



Spring 2010
Volume 23, No. 1

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

30th Annual Training Seminar - May 22nd & 23rd

Eagles at LTWC

by Cheryl Millham, LTWC Exec. Dir.

Every year, we have eagles arrive at Lake Tahoe Wildlife Center. Most of them are Golden Eagles. Very few of the eagles which arrive are Bald Eagles. Well - - - in 2009, we received THREE (3) Bald Eagles, two adults and one fledgling plus two Golden Eagles.

They arrive for many varied reasons. Golden Eagles eat 'carrion' (dead animals) and, of course, when a deer gets killed by being hit by a car, the body is then on the side of the road. That is where the eagles go to eat. Then, when a big, noisy truck goes by, the eagle is frightened and bolts into the air - often, flying right into the way of the oncoming truck. The eagle 'always' comes out on the short end of the stick, 'usually' with a broken wing, broken leg or a concussion. Some of the injuries can be fixed with surgery, but, sad to say, some of the eagles are killed immediately.

We also have eagles arrive that have eaten a poisoned rodent and they get 'secondary' poisoning. Most of the poisons used to kill small mammals, such as ground squirrels, chipmunks, chickaree squirrels, rats and rabbits, cause internal bleeding so the small animal bleeds to death. When an eagle flies overhead, looking for 'dinner', and sees the bodies of small animals, laying around, he thinks he has found a gold mine. BUT - - - as it turns

(Continued on Page 4)



Before a **Bald Eagle** is released back to the wild, we 'must' be certain that they are in excellent 'condition'. In this picture, the eagle is being 'Exercised' on a 'creance, which is a line (or rope) tied to the eagle's ankles, with the other end secured to a 1 gallon bottle with about 2" of water in it for 'some' weight. The time it takes to condition the bird, is entirely depending on each bird and how they take to the conditioning. Some (and 'most') will be ready for release in 2 to 3 weeks. However, some take considerably longer.

IN THIS ISSUE!

Secretary's White-Out	Page 2
Smokey's Little Friend	Page 3
Eagles at LTWC	Page 5
Class Registration Form	Page 6
Did You Know?	Page 7
Annual Report	Page 8 & 9
Rehabbing Bear Cubs	Page 12
Membership Info	Page 15
'Club' Members	Back Page



by Tom Millham, LTWC Secretary/Treasurer

2009 was a little bit different for Lake Tahoe Wildlife Care. “Why is that”, you might ask??? Well, first of all, for only the second time since holding our first ‘annual’ training seminar, we didn’t hold one. With all of the notoriety we received due to Li’l Smokey (July 2008 until his release on February 5, 2009), we received numerous calls from people who wanted to ‘volunteer’ with Lake Tahoe Wildlife Care.

Now, that – in itself – is not bad, however, after talking with most of the people, their only interest was to ‘hand feed’ a little bear cub, such as Li’l Smokey. For any of you who have been following our organization, at least for the past 10 years, you know that the ONLY bear cub we have ever ‘hand fed’ was the one which we received in April, when the cub was only 3 months old and it was only 6 pounds!

Every other bear cub we have cared for, was able to self-feed from the day we received it until the day it was released. We definitely practice a ‘Hands OFF’ policy, in that we do not ‘unnecessarily’ handle the bear cubs. The difference with Li’l Smokey was that we had to change his dressings on all four of his paws every day for the first two weeks.

Couple that information with the fact that we had a ‘wonderful’ group of volunteers who

(Continued on Page 13)

THE QUILL

Tom Millham, Editor
LAKE TAHOE WILDLIFE CARE, INC.
1485 Cherry Hills Circle
South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150-4921
(530) 577-CARE
Copyright © 2009



Parasol Foundation

by Tom Millham, LTWC Secty/Treas

Lake Tahoe Wildlife Care is very pleased to announce that we have become one of the newest members with the Parasol Tahoe Community Foundation in Incline Village, Nevada.

Becoming a member with Parasol, gives us the opportunity to join forces with other non-profit organizations in the North Tahoe/Truckee area.

