



Christmas 2005
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The Official Publication of LAKE TAHOE WILDLIFE CARE, Inc.
LTWC'S Web Site: www.ltwc.org

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



On behalf of the Board of Directors and all of the volunteers of Lake Tahoe Wildlife Care, we would like to wish you a very Merry Christmas and Happy Hanukkah. We hope that 2006 brings you prosperity, happiness and success in your every endeavor.

And, we would like to remind you that if and when you find an orphaned or injured bird or animal, we will be here to assist that wild creature in the hopes that it can and will be released back to the wild, where it belongs, just as we have been doing for 28 years!

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Pam Guzzi: 1961 - 2005
May She Be ONE with Nature - Again!
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Secretary's Write-up

by Tom Millham, LTWC Secretary/Treasurer

Pam Guzzi

For many people, May the 5th was a Mexican holiday and people were celebrating.

Such was not the case for Lake Tahoe Wildlife Care. For it was on that day that we lost a board member, a sister, a volunteer and, more importantly, a friend.

Pam Guzzi succumbed to a cancer that she had been fighting for almost a year on that date. She was originally diagnosed with adeno carcinoma around Memorial Day, 2004. At that time, the doctors told her she had two months to live.

Well, if you knew Pam like WE knew Pam, that diagnosis was not good enough. She pledged to fight this cancer and not just give in to its deterioration of her body. August came - - - and went. Pam was still with us. Friends put together a fund raising drive so that Pam and her friend, Sam, could go to Hawaii, one more time, so Pam could do what always gave her the utmost pleasure - to swim with the whales.

They went in February. Unfortunately, for the 7 days they were in Hawaii, Pam felt good enough for



only two days to go into the water. And, YES! She did swim with the whales.

Pam was more than just a volunteer and board member to LTWC. She ALWAYS had a positive attitude, something which is hard to find in this world these days. When problems came at this organization, Pam was usually one of the first ones there to lend a hand. In the picture on page one, you will see what Pam did many, many days. She would take minnow traps to one of our local lakes and get minnows for the mergansers we would be rehabilitating.

Mergansers are fish-eating ducks which eat minnows - - - exclusively! They 'can' eat other foods (mealworms), but their primary food supply is minnows. Pam's attitude was, "These guys aren't going to starve if I have anything to say about it!"

She had one project in which she did almost solely on her own. That was the upkeep, plumbing and care of the river otter cage. We had 'MANY' obstacles when we received our first river otters in 1998. Pam was the one who told us that we CAN utilize the hot tub, horse trough and 10' satellite dish in conjunction with the rehab cage for the otters. She did, we did and we still do!

In addition, because of her diligence with regard to the maintenance, upkeep and construction of the River Otter Cage, LTWC's Board of Directors voted to dedicate this cage in Pam's name. Therefore, from henceforth, it will now be known as the "Pam Guzzi River Otter Cage"! We felt this was the least we could do for all of her time and effort to ensuring this facility was adequate for the otters we rehabbed and released.

(Continued on page 3)



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THE QUILL

Published Quarterly
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E-Mail Address

Send us your e-mail address and we will add you to a 'preferred' list of **LTWC** supporters.

On this list, when the *Quill* (the newsletter you are now reading) comes out, **YOU** will get it first. When we have an event to announce, whether it be a fund raising event, or a special announcement, **YOU** will know before anyone else. If you are a volunteer, we will send out a call for help.

Just send your e-mail to: tom@ltwc.org

On the message portion, just tell me exactly what you would like to be notified about. If you want to hear about **EVERYTHING**, then say so. If you just want to receive the *Quill* by e-mail, then let me know. We will do what **WE** can to make **YOU** more informed about what we are doing and when we are doing it. These next several years, some **MAJOR** changes will be taking place and we want **YOU** to know about it when it happens, not after the fact. If we have questions about what you want to be notified about, we will respond back to you and verify your wishes.

Here's looking forward to 'communicating' with you in the future.

(Guzzi - Continued from page 2)

When it came time for releases, Pam was always ready to go along, whether it be the otters, the raptors, the fawns or the raccoons. She **KNEW** the purpose of this organization was to 'release' the wildlife back into the wild from whence they came and she thoroughly enjoyed seeing them go back to 'their' home.

Pam served on **LTWC's** Board of Directors for 3 years. Two and one half years as an Active Board Member and 6 months as an Honorary Board Member.

Finally, the cancer took control of her body. She may be gone, but she's 'definitely' not forgotten. She has meant so much to so many. Not just 'us' animals called humans, but to those who came to us for assistance as wild animals and wild birds. We **ALL** benefited from knowing and loving Pam. She has left a lasting impression which has made us all better for knowing her.

Guzz. We love you. We miss you. And we look forward to seeing you again!

