides as reported by Poison Control. As wildlife rehabilitators what we see is exposure to our wildlife.

Secondary exposure occurs when wildlife consumes dead or dying rodents that have eaten poison bait. Since it is a slow acting poison it is often eaten over several days by rats and mice causing the deadly sub-

(Continued on Page 13)

## A New Volunteer's Perspective

by Deborah Thompson, LTWC Volunteer

*(Deborah Thompson became a volunteer with LTWC in May 2012. She became 'very' active, 'very' quickly.)*

### The Interest

I have been an animal lover all my life. I have always had pets and love wildlife. When my husband and I moved to North Shore Lake Tahoe a few years ago, we did so for the environment and activities. In the Lake Tahoe basin, I feel in my element and am often blessed with wildlife sightings, be it lake, land or air. It was only a matter of time before I became aware of Lake Tahoe Wildlife Care, and the fact that I had just missed their scheduled open house to the public. I, literally, put on my calendar to check the website the following spring for the next scheduled open house so that I would not miss it. When I checked in Spring...I found something even more interesting...open registration for the training! 'Wow! I thought. I can learn about the local wildlife, help clean small bird and squirrel cages and perhaps assist in fundraising. I immediately signed up to participate in the adventures to come...I had no idea....

### The Training

The training was 2 full days over a weekend in May. When I arrived the first day, I was impressed with how organized the setup was, how friendly the folks were...and the baby birds in the back of the room! As we took seats, Cheryl began her lecture with Tom working the video for visual on the overhead screen. I noticed these were folks that enjoyed what they were doing and were ready to educate and welcome us in. My attention was locked from the start. Cheryl lectured from both experience and the heart. She spoke of how

## 2014 Annual Training Seminar

Sat. & Sun. May 17th & 18th

\$70 for 1st Family Member

\$50 for Additional Family Members

Pre Registration is necessary

For Registration Form go to

[www.ltwc.org](http://www.ltwc.org) (AFTER Feb. 1st)

she started in Wildlife Rehabilitation and described a person with interests that were not far from my own. She exhibited such knowledge depth and passion that I felt encouragement and excitement about my decision to attend. Through the day I learned about LTWC's mission, how to care for the tiny wildlife, regulations around the larger wildlife, how to create a 'bird-purse' to carry hatchlings in for the frequent feedings, and how to make mush-mouse. I was hooked!

The second day was on site at the wildlife center. With the various sessions on rabbits, ducks and procedure on wildlife pickup and transportation, I began to understand that I might get more wildlife volunteer opportunities than I thought possible for someone such as myself. Everyone I spoke to assured me that, as a trainee, I'd get out of it what I put into it. Any size commitment was mine to give and no size was too small. I was afraid of mistakes. The trainers talked of their own mistakes. It was clear that from both mistakes and successes came knowledge depth. The road to the knowledge depth was experience. The sign-up sheets went around and my name went on them. I signed up for assisting with fundraising booths at local events, I signed up for on call transportation out of North Shore. I signed up for cleaning shifts at the center. Eagle flight exercise training...I asked if girls could do this and Wayne (resident eagle-whisperer) looked at me funny as if I'd question such an experience.... I signed up. I signed up for experience.

### The Experience

2 days later I attended the Orientation. That was the first step before I could start shifts. This one was hard as there was a not so healthy resident in a cage in the room where part of the Orientation was held. Normally this sight would distress me, but what I learned in the previous week was that the center was the right place for this creature to be, and that we were there to help. I already felt part of a team and that I could get past the hard parts, as the good parts outweigh them. The orientation session was filled with many process details that, as I look back, are now second nature to me. They walked us through the basics from training, how to log

*(Cont. on page 12)*

**(Bald Eagle - Cont. from page 1)**

The good part about releasing the eagles at Carson Pass is that they can choose where they want to go. They are right in the middle of four 'valleys' and can reach any of them in a matter of hours. They are Smith Valley (east), Bear Valley (south), Tahoe Valley (north) and San Joaquin Valley (west).



**Bald Eagle Release at Carson Pass, April 14, 2013. Photo by John Adamski.**

As it turned out, this was the 'only' eagle release in 2013. But, WOW - - - what a release! See for yourself, below, a photo taken as the eagle was released at Carson Pass!!

## **2014 Annual Training Seminar**

**by Tom Millham, LTWC Secretary/Treasurer**

Lake Tahoe Wildlife Care first started caring for orphaned and injured wild birds and animals in April 1978. In 1979, LTWC offered its first training seminar for the public to assist with the rehabilitation of the wildlife entrusted to the organization and has held a training seminar 'almost' every year since.

The **ONLY** way one can help care for wildlife - with LTWC - is to take our annual training seminar. It is a two-day training and, this year (2014), will be held on Saturday and Sunday, May 17th and 18th.

The class is limited to 60 people and we operate on a first come-first served basis. Around Feb. 1st, we will have the registration form up on our web site ([www.ltwc.org](http://www.ltwc.org)), so don't be late and sign up soon. The class has filled up the past several years. We look forward to hearing from you.

## **SnowSports Week**

**by Tom Millham, LTWC Secretary/Treasurer**

Eight years ago, John Rice, the General Manager of Sierra at Tahoe asked Lake Tahoe Wildlife Care to take part in SnowSports Week. We were honored to be asked and thrilled to accept his invitation.