Because of this partnership, LTWC was given the opportunity to work with the Boys and Girls Club of North Lake Tahoe (‘club’). Our part is to ‘share’ with the youngsters of the ‘club’, various facts and photos of wild birds and animals LTWC has cared for and to educate the kids about those different species.

Our ‘partnership’ with the ‘club’, began with them taking a tour down to the south shore and visit LTWC. We showed them the facility, explained what we do as a community organization and accepted their offer to collect some ‘pine needles’ to put in the bear cage for this year’s cubs to begin their ‘hibernation’ process.

For the next three months, LTWC took our show on the road to Kings Beach and offered powerpoint presentations on bears, owls and coyotes. The children at the ‘club’ have all been very attentive (2nd thru 6th grades) and seem to be enjoying the presentations and, according to their advisor, Alexis Prochko, look forward to our subsequent visits.

Our thanks to the Parasol Foundation, for allowing us the opportunity to offer these presentations with the kids at the ‘club’.

**LTWC’S 30th Annual
Training Seminar
Saturday and Sunday**

May 22nd & 23rd

\$60/Individual

\$40/each additional ‘family’ member



2010 Lake Tahoe Wildlife Care Calendar
100% proceeds benefit LTWC



LTWC Calendars Now on Sale

We have been talking about it for several years - - and we finally got it done.

LTWC has their own wall calendar with animals cared for by our own volunteers.

Our thanks to Dan Thrift (Dan Thrift Photography), for taking the professional pictures, Svadhyaya Toga Studio for the design and Ken Konchal-ski at Pine Tree Printing for the printing.

The calendar is printed up through December 2010, so you can still order it, or stop by LTWC and pick one up. We have reduced the price to \$10, if you pick up the calendar at our center. Or, if you like, we can ship it to you for an additional \$5 for shipping and handling. All prices include sales tax.

We would ask that you continue your support of LTWC by purchasing one of our first ever wall calendar. We are considering doing this again next year, only getting them out in late October or early November, so we definitely would like to get your opinions on how you feel about this.

To order one, simply call LTWC at 530-577-2273, or e-mail Tom at tom@ltwc.org.

Smokey's Little Friend

by Jolena Hearn, LTWC Volunteer

Spring is awesome for me. Heavenly – where I work - has shut down for the ski season and the critters are starting to show up on Cheryl's door step. One morning I receive a phone call from Cheryl about a raccoon in a chimney. Nothing new but it seems this one has resisted all efforts to move along. A stubborn raccoon? What a novelty!

This was my first chimney call and I had already been at home for weeks so I was looking for a challenge. When I pulled up to the house it was a lovely home and the women at home seemed genuinely concerned about the raccoon. As I approached the fireplace I noticed that there were papers and woodchips in the fireplace and really thought nothing of it – until later. The fireplace had large bars then a shelf as I was reaching I could feel back about one inch of an 8 inch shelf. After awhile I began to think that nothing was there that maybe Mom had come back and got the little guy.

Finally I hear movement and my fingers brush something. Having my shoulder and my head up a chimney I keep reaching and just as I brushed his hair again with my finger tips – Yes, I have him then he pulls away. Rats!! I'm patient and I leave half my body jammed in a chimney he finally comes back and I have about ½ inch of hair between my two fingers and I yank – He is in my hands.

The ladies are excited I'm scratched and unbelievably dirty but he's in my hands and I start a brief examine. He's filthy and so very under weight and dehydrated so much so it may already be too late. The ladies ask to take a quick picture and ask the usual questions. As we are talking I keep examining him. Icky, sunken eyes, course hair, matted pitch and hair on paws – we got to go he needs help now. We get back and Cheryl and I give him a more detailed examination, but our first plan of action is to bathe him.

(Continued on Page 10)

Eagles (Continued from Page 1)

out, as he eats the dead rodents, he is ingesting the poison. The eagle then will start to bleed internally which will lead to his death, UNLESS - - - it is found fast and the bleeding is stopped.