Bob's Barometer

by Bob Rutherford, **LTWC** President

We are currently seeking a new Board of Directors member. I thought that I would take this opportunity to explain to you the responsibilities of a Board member in the hopes that anyone interested in the position will let their wishes be known to us. We would request that all Board members take part in as many **LTWC** functions as possible (ie. Board meeting, fund raisers, training seminar and work parties).

We are moving into a new progressive era of **LTWC**. We need people who can help with creative ideas in the relocating of the Center and finding a new Executive Director to be trained by Cheryl (where we will find someone to fill Cheryl's shoes, I haven't a clue!). But most of all vibrant, energetic and creative people.

If you think that you have talents in these directions and would like to become involved in the transformation of Lake Tahoe Wildlife Care and are interested in becoming a Board member please contact us and express your interest. Now is the time to let your wishes be known as we have a vacancy and this doesn't happen very often.

LTWC's NEW Logo

We now have these in a lapel pin. This design is also available in our new T-shirts.

Order from our Web site. Go to:
www.ltwc.org/store



The Great Fawn Reunion

by Monica Sciuto, LTWC Volunteer

After volunteering at the Lake Tahoe Wildlife Care, for just a few months I asked my husband to come along so that he could see the great work that was being done at the Wildlife Care center. When we arrived, Cheryl told me that she needed assistance releasing two animals back into the wild that evening. One was a skunk and the other a 4 day-old fawn. They both had to be released to different areas outside of the basin.

The 4 day-old fawn was brought to LTWC earlier in the day. The fawn was found by some people in Alpine County. It was sitting on the side of the road by itself. The people who had found it decided that it must have been abandoned by its mother. They brought the fawn to the LTWC.

Based on the information given to LTWC and by the way the fawn was acting, it was clear to LTWC that the fawn had not been abandoned, but was merely waiting for its mother while she went to get food. According to LTWC, the common practice is that deer mothers will tell their young to sit and wait while they gather food. The young deer is very obedient and will wait hours for its mother to return.

With my being a sales/marketing person and my husband an engineer we did not exactly have extensive experience releasing animals into the wild. So of course we said we would release the fawn. Although expecting an animal carrying case or something, Tom walked out of LTWC with the fawn tucked under his arm like a football.

The young fawn was given to us and we placed her on some blankets on the floor of our truck. We drove to the spot where the fawn was picked up. We carried the fawn to a place safely away from the road. As we carried her, she belted out cries that I'm sure could be heard a long way away, hopefully by its mother. It was heartbreaking to leave the little fawn in such a vast and imposing environment when it was so small and vulnerable, especially when it tried to follow us back to the car.

We ran back to the truck and drove approximately 200 feet away. We hid in the back of our ve-



hicle as we wanted to see if the mom would come around. Miraculously, after about 30 minutes, a doe showed up along the ridge top- the fawn's mother!

Nothing was more rewarding than to see the reunion between fawn and mother. What a great opportunity and experience for us both. The ending to this story was very happy and a great lesson to be learned. If you find a fawn hiding in the forest, please do not touch it or remove it from its environment unless you see a deceased doe in the vicinity. The fawn is merely obeying its parent and staying put until her return.



This Great-Horned Owl came to LTWC late in the summer with a concussion, unable to fly, therefore, unable to hunt for food to stay alive. After a few weeks of Cheryl's good cooking and a roof over his head every night, he was released back to the wild in early November. Just in time too. The first snowfall came about one week after the release.

The BAT

by Cheryl Millham, LTWC's Exec. Dir.

Late in the afternoon of November 14th, I received a call about a bat! Getting a call about a bat is NOT that unusual. But THIS story was. It goes like this.

A bat was in a house flying around for two nights. According to the man who called me, they had a Cathedral ceiling and the bat roosted up on one of the huge beams. He got a long board to knock the bat down, and then took it outside to fly away. The next morning, the bat was still there, "on the ground". He figured something was wrong. That's when he called Lake Tahoe Wildlife Care.

The man said he would NOT bring the bat to the center because it was "TOO FAR"! He said that he had been working with a lady on a bear problem in his neighborhood and 'maybe' she would come and get it and take it to the center.

The 'lady' he was referring to was BEAR League volunteer Mary Kay Frazee. Oh, by the way, Mary Kay is ALSO a volunteer with Lake Tahoe Wildlife Care!

Soon, the doorbell rang and Mary Kay had the bat. I put on a pair of cotton gloves and took the bat out of the cardboard box from which it was transported.

It was a Big Brown Bat and beautiful! Fortunately, both wings were in tact and the wing web was in great condition. I also verified that both legs were functioning properly.

THEN - - - when I moved my gloved hand, there was blood on it. Since it wasn't coming from his body, we looked at his head. The bat was bleeding from its ears. When the man said he 'knocked' the bat down with a board, he obviously was NOT gentle about it and must have belted him hard to cause bleeding in the head.