SnowSports Week – 2014, will take place February 10<sup>th</sup> thru 13<sup>th</sup> **ONLY** at Sierra at Tahoe Ski Resort. Here is how it works.

Sierra at Tahoe donates One Day ski passes to five South Lake Tahoe non-profit organizations (Lake Tahoe Educational Foundation, Sierra at Tahoe Educational Foundation, Barton Foundation, Lake Tahoe Community Foundation and Lake Tahoe Wildlife Care) which work together to sell those tickets. In turn, Sierra at Tahoe donates the funds received back to the organizations.

One year, since 2006, LTWC has received more than \$8,000 and another year \$3,500. The average yearly amount each organization receives is about \$6,000.

If you enjoy skiing or boarding in Tahoe, why not purchase your ticket(s) from one of the many vendors on the south shore of Lake Tahoe (see flier on page 6 in this issue of the Quill) plus some other businesses 'off' the hill. 100% of the \$40 per ticket is returned to the five non-profit organizations.

As an example, you can purchase four one-day tickets and use all four for yourself. **OR** - - - you can take a family of four, with those same four tickets, on any one of the four days (Feb. 10 – 13, 2014). The ticket price is roughly one-half the regular one-day price you will pay normally. Tickets **CANNOT** be purchased on the mountain.

Please help LTWC along with the four other non-profit organizations (listed on the flier) by skiing at Sierra at Tahoe February 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> and/or 13<sup>th</sup>. And have a GREAT winter!

***Want the Quill and other mailing by e-mail??? Send us an e-mail (either 'tom@ltwc.org' or 'karen@ltwc.org') and let us know. It is 'our' part to 'Go Green'!***

# Snowsports Week!

## Discounted Lift Tickets

### \$40 Lift Tickets

(\$84 Regular Day Rate)



Tickets available at these locations:

#### STATELINE AREA LOCATIONS:

- 7/11 on Kingsbury Grade\*
- All Powder House locations
- Sports LTD (Village Center)
- Raley's (Village Center)

#### SOUTH LAKE TAHOE LOCATIONS:

- Listed from Stateline West to the "Y"
- Powder House - Pioneer Trail
- Rainbow Mountain Sports
- George's Ski & Snowboard
- The Ski Renter
- Super 8 Motel\*
- CVS/pharmacy at Bijou Center
- Lake Tahoe Community College Bookstore & Foundation Office
- Grocery Outlet
- Barton Foundation
- Raley's at the "Y"
- CVS/pharmacy at the "Y"

#### TAHOE PARADISE/MEYERS LOCATIONS:

- Lira's Market
- Tahoe Paradise Chevron
- Sunrise Ski & Snowboard

#### OUT OF TOWN LOCATIONS:

- Strawberry Lodge (Twin Bridges)
- Strawberry Market (Twin Bridges)
- Fresh Pond Trading Post (Pollock Pines)
- Crystal View Station (Pollock Pines)\*

\*24-hour sales available



## Monday, February 10 through Thursday, February 13

These specially priced tickets must be purchased in advance at one of the locations listed here. They will not be sold at Sierra-at-Tahoe. Each ticket is valid one of the following days: Feb. 10, 11, 12, & 13, 2014.

Sorry, no "Will Call."

Please make checks payable to "Lake Tahoe Educational Foundation (LTEF)". Credit card sales are only available through the Barton Foundation at 530-543-5614 or online at [www.bartonhealth.org/snowsports](http://www.bartonhealth.org/snowsports).

*Proceeds Benefit: Barton Foundation, Lake Tahoe Community College Foundation, Lake Tahoe Educational Foundation, Lake Tahoe Wildlife Care, Sierra-at-Tahoe Education Foundation*

# **DID YOU KNOW . . . ???**

by Bob Dietz, LTWC Board Member Emeritus

*(To our members and friends. The WWF [World Wildlife Fund] has an advertisement called, "**Be the Voice**"! This aptly applies to LTWC. Give a voice to wildlife through your will or other estate plans. YOU can **Be the Voice**"!)*

An 'adjusted' quote from WWF magazine, July/August 2012:

*Be The Voice - for those who have NO voice! Give a voice to wildlife through a gift to LTWC in your will or other estate plans. A legacy gift will help ensure LTWC can continue its vital work, caring for orphaned and injured wild birds and animals, for generations to come. If you have included a gift to LTWC in your will or estate plan, or are considering doing so, please contact us today!*

With spring just a few months away, I must repeat one of my 'oldies'!

- that in all mosquito species, ONLY the female bites (again – I won't comment about that bit of knowledge.) Anyway, the female needs blood quality nourishment in order to lay eggs. Males hover about in great number, BUT drink ONLY plant nectar.
- that skunks can spray their foul odor (perfume) about 10 – 15 feet away. It can be smelled from, at least, a mile away.
- that Barn Owls sometimes DO nest in barns, where they may kill 500 mice a year. Their senses are so acute they can actually hear – and catch – mice under the snow.
- that the life span for black bears is 21 – 33 years, or more, if they are not killed. Nevada allows hunters to use dogs to track and tree bears. Then, the hunters can take their time to kill the animal.
- that with extremely low temperatures, Mountain Chickadees must eat TWENTY TIMES more than usual to maintain their body heat and stay alive. After a day of eating, they spend a cold night of controlled hypothermia, maintaining lowered body temperatures.
- that some squirrels make round nests, as big as basketballs, in the treetops. They build nests with twigs, leaves, grass or bark. Other squirrels live in old woodpecker holes.