One year, we received a Golden Eagle that apparently tried to eat a rattlesnake. But - - before it could kill the snake, the snake bit the eagle in the leg. That was an interesting case. The leg was swollen to about 4 times its normal size and filled with toxic fluid.

Well, you get the idea of how and why they arrive at LTWC. They are fairly easy to feed, as rabbits are the main food of choice of the Golden Eagle and, there are ranchers in Nevada which raise rabbits that we can purchase, so food is 'usually' not a problem.

But, this year, we received THREE (3) Bald Eagles and that's why I always try to have fish in the freezer - - for just this reason! But - - feeding seven (7) bear cubs last year (all released last February) plus three ospreys, the freezer was (forgive my wording) "bear"!! Or should I say, "BARE"!!

We got busy and put out a call to all of our local fishermen. The fish started coming in abundance. One of the Bald Eagles was a fledgling, which meant that we would have this one for a long time. First, he had to 'grow up', then we needed to rehabilitate him and begin exercising him for his eventual release back into the wild. He was so young that he couldn't stand on a perch yet, but, if still with mom, would still be laying down in a very large nest, about 8 feet wide and (possibly) over ONE TON in weight.

He seemed to be happiest in our Merganser cage, sitting and laying on the plywood which was placed over the hot-tub and covered with outdoor carpeting. After a few weeks, he started flapping his wings and wanted to perch. He was placed in the Mew. After a month of being able to fly and perch, we began his training on a creance.

Soon, the release date was set for mid October. We contacted Dale Schornack from News 10, Sacramento and asked him if he would be interested in witnessing the release. All of our volunteers were invited to attend the release. It is ALWAYS special when we release birds and animals, especially eagles.

See Tom's article on this Bald Eagle's release on page 5 in this issue of the Quill.



Wait a minute!! What's wrong with this picture. Let's see. They are ALL birds. Four of the five have their beaks open, waiting to be fed. They are all alive with their eyes open. OH!!! I see. What is the Steller's Jay (far left) doing in the same container as the four Cliff Swallows?? Hmmmm. I would think that he is in there because he wants some company. That, PLUS, they all have the same diet. I think he is just looking for more food so he can grow big and strong!! Yeah. That's it!

Every Animal in the Right Place

Last year was an unusually busy year for the volunteers of Lake Tahoe Wildlife Care. While it is 'normal' that all of our cages are occupied with 'something' during the summer, it is unusual that we actually have at least one of each species for which the cages were built.

Well, 2009 was such a year. At one time or another, we cared for at least one species for which each cage was built - - - and then some. We cared for owls, hawks and eagles - EIGHT Eagles - for which the 'Mew' was built. Of course, we had the five bear cubs in the 'bear cage', many, many songbirds in the 'aviary', coyotes in the 'coyote cage', owls, hawks and eagles in the 'flight area', raccoons in the 'raccoons cage' (go figure), we actually had a bobcat in the 'bobcat cage', and river otters in the river 'otter cage'!

If you are one of those who would like to help out THIS year, you must first take our annual training seminar, held on May 22nd and 23rd. See the registration form on page 6.

Eagles at LTWC

by Tom Millham, LTWC Secty/Treas

We are constantly preaching to our volunteers that the very best part of volunteering and working with Lake Tahoe Wildlife Care is when you get to take part in a release.

NONE of the releases can measure up to that of an eagle, especially a Bald Eagle. After all, the Bald Eagle is our 'National' symbol, in addition to being the icon of power, grace and beauty.

Most raptors, like the Bald Eagle, when you look into their eyes, they give you the feeling that they are in charge and they don't care about you, one iota! It is a feeling of total dominance and 'they' are in charge!

The Bald Eagle we are referring to came in to LTWC in early summer and when these birds grow, they grow VERY fast. So fast, in fact, that the strength of their legs is not able to keep up with their weight gain and they are forced to spend much of their time either laying down or sitting. There was very little standing at this time.