It made Mary Kay and I sick to our stomachs to see this bat so injured when the bat had done NOTHING to this man to cause such immature treatment.

The bat was given some water to rehydrate and a juicy mealworm. Hmmmmmm, Hmmmmmm good!

What makes this so sad is that when doors are left open and a bat suddenly appears, it is 'most likely' a lost youngster, with its primary concern of making a safe escape.

(Continued on page 14)

Did You Know?

by Bob Dietz, LTWC Board Member Emeritus

OSPREY footpads have spicules (rough, coarse, beard-like pads) for grasping slippery fish.

A powerful grip on too large of a fish can pull under AND DROWN an OSPREY. It is also known as Fish Hawk, Sea Hawk or Fish Eagle.

RED-TAILED HAWKS have phenomenal eyesight. They can spot a meadow mouse or vole from 100 feet, then, come down in a power-dive for their meal.

"BALDE" is Olde English, means 'white', as in BALD EAGLE.

BALD EAGLES are found when the fishing is good. They also attack waterfowl and frequently pirate meals from other fisher birds. Dead fish and carrion are "easy pickins" for BALD EAGLES.

Note from the author: Seems like if we're short of BALD EAGLES, we could just shave the heads of some of those others!?!?! This 'probably' has not been tried before.

OWLS eyes are fixed in their sockets so they must rotate their heads and can do so up to 270 degrees to look around (Whooo gives a hoot?)

OWLS can hear a mouse step on a twig up to 75 feet away or detect a vole under the snow.

An OWLS ONLY predator is - - - man!

STELLER'S JAYS not only eat seeds, insects and berries, BUT, also small birds and even frogs.

Just thought you would like to know!

2005 Fund Raising Raffle Winners

It all began back when LTWC used to have an Annual Golf for Wildlife Tourmanment. We had full fields of 144, offered a nice lunch following golf and gave away prizes. Then, it occurred to us. Why not allow more of our supporters to take advantage of all these wonderful prizes??? So, we offered the golfers a chance at the grand prize (a trip or something comparable) and sold tickets to supporters who were interested in helping the organization. After our last golf tournament, we decided to continue on with the raffle - on its own merit. Over the past 13 years, we have awarded more than 1,000 prizes to our wonderful supporters - YOU - and we thank you for your continued support of our organization.

Congratulations to this years winners and Thank You to the individuals and businesses who contributed such wonderful prizes for this year's raffle. Without ALL of you, this event would not nor could not take place.

Our goal is to raise \$10,000 annually from the raffle. This year, we took in more than \$11,500, which was the 4th most in its history. That tells us that YOU like it enough to support it. Which means we will continue on with this method of raising funds for the service we provide.

Again, thank you for your support and we will see you in 2006!

<u>DONOR</u>	<u>Winner's</u>	<u>Name</u>
Action Watersports	Barry	Noble
Action Watersports	Robert	Anderson
Aspen Hollow	Dr. Stu	Bittman
Aspen Hollow	Bobbi	Rutherfordale
Backfence Sew & So	Julie	Horbach
Beacon Bar & Grill	Beverly	Morris
Beacon Bar & Grill	Alpine	Animal Hospital
Bert's Café	Jannette	Fager
Bijou Furniture Outlet	Sundi	Ashenfelter, DVM
Burger King	Darrell	Schue
Burger King	Ellen	Camacho
Burger King	Robert	Brunald
Burger King	Yvonne	Leppien
Burger King	Kathreen	Cecil
Cabin Fever	Royce	Foster, MD
Chevy's - Fresh Mex	John	Donmoyer
Chevy's - Fresh Mex	Monique	Azevedo
Embassy Suites	Jay	Simpson
Ernie's Coffee Shop	Linda	Van Buskirk
Freshies Restaurant	Mary	Miller
Grizzly's Mtn Furnishings	Bob	Rutherfordale
Harrahs Lake Tahoe	Wayne	Kusick
Harrahs Lake Tahoe	Marietta	Christofferson
Heavenly Ski Resort	Jasmine	Gouveia
Heavenly Ski Resort	Pat	Rahbeck
Ken's Tires	Donna	Silva
L T Coin, Jwlrly & Loan	Serafin	Castro, Jr.
Lake Tahoe Golf Course	Ron	Block
Lake Tahoe Winter Experience	June	Bennett
Lilly's Firestone	Tim	Stockton
Long's Drug Store	Jess	Smith
Magic Carpet Golf	Jonna	Morales
Midas Auto Service Center	Reba	Bry