Just a thought!! Must one ALWAYS start at the beginning????  
Much time could be saved if we could 'begin' at the 'end'!

# LAKE TAHOE WILDLIFE CARE, INC.,

## 2012 ANNUAL REPORT

TOTAL WILDLIFE CARED FOR: **724**  
 EXPIRED, EUTHANIZED, EOA AND DOA: **310**  
 RELEASED, TRANSFERRED AND PERM. CARE: **414**

DIFFERENT SPECIES  
 BIRDS: **56**  
 MAMMALS: **23**  
 TOTAL # OF SPECIES: **79**  
 RELEASE RATE: **57%**

### BIRDS

	NESTLING	FLEDGLING	ADULT	RELEASED	EXPIRED	EUTH.	EOA	DOA	TRAN	TOTAL	
<b><u>ANSERIFORMES (Water Fowl)</u></b>											
Canada Goose	4	7	5	10	1		5			16	
Common Goldeneye			1	1						1	
Common Merganser	1	2	2	2	2		1			5	
Lesser Scaup			2	2						2	
Mallard	11	7	11	18	4		5	2		29	
Ruddy Duck			1	1						1	54
<b><u>PODICIPEDIFORMES (Grebes)</u></b>											
Western Grebe			3	3						3	3
<b><u>FALCONIFORMES (Vultures, Hawks &amp; Falcons)</u></b>											
Bald Eagle			2	1			1			2	
Golden Eagle		1	3	2	2					4	
Kestrel (Sparrow Hawk)		1	2	3						3	
Osprey		1		1						1	
Peregrine Falcon			1	1						1	
Red-Tailed Hawk		3	10	8	2		2	1		13	
Sharp Shinned Hawk			2	6	4	2	2			8	32
<b><u>CHARADRIIFORMES (Avocets, Sandpipers, Plovers, Gulls &amp; Terns)</u></b>											
California Gull			5	2			3			5	
Herring Gull			2	1				1		2	7
<b><u>COLUMBIFORMES (Pigeons &amp; Doves)</u></b>											
Band-Tailed Pigeon		2	5	2	2		3			7	
Mourning Dove			5	3	1		1			5	
Park Pigeon (Rock Dove)	3	13	8	17	4		2	1		24	36
<b><u>APODIFORMES (Hummingbirds &amp; Swifts)</u></b>											
Anna's Hummingbird		2	2	2	1		1			4	
Rufous Hummingbird		1	1	1	1					2	6
<b><u>GALLINACEOUS (Pheasants, Grouse, Turkeys and Quail)</u></b>											
Blue Grouse			2	2						2	
California Quail	1		1	1	1					2	4
<b><u>GRUIFORMES (Cranes, Rails, Coots &amp; Limpkins)</u></b>											
American Coot			8	6			1	1		8	8
<b><u>PICIFORMES (Woodpeckers, Flickers &amp; Sapsuckers)</u></b>											
Downey Woodpecker		4	4	5	3					8	
Northern Flicker		8	6	6	4		3	1		14	
White-Headed Woodpecker		1	4	2	2		1			5	
Pileated Woodpecker		2		2						2	
Williamson's Sapsucker			3	3						3	
Yellow-Bellied Sapsucker			6	3	2			1		6	38
<b><u>STRINGIFORMES (Owls)</u></b>											
Pygmy Owl			1	1						1	
Saw-Whet Owl			3	2	1					3	
Great-Horned Owl		2	2	4						4	8

NESTLING FLEDGLING ADULT RELEASED EXPIRED EUTH. EOA DOA TRAN TOTAL

**PASSERIFORMES (Perching Birds)**

American Robin	11	15	11	19	6		6	6		37
Audubon Warbler		1	1	1				1		2
Barn Swallow	3	4	2	7	2					9
Black-Headed Grosbeak		1	1	1			1			2
Brewer's Blackbird	6	12	6	11	8		2	3		24
Brown Creeper			1	1						1
Cassin's Finch		3	5	2	6					8
Cliff Swallow	6	9	3	14	3			1		18
Common Raven		1	4	3			1	1		5
Dark-Eyed (Oregon) Junco		2	3	3	1		1			5
Dipper		1		1						1
Evening Grosbeak		4	10	9	2			3		14
Fox Sparrow	8	8	4	9	5		4	2		20
House Finch	4	2	3	3	6					9
House Sparrow		2	2	1	2			1		4
Mountain Chickadee		9	4	6	4		2	1		13
Mtn. Bluebird		3		3						3
Pine Siskin			21	4	11			6		21
Purple Finch		10	7	6	10			1		17
Pygmy Nuthatch	3	3	2	4	4					8
Red Crossbill			1	1						1
Stellers Jay	25	38	12	52	5		12	6		75
Townsend's Solitaire			3	2	1					3
<b>TOTAL BIRDS</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>187</b>	<b>223</b>	<b>285</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>496</b>