After several months of inhaling fish, our kid finally got strong enough for us to exercise him. (We say 'him', only as a way to keep the reference consistent. We really don't know if this was a male or female!) We were finally able to take him over to the meadow and begin the exercising program. It was finally the third time that we felt we could begin the program on a regular basis. The first two times were just to evaluate him and he was not able fly more than 30 feet.

Once we begin the exercise program, then we keep monitoring him each day until we feel he is ready to be released. Once we determine that the eagle is ready to be released, we set a date, usually between 7 and 14 days in the future. First, and foremost, is to get some extra time exercising and secondly is to make sure there are no setbacks. We would not want to release an eagle that showed us



that he was ready to be released on 'one' day, then not on another.

This one did wonderfully each day and we felt very good about the release date we chose, which was Sunday, October 11th. That date was also the day of our annual volunteer luncheon. So, we let everyone know, who was attending the luncheon, that there would be an extra bonus for them – IF they wanted to be a part in the release. And, in addition, we informed the community what we are doing and invited anyone who so desired to join us.

Well, on this date, a supporter of LTWC just happened to be at his summer home in SLT. His name is Dale Schornack and he is a television reporter for ABC News 10 from Sacramento. Dale videotaped the release and televised the video later

(Continued on Page 14)

LAKE TAHOE WILDLIFE CARE, INC.

30th Annual 2-Day Training Seminar

2010 CLASS REGISTRATION FORM

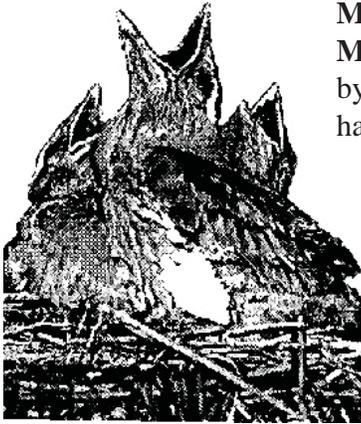
LAKE TAHOE WILDLIFE CARE, INC., is an independent, non-profit, volunteer organization whose function is to 'RAISE, REHABILITATE and RELEASE' wildlife. All orphaned and injured animals are given care by trained volunteers of

LAKE TAHOE WILDLIFE CARE, INC!

Class Fee is \$60 Per Person! For Families, \$60 for the FIRST Family Member and \$40 for each additional member. ONE training manual included. Minimum age - 8 years. Children under 16 years of age MUST be accompanied by an adult. No wildlife is given to a child for care unless an adult family member has also taken the class. We believe this to be a reasonable safeguard.

The fee will cover meals, feeding techniques, housing and transport, capture and transportation, anatomy and examination and will be taught by Cheryl Millham, Founder and Executive Director of Lake Tahoe Wildlife Care.

The seminar will take place on Saturday and Sunday, May 22nd & May 23rd, 2010. The Saturday session is from 8:30am to 4pm. The Sunday session is from 9:30am to 4pm at LTWC's Center with lunch provided (Sunday).



CLASS FEE

\$60.00 Per Person! OR, For Families, \$60 for the FIRST Family Member and \$40.00 for each ADDITIONAL Family Member.

The class fee must be paid in advance AND accompany the registration form. The fee includes a one year membership with Lake Tahoe Wildlife Care and ONE Training Manual. Deadline for registration fee is Sunday, May 15, 2010!

For further information, call

Cheryl Millham at 530-577-2273!

(tear off and return)

(tear off and return)

Registration Form

I desire to register for the BIRDS and MAMMALS Class on Sat. May 22nd & Sunday, May 23rd, 2010. **\$60 Per Person! OR \$60 FIRST Family Member and \$40 for each ADDITIONAL Family Member!**

Name _____ Street Address _____

P O Box _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

Please complete this registration form and mail immediately with your class fee to:

Lake Tahoe Wildlife Care, Inc.