<u>DONOR</u>	<u>Winner's</u>	<u>Name</u>
Mile High Fishing Charters	Karla	Peuler
Mott Canyon	Bob	Blaney
New York Pizza	Winnie	Costello
Overland Meats	Barbara	Ritchin
Performance Sleds	Ralph	Anglea
Port of Subs	Tony	Trader
Port of Subs	Lori	Herman
Ronnie Cameron	Steve	Lannen
Scuza's on Ski Run	Carla	Hernandez
Sessions	Sharon	Bowman
SEVEN-ELEVEN	J	Otto
SEVEN-ELEVEN	Steve	Melendes
SEVEN-ELEVEN	Robert	Zerrilla
Shoreline Café	Steve	Leman, MD
Sierra-at-Tahoe	Davey	Paiva
Sierra-at-Tahoe	Gary	Oien
Simpson's Diamond House	Carol	Baldwin
So Y Fireplace	Kevin	Willitts, DVM
Steamer's Bar & Grill	Walt	Currier
Steamer's Bar & Grill	Robin	Little
Steamer's Bar & Grill	Donna	Lightholder
Sub Station Deli	Jennifer	Perasso
Tahoe Flyfishing Outfitters	Paul	Major
Tahoe Paradise Golf Course	Sherry	Brown
Tahoe Paradise Golf Course	Greg	Tischler
Tep's Villa Roma	Carol	Taylor
Video Library	Levon	Touryan
Video Library	Patty	Summers
Video Library	Richard	Thomson
Video Library	Sophie	Waldie
Video Library	Sam	Miller
Wal-Mart	Michael	Melas
Wal-Mart	Jerry	Rivera

Sea Ducks at Tahoe?

by Lori Ross, LTWC Board Member

In the summer of 2004, an ‘orphaned’ baby duckling was brought to LTWC from the Meyers area. It was determined that the baby was a Goldeneye, but not certain if it was a Common or Barrow’s.

Upon further research, I realized that the baby was a ‘Sea Duck’! When grown, it would be diving to great depths for shellfish, mollusks, etc. (out in the Pacific Ocean).

I set off to the pet store for mealworms and they had only VERY large ones. I quickly chopped some up to add to the water dish, along with green moss and duck mash. I then tried to force the baby to slurp this concoction as often as I could that first night. I realized that the baby was going to be difficult to raise, let alone teach how to dive for mollusks.

Success!!! The baby made it through that first night!

The next day I called the people who turned (the duck) in for more information and details on where the baby was found. I studied in the bird book and asked my friend, Marianne, if she would go on a hike after work with the baby and me.

I put a bunch of warmed cloths into a small covered bucket. In went the baby and the three of us set out to find some adult Goldeneyes – maybe, hopefully, this baby’s own family. Most ducks will not accept other orphans.

We met up with the person who found the baby and got some directions down to a willow covered creek in the woods. This area was too dense for us to get into and we saw no signs of other ducks. “Where do we go from here?” I asked.

“Let’s head toward Osgood Swamp”, Marianne suggested. We continued along, listened for ducks and explored all standing water along the way. We found a few grown ducks, but NO Goldeneyes! How far would we have to go?

Later, we came upon a large, open area of dead snags with nesting holes in many of them. The baby began a high-pitched chirping like I had never heard before. The trails led in many directions from here. We kept to the right, hopefully to find the swamp. It was getting on towards dusk now. Were we even on the right path???

As we continued up and into woods more dense, the baby began chirping in the bucket and was somersaulting or pirouetting – it seemed. I didn’t peek, as I didn’t want the baby to get cold. We could only guess what the baby was up to, but took note that we might be on the right track. It appeared to be a happy response and excitement. “Let’s hurry!”

As we neared the swamp, we kept to the right, but couldn’t get close to the ducks we could see as they were way out there - across the water. What species were these ducks???. Yes. They had purple heads. They were Barrow’s Goldeneyes!

Apparently, they come to Tahoe in spring to nest in the snags and nest boxes around Osgood Swamp. Then, they teach their young to forage and dive for insects on and under the water. They then spend their winters off of the coast of California.

“Backtrack – Find a way to the water.” We did and emerged into a small clearing. Directly across from us, some adults were dip feeding near a large rock jutting out of the water. I approached the water’s edge in anticipation, but visibility was limited – due to trunks and branches.

“Here we go!” I reached into the bucket to get a firm grasp on the baby and brought him out to see. The baby gave out a few loud chirps and got the immediate attention of a few adults. It was time. I plunged over knee deep in the murky water and waded to get around the debris, holding the baby as high as I could.

“Here comes mom!” I said. “How can you tell?” asked Marianne. “Watch”, I said. Mom flew in directly to the front of us so straight and fast. When she landed, she began a low clucking sound. The baby made verbal and eye contact. It was confirmed! I let the baby go swimming. He swam as fast as he could and directly towards mom. Then dad was on his way. He landed just to the other side of the baby.

The two adults surrounded the baby and they chattered all the way back to the jutting rock. What a story the baby was telling his parents. I think we were just smiling a lot (with a few tears running down our cheeks).

This not-so ‘orphan’ baby would now be taught foraging and proper diving techniques under the watchful eyes of his own, loving parents.