## MAMMALS

	INFANT	JUVENILE	ADULT	RELEASED	EXPIRED	EUTH.	EOA	DOA	TRAN	TOTAL
Alpine Chipmunk		7	3	7			1	2		10
Big Brown Bat			5	2	2			1		5
Black Bear		10		10						10
Bobcat		5	1	3					3	6
California Ground Squirrel	4	5	5	7	2		3	2		14
Chickaree Squirrel	7	10	3	12	3		2	3		20
Coyote		3			2		1			3
Golden Mantel Squirrel	2	2		4						4
Jack Rabbit		1	3		1		1	2		4
Least Chipmunk	5	8	4	10	5		1	1		17
Lodge Pole Chipmunk	2	3	3	5	1		1	1		8
Long-Eared Chipmunk		8	1	8	1					9
Mountain Cotton Tail	20	18	6	18	11		7	8		44
Myotis Bat			6	2	1		1	2		6
Northern Flying Squirrel			1		1					1
Pine Martin			3		2			1		3
Porcupine		2	4	3	1			2		6
Raccoon	9	10	8	18	1		4	4		27
River Otter		1							1	1
Snow-Shoe Rabbit	5	2	1	3	2		1	2		8
Western Gray Squirrel	6	7	6	10	4		3	2		19
Wood Rat		1	1	2						2
Yellow-Bellied Marmot			1	1						1
<b>TOTAL MAMMALS</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>228</b>

	NESTLING	FLEDGLING	ADULT	RELEASED	EXPIRED	EUTH.	EOA	DOA	TRAN	TOTAL
<b>GRAND TOTAL:</b>										
<b>MAMMALS &amp; BIRDS</b>	<b>146</b>	<b>290</b>	<b>288</b>	<b>410</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>724</b>

## 2012 Annual Report

2012 marked the completion of 35 years of caring for orphaned and injured wild birds and animals in and around the Lake Tahoe basin.

During that time, LTWC volunteers have cared for over 24,000 wild birds and animals and have released more than 14,000 back to the wild.

As our slogan says, "Giving Mother Nature a Helping Hand!" We give every single critter entrusted to us a 'second chance at life'. If it were not for LTWC, more than 14,000 birds and animals 'probably' would have died, due to lack of experienced and trained caregivers. During the 2012 year, LTWC's volunteers cared for 724 birds and animals and released 414 for a 57% release rate. Now, that is down a bit from in the past, having an average of between 60 & 62%. One of the biggest failures we had in 2012 was the Mountain Cottontail Rabbit. We were only able to release 18 out of 44 which came in to our center. One of the main reasons is due to the fact that 38 (of the 44) came in as babies (first year bunnies) and 'most' of those came in which were either cat caught or dog caught.

We are noticing an increasing number of rabbits in the Tahoe basin. And, where you have rabbits, you will have bobcats, for the rabbit is the favorite food of the bobcat.

You will notice on our 2012 Annual Report (pages 8 & 9) that LTWC cared for 79 different species which was just about the average (81) over the past 13 years. The 724 critters cared for was 8 over the average (716) since 2000 and the 57% release rate is 4 points below the average (61%) since the turn of the 21st century.

In 2012 we cared for four Golden Eagles and were able to release 2 back to the wild (50%) and cared for 2 Bald Eagles and saw one of them go back to the wild. That happened on April 14th 2013 where we invited the public to join us at the top of Carson Pass, overlooking Red Lake. More than 60 people witnessed this wonderful opportunity.

Remember - - - if you ever find an orphaned or injured wild critter, act fast and call, 530-577-2273!

'Normally', we include a self-addressed envelope for those wanting to make donation. Trying to cut down



on our costs, we are asking 'you' to provide an envelope if you would like to help support us. Or, you can use our web site ([www.ltwc.org](http://www.ltwc.org)) to make your donation. Thank you!



**Mister Dietz, LTWC Board Member Emeritus, is shown here with two young, possibly 'new' future LTWC volunteers (in a few years).** Mark your calendar for the first Sunday in August (8/3/14) for the 2014 edition of LTWC's Annual Open House. It is very possible that this 'may' be the last one at our current location.

## LTWC Annual Open House August 3, 2014

For many years, now, it has been a tradition to open our doors to the public for ONE DAY, so they may see exactly what we do behind our 'closed' doors the rest of the year.

In 2014, LTWC's Annual Open House will be held on the first Sunday in August (8/3/14) from 10am until 4pm to show the South Lake Tahoe community as well as visitors and guests from near and far, the workings of wildlife rehabilitation.

This has been very successful for us in that we show people what we do with the birds and animals, the types of cages they are housed in, as well as show off our logo clothing (hats, shirts, jackets, sweatshirts, etc.) and allow people to see our "BEAR TV", which is ALWAYS a big hit.

We do not charge for admission, however, donations are ALWAYS graciously accepted. Some locals actually make this an annual event for their families as well.

Mark your calendars now for Sunday, August 3, 2014 from 10am to 4pm for LTWC's Annual Open House. We might even have some cake and punch!



**In case you have not heard of Chips - the Bobcat - here she is!**

Chips was burned in the 'Chips' fire, near Lake Almanor. There were a couple of national articles done on Chips. One by the United States Forest Service and one by National Geographic Kids Magazine. Chips arrived at LTWC in August 2012. Chips, along with 'Sierra', another young bobcat received by LTWC in 2012, were both transferred down to Sierra Wildlife Rescue in Placerville for final rehabilitation and eventual release!