1485 Cherry Hills Circle
South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150-4921



Did you Know???



by Bob Dietz, LTWC Board Member Emeritus

- that most of the bears in the Sierra Nevada are cinnamon or brown in color, or black with white on the chest, paws and snout?
- that bear cubs are birthed in January or early February??? They weigh ½ to 1 pound. The number is 'usually' two. By fall of that year, cubs may weigh from 50 to 115 pounds, depending on food supply. This is when mother and her cubs start raiding homes, cars and trash cans. Don't ever leave food in your car. Mother bear will, literally, break through the windows or tear the car door off to reach the food.
- that the potential life span for black bears is 21 to 33 years - - or more - - if they are not killed?
- that raccoons eat garbage, pet food, fruits, vegetables and even fish from garden ponds??? Make your trash cans 'inaccessible'. Don't leave pet food outside. Light water, noise and chemical repellants 'may' work for a short time, but raccoons, eventually, learn to ignore them!
- that if you sprinkle cayenne pepper on suet cakes, squirrels and raccoons will NOT eat it?? Birds cannot taste or smell the same way mammals do. After one lick, animals will go running for water, but the pepper won't bother the birds.
- that male Osprey, in their courtship display, are magnificent?? They perform a "Fish" dance, flying up and down with a fish in their talons to show the female what a great provider they will be. I witnessed this display several years ago, but didn't realize what I was seeing!
- that 'horns' last a lifetime, but 'antlers' do not? Each spring, male elk begin to grow 2 pair of antlers. Bull Elk need a lot of energy to grow their antlers. So they spend a lot of time and energy searching for nutritious plants and tender leaves. Having BIG antlers pays off! Bulls with large antlers scare off bulls with smaller antlers. As a result, big-antlered bulls tend to mate more often and eat the best foods. NOW - - - my question is this - - HOW do 'big-antlered' bulls KNOW - - that they have bigger antlers??? AND - - HOW do the 'smaller-antlered' bulls KNOW their antlers are smaller?????



And 'NOW YOU KNOW'!

LAKE TAHOE WILDLIFE CARE, INC., 2009 ANNUAL REPORT

TOTAL WILDLIFE CARED FOR: **726**
 EXPIRED, EUTHANIZED, EOA AND DOA: **291**
 RELEASED, TRANSFERRED AND PERM. CARE: **431**

DIFFERENT SPECIES
 BIRDS: **67**
 MAMMALS: **20**
 REPTILES: **0**
RELEASE RATE: 59%

BIRDS

	NESTLING	FLEDGLING	ADULT	RELEASED	EXPIRED	EUTH.	EOA	DOA	TRAN	TOTAL	
ANSERIFORMES (Water Fowl)											
Canada Goose	5		4	3	2		4			9	
Common Merganser	2			1	1					2	
Mallard	15	9	16	20	7		9	4		40	
Ruddy Duck			1	1						1	
Wood Duck	4			3	1					4	56
PODICIPEDIFORMES (Grebes)											
Western Grebe			6	5				1		6	6
FALCONIFORMES (Vultures, Hawks & Falcons)											
Bald Eagle		1	2	2	1					3	
Cooper's Hawk			1	1						1	
Golden Eagle			5	1	1		2	1		5	
Kestrel (Sparrow Hawk)			1	1						1	
Osprey		3		3						3	
Red Shouldered Hawk			1	1						1	
Red-Tailed Hawk		3	2	3	1		1			5	
Sharp Shinned Hawk			3	2				1		3	22
CHARADRIFORMES (Avocets, Sandpipers, Plovers, Gulls & Terns)											
California Gull			5	1			2	2		5	
Herring Gull			4	1	1	2				4	
Killdeer		4		4						4	13
COLUMBIFORMES (Pigeons & Doves)											
Band-Tailed Pigeon		3	4	3	2		2			7	
Mourning Dove	1	4	11	9	3		2	2		16	
Rock Dove	4	7	8	9	4		5	1		19	42
APODIFORMES (Hummingbirds & Swifts)											
Anna's Hummingbird			1	1						1	
Rufous Hummingbird			3	2	1					3	4
GALLINACEOUS (Pheasants, Grouse, Turkeys and Quail)											
Blue Grouse			2		1		1			2	
California Quail	5		2	4	1			2		7	
Mountain Quail			1		1					1	10
GRUIFORMES (Cranes, Rails, Coots & Limpkins)											
American Coot			4	4						4	4
CORACIIFORMES (Kingfisher)											
Belted Kingfisher			1	1						1	1
PICIFORMES (Woodpeckers, Flickers & Sapsuckers)											
Downey Woodpecker			3	2	1					3	
Northern Flicker		3	11	5	5		2	2		14	
Pileated Woodpecker			1	1						1	
White-Headed Woodpecker			9	6	2			1		9	
Williamson's Sapsucker			2		1		1			2	
Yellow-Bellied Sapsucker			3	2	1					3	32