Marianne and I enjoyed a very long, but relaxing walk back to the car with happy hearts (in the near dark), and I with very wet shoes!

Sierra-at-Tahoe
SNOWSPORTS WEEK
February 6 - 9, 2006
Ski Lift Tickets
\$25

SNOW SPORTS WEEK

The 2005 SnowSports Week was the most successful in its history.

What is SnowSports Week you ask??? That’s a fair question.

Very simply put, Sierra at Tahoe has selected five non-profit organizations in South Lake Tahoe to ‘benefit’ from Sierra’s generosity, with very little effort on the part of the non-profits. They merely SELL ski lift tickets – at a considerably reduced rate – provided by Sierra, then, Sierra, in turn, disperses a check to each group. Last year, each organization received more than \$6,700 for their part in SnowSports Week.

THIS year, SnowSports Week will be held February 6th – 9th (2006). The price of the one day ski lift ticket will remain intact at \$25. How you use the tickets is up to you. If you buy four tickets, for example, you can ski for each of the four days yourself, OR, you and three other friends can ski on one of the four days. Or, if you prefer, you can split them up. They only can be used on those dates and the discounted tickets can NOT be purchased at the resort.

Some of the businesses who will be selling the tickets starting on January 9th will be: 7-11, Kingsbury Grade; ColdStone Creamery; Rainbow Mountain; Sports LTD in the Village Center; Tahoe Douglas Chamber of Commerce; LTCC Bookstore; Sunrise Ski & Snowboard Rental; Meyers Chevron; Sports LTD at the Y; New York Pizza (Al Tahoe Blvd).

If you are a skier and will be in Tahoe the first full week of February, we hope you will take advantage of this great deal and help several non-profit organizations, including Lake Tahoe Wildlife Care along the way.

The PIGEON

by Cheryl Millham, LTWC's Exec. Dir.

On the Thursday before Halloween, I got a call from a lady who worked at the Tahoe Seasons, next to Heavenly ski resort. She told me she had a BABY bird. "BABY bird???" I said.

I informed her that BABY birds are not hatched this time of year and she said it was a baby pigeon and she had it in a Styrofoam coffee cup.

I told her I was on my way to the stateline area and I would stop by and pick it up. She told me she would get it to the valet parking office.

It had been snowing and raining and so cold, I figured I had better get it picked up soon, or it would die from lack of heat.

I also thought that it 'probably' would turn out to be a Mt. Chickadee or a Nuthatch. Even though domestic pigeons can hatch any time of year (unlike wild birds), it's not likely and this would probably turn out to be a 'domestic' pigeon. There are two species of pigeons in Lake Tahoe. The Band-Tailed Pigeon and the Rock Dove (which is the domestic pigeon).

The Band-Tailed Pigeon is the larger of the two and the broad gray tip on the fanned tail distinguishes this bird. It has a yellow bill, yellow feet and white neck bands. They are usually found in large flocks.

The Rock Dove (domestic pigeon or park pigeon) is the most common and is found on farm yards and city parks. It has a white rump and a dark terminal tail band with dark, reddish feet and a dark bill.

When I pulled into valet at the Seasons and told them I was there to pick up a baby bird, they handed me a very small sized



In this picture, the Rock Dove is just 5 days old!

Styrofoam cup. Inside, I found a baby – half frozen, just hatched – Rock Dove! The insulated cup was doing what it was supposed to do. It was 'insulating' the COLD, keeping the bird cold. So, I turned the car heater on high and put the Squab (a term for baby pigeons) in some Kleenex right under the heat.

When I got back to the wildlife center, I set the baby up on a heating pad. He was so stiff and cold, I was afraid it was too late and that the warmth of the heating pad would not revive it.

4 ½ hours later, I had a hungry, peeping little Squab – begging for food. What a joy to see it eating and acting like a normal baby. The baby was so young and its crop was so tiny, I was only able to feed it ½ cc EVERY ½ hour.

As of November 30th, the baby is fully feathered, eats every two hours and is almost to the point of self feeding.

What a joy it has been. Twice, Tom and I went out of town and one of our volunteers, Jennifer Mendonca 'pigeon' sat for me. The baby got to go to pre-school and hopefully taught a lot of small children how wonderful a little bird's life can be.

CONTINUING EDUCATION

by Tom Millham, LTWC Secty/Treas

Just a reminder that the NWRA (National Wildlife Rehabilitators Association) annual symposium will be 'fairly' close this year in Costa Mesa, CA, (which is just a day's drive from Lake Tahoe) in Orange County.

It will be held March 7- 11 at the Costa Mesa Hilton. In addition to the warmth of Southern California (as compared to the cool temperatures of Lake Tahoe in March), Costa Mesa offers the Happiest Place on Earth – Disneyland – beaches and is just an hour's drive from San Diego. We would highly recommend that you plan to attend this conference to expand your knowledge on the science of wildlife rehabilitation.