**Chipmunks are but a sample of the small rodents LTWC volunteers care for every year.** In the past two years (2011 & 2012), we cared for 112 chipmunks (species included are Alpine [not ALVIN], Least, Lodge Pole and Long-Eared Chipmunks). Unfortunately, we were only able to release 64 of them, which is just over half. Many of these came in as babies, however, many - also - came in as either caught by a cat or dog. Do you have any idea what kind of damage a cat or dog can do to a little, tiny chipmunk??? Shown here is a volunteer feeding, with a syringe, a baby chipmunk with the very special formula which helps to give them strong bones. They 'love' their milk!

## Chips - The Bobcat

Chips arrived at Lake Tahoe Wildlife Care (in South Lake Tahoe, CA) at approximately 8:30pm Saturday night, August 25th.

Two of our new volunteers, who took LTWC's Annual Training Seminar in May 2012, participated in transporting Chips to LTWC. Ania Wrona picked up the kitten just 45 minutes after Fish and Game gave LTWC permission to care for the cat. Sean Bailey, who is a firefighter at Northstar (near Truckee, CA), agreed to meet Ania in Sierraville, CA, about 25 miles north of Truckee, CA, on Highway 89. Sean then turned around and drove to Spooner Summit (where U.S. Highway 50 and NV State Route 28 meet) and met me (Tom Millham, Secretary/Treasurer and co-founder of LTWC) to complete the transport to Lake Tahoe Wildlife Care.

*(<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Cg4FHR-qJbc&feature=youtu.be>)*

Upon arrival at LTWC, our veterinarian, Dr. Kevin Willitts, was summoned and he arrived at around 10pm. His examination found 2nd degree burns on all four paws, one burn on her body ('Chips' is a girl), including some singed whiskers, some burned fur and a concern about the smoke in her eyes. Sean was instructed - by Cheryl Millham, Executive Director of LTWC - to wash out 'Chips' eyes with sterile water upon his meeting up with Ania. Dr. Willitts followed up with some eye ointment on Saturday night and instructed LTWC staff to continue this treatment three times a day for three days. The other medical treatment she received was to have a subcutaneous injection of Lactated Ringers, due to her dehydration.

Chips weighed in - today - at about 1 1/2 pounds, almost exactly the same weight as the three bobcat kittens LTWC received in May. She is eating well, eating a total of 12 mice per day. At this age, she would not be eating the mice 'whole', however AFTER mom eats the 'food', mom will 'bring up' the regurgitated food for her baby to eat. Our 'food' is called 'Mush Mouse' and we will leave it at that! You can see what 'Mush Mouse' looks like in the pics enclosed.

'Chips' was released the next spring, along with Sierra another bobcat from the Placerville area.

(A New Volunteer Con't. from Page 4)

our hours and closed the orientation by simply 'cutting us loose' to sign up for shifts. I did, but was disappointed to find that the first available shift at the center was a week out. No worries, it was great to see folks eager to help. Although my first center shift was a week away, I was also signed up to work the bike race booth that next weekend. so my experience began right away. At four and a half months later, here are some of what I experienced...in my first year:

1. Fundraising booth volunteering – here I learned how much the community appreciates LTWC and all it stands for. I met board members and other volunteers who share the same passion and had great stories to share. I learned of the Kokanee festival – a wonderful treasure right in my own back yard.
2. Many, many evening shifts at the wildlife center. While any number of shifts is appreciated, I got so hooked on what I was learning and participating in each time, that I averaged 2, sometimes 3, shifts a week.
  - a. I cleaned bear cages and learned how to corral wide-eyed cubs from one den to the other for a dinner of fish and fruit.
  - b. I cleaned bobcat cages and fed bobcats, not once getting grossed out by what they eat.
  - c. I cleaned raccoon cages, while they washed their marshmallows in their pool and stared at my every move.
  - d. I helped teach a river otter to swim and be happy again. She was then transferred to another facility with a lone otter in need of a buddy. She, in turn, taught him to swim! Thus, we helped 2 creatures here.
  - e. I fed a bat, and wanted to tickle his little head as he was so cute in his own way...but Cheryl said no.
  - f. I fed swallows mealworm 'toothpaste'. Probably not as fresh tasting as it sounds, but a very interesting feeding technique indeed.
  - g. I held a cottontail rabbit and bottle fed it until it fell asleep on my lap. I left home that evening feeling very tranquil.
  - h. I hand fed stellar jays in the aviary while their buddies swooped my head to get inline for their turn.
  - i. I watched and assisted Cheryl in a Canada goose wing repair.
  - j. I observed up close, with instruction, a feeding of a Saw-whet owl mush-mouse.... you don't learn how to make this stuff during the training seminar for nothing. With a frightened and stubborn owl, feeding can be a negotiation process and Cheryl has the skills for success!
  - k. I bottle fed baby raccoons that like to hold your hair until you put them down. This is cute until they are bigger. Then you don't want them anywhere near your hair.

- l. With hands-on training from Tom & Cheryl, I tube-fed a red-tailed hawk who refused to eat.
- m. I learned a bit about the center's on-site policy and procedures, helped organize equipment and was entrusted to come back at the end of the season and help winterize the property.
- n. I experienced.

3. Eagle fight Exercise – I held a Golden Eagle in my arms and tossed it for flight to help exercise it's wings. I did the same for a Bald Eagle. There are no words for this so I will leave it at that.