NESTLING FLEDGLING ADULT RELEASED EXPIRED EUTH. EOA DOA TRAN TOTAL

STRINGIFORMES (Owls)

Long Eared Owl			2	1	1					2	
Pygmy Owl			1		1					1	
Saw-Whet Owl		2	6	4	1		2	1		8	
Great-Horned Owl		4	3	5	1			1		7	18

PASSERIFORMES (Perching Birds)

American Robin	28	14	8	34	5		9	2		50	
Audubons Warbler			9	7	2					9	
Barn Swallow		6		5	1					6	
Black-Headed Grosbeak			2	1				1		2	
Brewer's Blackbird	8	9	10	16	4		4	3		27	
Brown Creeper			1		1					1	
Cassin's Finch	4	4	3	6	4		1			11	
Cliff Swallow	4	10	6	15	4			1		20	
Common Raven		2		2						2	
Dark-Eyed (Oregon) Junco	3		2	4	1					5	
European Starling	2	4		4	2					6	
Evening Grosbeak		1	9	8	1		1			10	
Fox Sparrow	4	3	3	7	3					10	
Gold Finch			2	1	1					2	
House Sparrow		11	4	11	2			2		15	
Mountain Chickadee	2	5	6	6	5		1	1		13	
Pine Siskin			6	1	4			1		6	
Purple Finch	3	1	4	4	2		1	1		8	
Pygmy Nuthatch		1		1						1	
Red Crossbill			5	4				1		5	
Red Winged Blackbird			1		1					1	
Red-Breasted Nuthatch	2	4	3	6	2			1		9	
Rufous-Crowned Sparrow			3	2	1					3	
Rufous-Sided Towhee			1	1						1	
Scrub Jay		3		3						3	
Stellers Jay	14	35	17	33	11		14	8		66	
Townsend's Solitaire			2	2						2	
Western Tanager										0	
White-Crowned Sparrow			2	1	1					2	
Wilson's Warbler			8	6	2					8	304

TOTAL BIRDS	110	156	246	303	102	2	64	41	512	512
--------------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	----------	-----------	-----------	------------	------------

MAMMALS

	INFANT	JUVENILE	ADULT	RELEASED	EXPIRED	EUTH.	EOA	DOA	TRAN	TOTAL	
Big Brown Bat			2	1	1					2	
Bobcat			1							1	
Brown Bear		7		5					2	7	
California Ground Squirrel	6	6	6	14	1		2	1		18	
Chickaree Squirrel	7	13	5	15	3		5	2		25	
Coyote	1	4	2	2	2		2		1	7	
Golden Mantel Squirrel	1	2	1	2	1		1			4	
Gray Fox			1		1					1	
Least Chipmunk	14	9	6	18	7			4		29	
Lodge Pole Chipmunk		9	8	9	5		1	2		17	
Long-Eared Chipmunk			6	4	2					6	
Mink		1		1						1	
Mountain Cotton Tai		10	5	10	3			2		15	
Myotis Bat			2	1	1					2	
Northern Flying Squirrel		2	1	1	2					3	
Porcupine		1	3	3	1					4	
Raccoon	9	17	7	18	8		4	3		33	
River Otter		3		2	1					3	
Snowshoe Rabbit			4	4						4	
Western Gray Squirrel	9	12	11	18	4		8	2		32	
TOTAL MAMMALS	47	100	67	128	43	0	23	16	4	214	214