You can visit their web sites by going to OUR home page: www.ltwc.org.



A little more grown up, in this picture, the Rock Dove is now 5 weeks old and beginning to 'peck' at food. He is doing quite nicely, Thank you!

OR, go directly to NWRA's site:

www.nwrwildlife.org

When wildlife rehab was new, it was essential that the groups spoke with each other and shared ideas about things which DID work and those which DID NOT! Back then, it was mostly trial and error. Oh yes, there still is trial and error today, BUT, in today's world, with computers and newsletters, the word gets out to many, rather than just a few.

This is where the NWRA and the IWRC come in. These are two organizations whose sole purpose is to bridge these gaps among rehab organizations so that EVERYONE can be knowledgeable, instead of just one or two.

The National Wildlife Rehabilitators Association (NWRA) AND the International Wildlife Rehabilitation Council (IWRC) work with wildlife groups and individuals to help produce papers on a myriad of subject matters within the wildlife rehab field. A paper is information produced by a person or an organization on (usually) one subject matter. It could be something VERY specific such as Lyme Disease, which is **mostly** specific to ticks on fawns (baby deer). Or, it could be something general such as raising raccoons or Steller's jays.

The bottom line is that we share our information with others, so we ALL can become more knowledgeable and do what we are here to do – SAVE THE LIVES OF WILDLIFE! Our NUMBER ONE GOAL is to release – back to the wild – the wildlife which has been entrusted to us by the public which we serve.

Become more knowledgeable and attend a conference!

Boats for Sale

by Tom Millham, LTWC Secty/Treas

Ever thought of yourself, sitting out in a boat on Lake Tahoe in July and August, enjoying the beautiful scenery, soaking up the sun, wondering what the 'poor' people are doing with their time???

Well, have we got a deal for you!! Lake Tahoe Wildlife Care is fortunate to have very generous supporters and in November, one of our supporters told us that she wanted to donate her 18' Chris Craft bow rider boat, with tandem axle trailer! I asked her to stop twisting my arm. I had already made up my mind to accept her generous offer. After all, who wouldn't??? This is a tremendous opportunity to raise some funds for LTWC, AND give someone looking for a boat a great deal, all at the same time. See. We not only help wildlife, BUT, we also help people!

So, we are now in the position to sell this boat to someone who is looking for a very nice, well-kept, 260 hp MerCruiser stern drive Chris Craft (fiber-glass) boat. We had quite a discussion at the board meeting as to whether or not we should sell it, thinking that there are 'many' times we need to go out on the lake and 'MAYBE' we should keep it for ourselves. But, then calmer minds prevailed and we all agreed that the boat should be sold for the best interest of the organization.

Officially. We have a 1987, 18' Chris Craft bowrider with a 260 hp MerCruiser engine and a tandem axle trailer. The selling price for this boat is \$6,000.

Also, as many of you are aware, we are very involved with the BEAR League. In fact, Cheryl is a member of their Board of Directors and was a Charter Board Member. About the same time LTWC received this generous donation, the BEAR League also received a boat as a donation.

Their donation is a 19' Century boat, 1979 and in excellent condition. It also comes with a boat cover and a tandem axle trailer and is powered by a 260 hp MerCruiser stern drive. The selling price is \$5,500.

If YOU are interested (in either boat), just call Lake Tahoe Wildlife Care at 530-577-2273. BOTH of these are the deals of a lifetime - - - PLUS, you will be helping two good causes.

Lifetime Bald Eagle Members

As we mentioned in previous issues, we have 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	

WEB SITE

Did you know that Lake Tahoe Wildlife Care has a Web site???

It is: www.ltwc.org.

We hope you would take a few moments to take a look at our new, updated Web site. If you know of anyone who is interested in what we do, please direct them to this location. We are in the process of getting more and more information for you to see with the birds and animals we are caring for. Also, this will be a way for newcomers to see what LTWC is all about.

We would like to thank Karen Johnson with First Tracks Productions for volunteering her time to overhaul and implement current information on the site. We are in the process of putting ALL of the past Quill Newsletters on line.

We hope you like what you see. Karen has done a wonderful job and she has new ideas which we will work on implementing, so you MUST stay tuned. As you will see, we have many pictures of the birds and animals we have cared for.

NEW LOCATION

Where will it be?

This is a subject that our Board has been dealing with for 11 years and we will continue to deal with it until we find a new location and have a new home for LTWC.

In 1995, we realized that our neighborhood was growing, far beyond where we thought it would go when we moved here in 1983.

We have been trying to identify a site (or sites) where LTWC would be able to further carry out its plan to rehab orphaned and injured wildlife AND have an operational Educational Center which would include a place for permanent care wild birds and animals of the High Sierra.