### **The Joy & Honor**

If the list above doesn't illustrate the joy in experience while volunteering at Lake Tahoe Wildlife Care, let me summarize in closing with a story about a houseguest I was honored to have. In October after the snow season started, a call came into the wildlife center from my neighborhood on the North Shore. A red tailed hawk had hit a window and was down, but alive. Cheryl called me in for action. I went to the house that called it in. With my knowledge that I had gained in the past 4 months, I was able to handle the hawk, assess its condition and report back to Cheryl, over the phone, my findings. She had determined the hawk simply needed a quiet dark place to rest as it could not be left out if it was not ready to fly, and shake off it's dizzy spell. The roads were wet so I agreed to secure the hawk at my house. It was then when Cheryl stated to me 'you now have the hawk in your possession on behalf of Lake Tahoe Wildlife for care and recovery' ...a chill of went up my spine. I felt privileged. I felt knowledge in something I respect. I felt confident because of the experiences and training I had received so far. The next morning, with Cheryl's coaching over the phone, I was able to assess the hawk could fly adequately, and it was sent flying ...out my garage and high over my neighbor's house. There was that chill again...joy and honor.

For anyone who loves wildlife, appreciates the advocacy behind LTWC's mission, but is not sure if, or how, to get involve, I invite you to contact the center and talk to any of the volunteers, board members or the Millhams directly. Then, register for training and simply begin. The training is out there and so is the adventure...check it out!

**Rodenticide** (Continued from Page 3)

stance to accumulate in the animals system reaching many times the lethal dose in their tissue. Predatory or scavenging wildlife that feed on them fall victim to secondary poisoning. Some of the animals affected are Grey Fox, Coyote, Kit Fox (federally endangered), Raccoon, Fisher Marten, Bobcat, Mtn Lion, Black Bear, Golden Eagle, Great Horned Owls, Barn Owl, all the Hawk species and virtually anything that consumes rodents. (In essence- we are killing our “natural” pest control species)! 92% of all Raptors in San Diego county tested positive, 79% of endangered San Joaquin Kit Foxes showed signs of anti-coagulant in their blood, and of 104 Mtn Lions tested since 2005 - 82 had the deadly poison in their system. Since many of these animals typically retreat to their dens, burrows or other hiding places in the final stages of anti- coagulant poisoning, the numbers of non-target wildlife being killed by these compounds may be much higher.

Here in Tahoe we have many vacation homes that are only used during the summer. It’s common for these homeowners to purchase multiple boxes of D-Con and toss them under their homes to control the “mouse problem” while they are away during the winter. “Out of sight Out of Mind” so to speak. While they are away the rodents consuming this bait (which can include our local squirrels and chipmunks which are also rodents) may leave the area under the house and become easy targets for our hungry wildlife. I especially remember the call we received about a Pine Marten in someone’s garage. When we live trapped the sick animal we could tell he was in very bad shape and died soon thereafter. Within the next few days we got calls of 2 more Pine Martens in the SAME garage. We were able to save and release one of them. This garage was full of all sorts of “stuff” but somewhere amid all of it was D-Con which poisoned the mice and in turn killed the Pine Martens that consumed them. Not many people have even SEEN these beautiful animals here in Tahoe and to see them die a slow agonizing death was heart-breaking.

We’ve received a record number of Raptors at LTWC this year- Eagles, Hawks & Owls. Some had obvious injuries and some were just found sitting on the ground for no apparent reason. Without expensive blood tests we can never be sure but we suspect some sort of poison. Some of these animals - after they died from “something” - are sent to Fish & Wildlife labs for further testing as this has become a widespread issue throughout the state and the entire country.

We live in Tahoe amongst a multitude of wildlife. We battle Voles in our lawn, squirrels in our attics and bears under our porches. There exists a delicate balance among our wildlife. By poisoning our mice we are in turn killing the very species such as Hawks, Coyotes and Owls – to name a few- that control our rodents naturally. Here’s a perfect example- Last Summer my neighbor had a huge lawn & lots of Voles to go with it.



Shown above are six (6) of the eleven -- ELEVEN -- bear cubs LTWC cared for in 2012. This is the most cubs cared for in any one year since CA Fish and Wildlife (formerly Fish and Game) authorized LTWC to raise them. Two came from Southern California (the furthest south) and one came from the Eureka, CA area. ALL eleven were successfully released. This raised our total to 54 bear cubs in 12 years. (See story on page 14.)

**Rodenticide** (Continued from previous column)

He also had a resident Hawk that spent the day sitting atop a tree watching for his chance to help control these lawn pests. Day after day this same Hawk swooped down and took off with a vole in his talons. Amazingly, this Spring, as the snow melted, he didn’t seem to have the same vole problem. Nature had done what it does best- controlled the problem naturally- compliments of our neighborhood Hawk! I know people see Coyotes and immediately think of them as “pet eating” carnivores when they are actually omnivores! Did you know that up to 80% of their diet can consist of rodents dependent on where they live? Did you know that Bears are actually attracted to the smell of D-con under your house?