	NESTLING	FLEDGLING	ADULT	RELEASED	EXPIRED	EUTH.	EOA	DOA	TRAN	TOTAL	
GRAND TOTAL: MAMMALS & BIRDS	157	256	313	431	145	2	87	57	4	726	726

Smokey (Continued from Page 3)

He looks more like a little black kitten than a baby raccoon the soot is so thick. That's when we noticed - remember the papers and woodchips? Yes folks – they tried to burn him out of the chimney. He has second and third degree burns on all four paws, his one eye is cloudy and his lashes and whiskers are burnt off, most of his hair has been burnt in uneven patches, his nose is burnt as the water is pouring over him it's washing both dirt and flesh off of him.

Cheryl looks at me – I'm stunned, mad and trying to not become furious she tells me to take him home and try. She gives me all the things I need to care for him. Bandages, scissors, vet wrap, pain meds, she had her look- the one that tries to tell us not to be too devastated if this fails.

I walked in and the kids and Jimmy (my husband) all roll their eyes! Another raccoon! But as soon as they hear the story they stop everything and begin to help me. We had to administer medication and feed him every two hours - around the clock. Three of my children, Alex, Conner and Daniel would take turns waking me up every two hours. All of them helped with the bandage changes two to three times a day.

He went to work with me. The staff at the Gondola would make sure he had a quiet place and would check in on him every ½ hour. They too got a crash course in wound care and pain management. This Raccoon was going to make it! There

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. We will no longer be sending you anything through the mail. It is 'our' part to 'Go Green'!



Included with this issue of the Quill - and ALL issues - is a self-addressed envelope. This is provided for YOU, should you wish to make a donation to LTWC!



were too many people pulling for him. His wounds slowly healed and he began to put on weight. His hair, lashes and whiskers began to grow back and even his eye began to have limited vision.

He was finally ready to be placed in the raccoon habitat with friends. He could snuggle with other raccoons when he slept, climb logs and pounce on others in mock fighting. Because of his injuries, he was a smaller version of our friend – Li'l Smokey.



**LTWC'S 30th Annual
Training Seminar
Saturday and Sunday**

May 22nd & 23rd

\$60/Individual

\$40/each additional 'family' member



It is seldom that a **Belted Kingfisher** gets turned into LTWC for assistance, even though this is the most common of the kingfishers. Except for 'terns', kingfishers are the 'only' small bird which dive - headlong - into water to catch fish. They are recognized by their 'big-headed' appearance, are 12 inches tall and have a short tail. This adult female was brought into LTWC after hitting a window in the Tahoe Keys area. After much TLC and getting all the small goldfish she would eat, she was released after getting a 'clean bill of health'. The difference between a male and female kingfisher would be the rust colored stripe which the male possesses across his chest.

LTWC's NEW Logo

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

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



Raising Baby Coyote Pups

by Samantha Bender, 1st Year LTWC Volunteer

This last year I had the privilege of caring for a baby coyote. It was my first time and it was a learning experience. This little guy captured my heart (as well as the heart of my family). I had to feed him every 3 hours starting at 7:30 AM and ending at 10:30 PM. Boy, this sure was tiring!

I loved it when after I fed him he would usually start falling asleep in my arms! I would think HOW CUTE!! I really enjoyed taking care of the baby coyote and am looking forward to the opportunity again this year.



Rehabbing Bear Cubs at LTWC

by Cheryl Millham, LTWC Exec Dir

(Editor's Note: The following is a response to an article in the Sierra Sun (Truckee, CA) regarding the two bear cubs released by California Fish and Game.)

After reading your story about the two bear cubs put into a cave (den), to finish their winter hibernation until spring arrives, I thought you might want to learn a little more about the 'rest of the story'.

The two cubs which were rescued by the BEAR League, after the mother was illegally shot and killed in Carnelian Bay, were brought to LTWC. They came in weighing 13 and 16 pounds respectively. There, they joined three cubs which were already at LTWC which came in earlier from Yosemite.

All five cubs became friend fast, chasing each other, playing in their pool, rolling and tumbling and swinging on their two swings.