At this time, we have identified two very probable sites which we feel would adequately support the size and surroundings we have been looking for. IDEALLY, we would like something about 25 acres to construct all of the needed facilities for this new 'Wildlife Park & Rehab Center'. However, until we find the ideal location and get the required funding, we will continue to look at all possibilities.

(Web Site - Continued from page 12)

NEW is the tab for our STORE! We have t-shirts, jackets, denim shirts, posters, magnets and the 25th Anniversary tote bags. In addition, on the Web site, you can make a donation, become an Honorary Member or renew your Active or Honorary membership.

We also have a page dedicated to 'Links' to other organizations we network with. There are also pages for News, Events, Photo Gallery and Injured Wildlife. And, NOW, on the Web site, is our NEW LTWC logo. We have the new logo on a lapel pin for just a \$5 donation. We will have 'more' items as we get closer to summer. Stay tuned.

We are anxious to hear what you have to say about the new Web site. Please, send us your ideas on how we can make it better. Karen is very open to suggestions and usually has an excellent idea on how to accomplish the tasks before her.

For suggestions, please send them to:

tom@ltwc.org

The first property is the Echo Creek estates, at the base of Old Meyers grade. It is 16 acres and already has a 3500 sq. foot house and some major excavation already completed, including drain pipes. The owners of the property are willing to work with us in regards to purchasing the property, including carrying back some of the purchase price at no interest for a short term. It is on an incline, which is not too steep and is adjacent to Echo Creek. The property is located about ¼ mile from Highway 50, just off of South Upper Truckee. The good thing about this parcel is that is available for immediate use, as soon as rehabilitation cages are built.

The other property is where the old Meyers Dump used to be (off of Pioneer Trail, directly across from Elks Club Drive). There are some legal matters at this time, but many government people are doing what they can to settle these matters. There are 25 acres at this site, with another 7 acres on a parcel adjacent and directly to the west. This is actually the size we were originally looking for, which would give us about 5 plus acres for the rehab facility and another 25 plus acres for the Wildlife Park and educational center.

In addition, at the JPA meeting in November, several things about the old Meyers Dump site came up. (JPA means Joint Powers Authority, which is made up of one representative from each; City of South Lake Tahoe, El Dorado County and Douglas County.) The most important one to LTWC, was the agreement to fund \$25,000 for a Feasibility Study for the 'possibility' of moving LTWC to this site. Also, word came down that the Forest Service has mentioned that they will now – at least – be receptive to accepting a Special Use Permit Application for a long term use of the property. The JPA also agreed that they need an Executive Director to work with the three governmental entities which comprise it. PART of the new director's duties will be to work on the concept of moving LTWC to the site. All three of these are extremely positive and exciting as we look for a new location for LTWC.

So, at this time, we are pursuing both parcels and are looking for assistance from community members, which would include, but not limited to, finances, planning, utilities, building, landscaping and retail. Obviously, what LTWC 'will be', is considerably different that what 'we are' now. It is very exciting to be a part of this process. If you are interested in helping out, now or in the future, please send an e-mail to; tom@ltwc.org and let us know.

Here's to the future!

(Bat - Continued from page 6)

Our bat was put on heat in a bucket with a soft cloth. It wanted to hang, but was unable to, due to the head injury.

The bat had been very vocal the whole time we were working with it. It had been so badly treated and injured, it felt ANY human was its enemy.

The next morning, I was surprised to find it still alive, BUT, I noticed, as I had to get it out to give it food and water, that just being handled, he would go into convulsions and would cry out in pain! It was time to sit the brown bat in a container where food and water would be available to it and I wouldn't have to hold it any more.

Later, on the 2nd day, I put together the 'net' cage, for the bat. I went to get the bat out of the bucket and noticed it was hanging upside down on the cloth, which told me he was doing better. (This is what they are 'supposed' to do!)

When I put the bat into his 'new' container, it crawled between the hanging towels and heating pads and was in a normal position.

That night, Dr. Kevin Willitts (of Alpine Animal Hospital) gave the bat a checkup. The bleeding had stopped the day before and Dr. Willitts said the bat was looking good, to keep up with the same care and, with time, it should heal.

Three days later, the bat was flying in the net cage. So, that night, I took the cage up to the clinic and unzipped the top. I did plug in the heating pad as I placed it out on the upper deck, just in case the bat didn't feel good enough to fly away.

The next morning, I went up to check out the cage and I couldn't find the bat! I just hoped the bat learned to stay OUT of houses!

What should YOU do if you have a bat flying around YOUR house???

They should be kept IN sight while all doors leading to other parts of the house are closed, thereby isolating it in a single room. THEN, if possible, windows or doors to the OUTSIDE of the house should be opened so the bat can depart on good terms and on its own.

You do not need to turn off the lights to be successful at this task.