I won’t even BEGIN to talk about the illegal Marijuana growers in our National Forests killing MULTITUDES of our wildlife by putting out DEADLY poisons in tin cans - known as “Wildlife Bomb” surrounding their camps killing everything AND their offspring that is unfortunate enough to come in contact with it- all to protect their crops and camps. This is why wildlife is being found miles away from any civilization dead and dying from these toxic poisons. If you want to read more on this- here’s a link <http://news.wildlife.org/twp/2013-spring/silent-forests/>

We CAN do our small part to protect our wildlife. Please educate yourself before you reach for that box of rodent bait with ANY of the ingredients listed above. There ARE alternatives such as snap traps, catch and release traps (please no glue traps which are EXTREMELY inhumane!) finding the entrances the rodents are using and sealing them or as a last resort bait stations with ingredients that DO NOT cause secondary poisoning to our local wildlife. We have an obligation to keep the delicate balance of nature in line and to think twice about what or who is affected when we take the easy way to control that little mouse you just saw run across your floor! You could be killing more then the little mouse- LOTS MORE!



These two cubs were from the group of 11 taken care of by LTWC volunteers during the 2012 year. Captured at Luther Pass, after their mother was killed by a car, they are 'very' different in size. The male cub on the left came in at 59 pounds, while the female weighed in at 27 pounds. Both did well during rehabilitation and were released during the early 'winter' months of 2013.

## Bear Cubs at LTWC

As you will notice, there are several bear cub pictures in this issue of the Quill. Over the past 2 seasons, LTWC cared for 14 first year cubs, the most 'ever'. Every one which was eligible for release was taken back to the area it came from and released back to the wild.

In the last 2 years, the smallest (and also was the 'earliest') cub we received was the Hoopa Indian Reservation cub, from the Eureka, CA area. He arrived weighing just 9.2 pounds on May 31, 2012 and we weighed a 'very healthy' 87.7 pounds when he was released on Jan. 22, 2013.

LTWC is still the 'only' wildlife rehab group in California which is authorized, by Calif. Fish and Wildlife, to care for first year bear cubs. Since starting this program, we have cared for 57 bear cubs and EVERY one has been successfully been released back to the wild.

If you would like to help Lake Tahoe Wildlife Care with the cost of this newsletter, we certainly could use the assistance. You can send in a donation by using our mailing address (1485 Cherry Hills Circle, SLT, CA 96150), or you can use our PayPal Account which is on our web site ([www.ltwc.org](http://www.ltwc.org)). We would be very grateful for your help.

## Consider LTWC In Your Will

As a recognized non-profit organization with the IRS, Lake Tahoe Wildlife Care exists almost solely on donations. In the past few years, we have been honored to find out that several of our supporters have remembered LTWC in their will. It is their way of continuing their financial support for the work we do with caring for, rehabilitating and releasing orphaned and injured wild birds and animals.

We have now celebrated our 36th year, and have cared for more than 24,000 wild birds and animals and have released over 14,000 back into the wild. That averages out to 5 out of every 8 birds and/or animals which are turned in to us for care.

We would ask that you consider Lake Tahoe Wildlife Care in your will or trust. If you would like more information, please give me a call at 530-577-2273, or send an e-mail to, 'tom@ltwc.org'.

You might want to discuss this with your attorney to have him/her set this up for you. Assets which can be donated are cash, stocks, bonds, certificates of deposit and property, to name a few.

## Lifetime Bald Eagle Members

*As we mentioned in previous issues, beginning in 2000, we initiated new membership 'clubs'. However, those supporters who were members of the Bald Eagle (Life Member) club, will remain Life Members and we appreciate their support. Listed below are those people who contributed \$1,000 or more in a 12-month period of time. Thank You. You will always be in our Bald Eagle Club!*

Jim and Ethelmae Haldan	Michelle and Perry O'Dell
Willette Strong	Suzanne McDowell
Don Henley	Robert I. Wishnick Foundation
Jane Kenyon	Sierra Pacific Power Co.
Josette Denton	Tahoe Mountain Milers
Bob and Sue Rutherford	Robert M. Lee Foundation
Mickey Dugdale	Rob and Chris St. James
Calif. Sierra State Parks Assn.	Tony and Beth Sears
City of South Lake Tahoe	Mr. and Mrs. L. W. Lane
Caesars Tahoe Dealers	Larry and Julie Moore
Jack and Mary Lou Cassingham	Pete and Diana Mountanos
Lake Tahoe Kiwanis Sunrisers	Gloria Bourke
Mandy Davis and Rodney Volkmar	Doni and Jim Glassmaker
Jarrold and Brennan Davis	Harrah's Tahoe
BankAmerica Foundation	Estate of Alice Valla
Tilton Family Foundation	
Randy's Locksmith - Greg Cattoni	
Kirk and Lynda Gillaspay	

# LTWC's 2014 CALENDAR OF EVENTS!

- January 21st LTWC Bi-Monthly Board Meeting @ LTWC @ 7pm.  
 (ALL Board Meetings are the 3rd Tuesday of each 'odd' numbered month @ LTWC.)
- May 17th & 18th LTWC Annual Training Seminar
- June 1st AMBBR (Kings Beach @ Lunch Stop)
- July 11th & 12th 5th Annual Li'l Smokey Reunion
- August 3rd LTWC Annual Open House (10am - 4pm)
- September 7th Tour de Tahoe - Lunch Stop @ Kings Beach

Check out our web site for ALL upcoming event. [www.ltwc.org](http://www.ltwc.org), then click on 'Events'!  
 Also, check us out on Facebook 

## MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Each year, in March, LTWC sends out a reminder that it is time to renew your membership with our organization. 'ACTIVE' members are those who have taken the training seminar and are eligible to work with the birds and animals which honor us with their presence every year. 'HONORARY' members are those who do not necessarily want to work with the wildlife, but want to financially contribute to the organization. BOTH are very important to the existence of this organization. As you can see below - and on the back page - we offer you a choice of 'Clubs' to select from. If you have not become a member of LTWC, and/or would like to do so, just fill out the information below and Thank You!

## MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION!

\*\*Active (ONLY those who have taken the training class.)      \*\*Honorary (Those who wish to help out financially)

### Our "Club" Program

Select your choice of either your favorite wild bird or animal, or the amount of your contribution.

Black Bear	\$10,000
Bobcat	\$5,000
Bald Eagle	\$2,500
Golden Eagle	\$1,000
Great-Horned Owl	\$500

Beaver	\$300
Merganser	\$150
Red-Tailed Hawk	\$100
Raccoon	\$65
Fawn	\$35
Steller's Jay	\$20

Your selection is:

Club Name \_\_\_\_\_

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

Amount of Contribution

\*\*Are you an Active or Honorary member?      Active      Honorary

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail this form with your Tax-Deductible donation to:

**Lake Tahoe Wildlife Care, Inc.**  
 1485 Cherry Hills Circle  
 South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150-4921  
 530-577-CARE

# LTWC 'Club Members'

Listed below are those supporters of LAKE TAHOE WILDLIFE CARE who have contributed (during a 12 month period of time) in an Extra Special Way. You will notice, in the 'Membership Information Form' (page 15), the various 'Clubs' which individuals or families can contribute. Would you like to see your name added to these lists? We sure would! Please help us to

***"Give Mother Nature a Helping Hand!"***

## Black Bear

(\$10,000 Donation)

Pete and Diana Mountanos  
Wells Fargo Foundation  
Hallador Legacy Fund  
Judy Grutter  
Big George Ventures  
Dilys Evans Estate  
Carol Rutter  
Irene Lemon Estate  
Barbara Harootunian Estate  
Pamela Adamson Trust

## Bobcat

(\$5,000 Donation)

Alice Valla Estate  
John and Cari Simonsen  
Sierra at Tahoe  
Sharlee L Cotter  
Carol Auslen  
Steve and Gina Cress  
IFAW  
Parasol Comm. Foundation  
William & Marion Hanson

## Bald Eagle

(\$2,500 Donation)

Mr. and Mrs. L. W. Lane  
Harveys/Harrahs Lake Tahoe  
McLane and Adelle Tilton  
Edward Scripps  
B T Rocca Jr Foundation  
John Trathen Estate  
Shelley Cochetti

## Golden Eagle

(\$1,000 Donation)

Robert M. Lee Foundation	Katherine Borges
Marcia Hopkins	Deborah & Michael Thompson
Rob and Chris St. James	Pete & Tacie Saltonstall
Larry and Julie Moore	Yosemite Foundation
Kirk and Lynda Gillaspay	Christina Robinson
Bruce Uppman	Kiwanis Club of Tahoe Sierra
Greg Cattoni - Randy's Locksmith	BEAR League
Betsy Cohen	Brenda Knox
Jennifer Randall - Youth Develop. Fdn.	Mike Tolbertson
Bob Dietz	James Thulin
China & Don Niemann	Kiwanis Club of Lake Tahoe
Caesars Tahoe Dealer's	Cliff and Holly Hansen
Tahoe League for Charity	Steve and Laurie Malley
Suey Smallwood	Lake Tahoe Visitor's Authority
Bill and Jonna Hutt	Christi Saltonstall
Tammy and Harley Hoy	Linda Wiest, Ph.D
Curtis Fong - TGFT - Bike the West	Gerald Johnston
James Leva	Tahoe Regional Young Professionals

## Great-Horned Owl

(\$500 Donation)

Kevin & Kathryn Schaller	Dawn Holley
Mike, Lesley & Staci Furtado	Rick Ahlswede
George and Jan Smith	Cliff and Holly Hansen
Mike and Charmaine Pape	Mark Ockerman - WINESOX
Carla Yant	Christina Robinson
Richard and Dana Smith-Miller	Peter Gauthier
Pat Banner	Linda McMahon
Jim and Linda Mueller	Lloyd and Joan Dyer
Ron and Jan Cook	Alpine Co. Chamber of Commerce
Barbara Kucala	Pamela & Thomas Grossjung
Dr. Mireya Ortega & Ron Cline	Bob & Sue Novasel
Evie Viera & Dave Isenberg	Ross Barnett
Bob Eldon	CVS - Caremark Charitable Trust
Soroptimist Int'l of SLT	George & Pam Buche-Corby
Bob Zmuda - Comic Relief	Rick Stern - Kiwanis Div. 34
Christensen Automotive	Cal-Nev-Ha Kiwanis Div 12
Don and Kay Edwards	Freshies Restaurant & Bar
Cliff Hansen	Coco Foy & Curt Murtha
Pat Fagen	Robert & Catherine Cliff
Howard and Linda Lewis-Perry	Merrily Duncan
Carroll Anne & Howell Johnson	Bob & Jane Dubanski
Bill and Carol Frye	Andrea Moiseff
Lake Valley Firefighters	Janice and Bill Coates
So. Tahoe Stand Up Paddle	Kathleen Tavearnier

## LAKE TAHOE WILDLIFE CARE, INC.

(530) 577-CARE  
1485 CHERRY HILLS CIRCLE  
SOUTH LAKE TAHOE, CA 96150-4921

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