IF you have NO outside opening, there is a more direct approach to hastening the bats exit. If you have a mesh net, like a butterfly net, available, swing it – **GENTLY** – from behind the bat to avoid detection. Otherwise, wait until the bat lands and approach it slowly to avoid frightening it back into flight. (Notice we said frighten IT, NOT frighten YOU!)

Then, clamp a small box or coffee can over it and slide a piece of cardboard – **GENTLY** – under the container to 'trap' the bat inside. You also can catch it in a towel or gloved hands.

It may bite in self-defense when grabbed, BUT, not through leather work gloves or snow gloves.



RELEASE THE BAT OUTDOORS!

Understanding the fear of bats!

Bats are feared ONLY to the extent that they are misunderstood. In America, where bats are small and difficult to observe, they are often intensely feared and persecuted. Our ignorance is frequently embellished with a great deal of 'myth' and superstition.

For example, people believe bats are blind and that they become entangled in people's hair. **NEITHER** of these is true.

Bats at Lake Tahoe are insectivores. They eat ONLY mosquitoes and moths!

Although a bat flying around a room often appears to be displaying an attacking type of movement, anyone who stands still for a moment will quickly learn better.

To understand the reason for the bat's apparent 'swoops' at your head, just put yourself in the same situation and imagining that YOU are the pilot of a small airplane.

You cross the room having to make a U-turn each time you come to a corner. When you make the turn, you must come to a virtual STOP, causing a stall. And, as any pilot knows, you must quickly swoop downward to regain flight speed and control.

The bottom of the swoop will occur near the middle of the room, where observers are most likely to be standing. This, of course, is 'attacking' and, given most people's pre-conceived ideas of bats as vicious, they run before discovering that the bat would have steered around them if they had just stood still.

Please! Always remember; bat's just want to eat bugs - NOT PEOPLE! When they get into trouble, like squirrels, raccoons and bears, they just need a little time at the wildlife center and then they are on their way to living free again.

LTWC's 2006 CALENDAR OF EVENTS!

January	10th	Board of Directors Meeting - 7pm @ LTWC center.
ALL Board Meetings are now the 2nd Tuesday of each month (except June and August) @ LTWC.		
June	3rd & 4th	28th Annual Training Seminar (Date Tentative - Subject to Change)
July	30th	LTWC Open House
August	12th & 13th	21st Annual Great Gatsby Festival @ Tallac Historic Site - Fund Raiser
October	7th & 8th	17th Annual Kokanee Festival @ Lake Tahoe Visitor's Center
October	15th	Annual Volunteer Recognition Luncheon @ LTWC - 12 noon (The previous two dates are Tentative and both are subject to change.)

Do you have a car, boat or other vehicle, in good working condition, you are considering trading in on a new one? Instead of trading in your old(er) vehicle, why don't you donate it to **Lake Tahoe Wildlife Care** and receive a tax deduction.

If this is something you are considering, then just call **LTWC** at **530-577-2273** and ask for help in your contribution.

In the past three years, **LTWC** has received nearly \$20,000 for vehicles which have been received by contributors.

Other ways you can help **LTWC** in the future is to consider leaving a bequest. We were recently received a donation because we were named in a will and several others have told us we are mentioned in their wills as well. This is one way to assure our long range financial success.

We have been working with the orphaned and injured wild birds and animals in and around the Lake Tahoe Basin for 24 years. Our success is due to support from our volunteers in the form of financial support, hours served and spreading the word.

For those of you who have been working 'with' us in the past, we thank you. For those of you who have thought of working with us, why not make 2002 the year to make a commitment.

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 11), 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
Anonymous

Bobcat

(\$5,000 Donation)

Estate of Alice Valla

Bald Eagle

(\$2,500 Donation)

Mr. and Mrs. L. W. Lane
Harveys/Harrahs Lake Tahoe
Drew and Carol Rutter

Golden Eagle

(\$1,000 Donation)

Robert M. Lee Foundation
Rob and Chris St. James
Larry and Julie Moore
Kirk and Lynda Gillaspey
Greg Cattoni - Randy's Locksmith
Jennifer Randall - Youth Develop. Fdn.
Betsy Cohen
Willette Strong
Caesars Tahoe Dealer's
Tahoe League for Charity
John and Cari Simonsen

Great-Horned Owl

(\$500 Donation)

Kevin & Kathryn Schaller	Ron and Jan Cook
Mike, Lesley & Staci Furtado	Rick Ahlswede
George and Jan Smith	Barbara Kucala
Pat Banner	Dr. Mireya Ortega
Mike and Charmaine Pape	Ron Cline
Richard and Dana Smith-Miller	Evie Viera
McLane and Adelle Tilton	Dave Isenberg
Dr. Randy Watson	Christensen Automotive
Bill and Jonna Hutt	Don and Kay Edwards
Jim and Linda Mueller	Cliff Hansen
Carla Yant	Howard and Linda Lewis-Perry

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