The cubs were on LTWC's web cam all summer and into December and gave a lot of people, all over the world, a lot of enjoyment, just being able to watch them play and grow.

This next spring, IF we receive any more cubs, they will also be on our web cam. Just log on to www.ltwc.org and click on "Bear Cam"!

Since the cubs had no mother to teach them how to find food or even 'what' foods to eat, it is up to us to introduce these foods to them. An example of the types of foods we offer them is fish, (whole fish) which was placed in their swimming pool, so they learned that 'if' they wanted fish, they needed to get wet! They learned about honey and honeycomb, carrion (dead animals) and fruits and nuts, which they will find where they are released.

As the bears grew, their volume of food had to increase. When they first arrived, they were all put back on bear formula along with other foods, mostly fruit. By the end of summer, they were eating about 40 pounds of food put into their cage - - - TWICE A DAY!!

OK. Let's do the math! 40 pounds of food – twice a day – equals a total of EIGHTY

POUNDS OF FOOD A DAY for five cubs. That equates to SIXTEEN POUNDS OF FOOD FOR "EACH" CUB per day!! No wonder they gained 70 to 90 pounds in six months!

The volunteers that feed and clean the cubs are 'never' in the same area with them. There is 'never' any communication with them. The cubs are totally wild and 'not' habituated with humans.

To put the bears into hibernation, we always wait until the 'wild' bears are going under. THEN - - we start pulling back on the 'quantity' of food they receive. We do this slowly. This process takes about 2 to 3 weeks. Bears don't go into hibernation when it gets cold. They go into hibernation when there is "NO" food! That is why some of our 'wild' bears don't hibernate, because they can find food – in the form of garbage – ALL winter.

About 2 weeks of cutting back on their food, we put in tree branches along with six to eight bags of pine needles so they can arrange them into a huge nest. When the food is stopped, they have already made their winter den – or nest. Then, it is 'sleepy time' for about 2 more months, until fish and game (or the biologists from Yosemite) can make their plans to come and take the cubs to their release point.

At this time, we have had the bears for over 7 months.

It is a very happy day when we send the cubs 'back' home to the wild, which is where they belong. They all learned their lessons well and we have NO doubt they will have a great life being FREE, WILD bears!



told us that they 'intended' to come back the next year (which would have been 'last' year) and work with the birds and animals entrusted to Lake Tahoe Wildlife Care. During 2008, we had so many volunteers, that people were forced to wait up to three weeks to sign up for a slot.

It turned out to be a very good decision. We had a very group of volunteers who signed up for every shift where we needed people and all of the birds and animals had adequate care, cleaning and feeding. And, at one time – or another – this year, we actually had every bird or animal 'in the cage' for which the cage was named. The final critter which was placed into the cage it was named for was the bobcat which came in on October 4th. We only had "Bobzee", who was someone's pet, for a couple of weeks before taking him to a sanctuary in Imlay, Nevada. After having Bobzee for seven years and after Bobzee's two 'roommates' (two house cats) died, he just didn't want to be a pet anymore. One week after we got Bobzee into our possession, the owners asked us to help them find a 'permanent' home for him.

Bottom Line??? 2009 was a very good year with a variety of birds and animals. We went through a LOT of food, more than most other years, mostly due to the amount of fish we needed for the bears, Bald Eagles, river otters and raccoons.

We would like to thank ALL of the local fishermen and women who helped us out with the tremendous amount of fish they brought to us for the various birds and animals. You all are awesome!!



In June 2009, LTWC received these three cubs from Yosemite. Their mom was killed and they needed some assistance. The wildlife biologists from Yosemite brought these three little boys to Lake Tahoe Wildlife Care to 'complete' the part of their life that their mom would have normally done. They came in weighing about 12 - 16 pounds and stayed at LTWC for the remainder of the summer until they were picked up by the Yosemite biologists on February 3rd. They were driven back down to Yosemite and released that same day. "The last we heard" . . . , they were doing well and 'still' in the same den where they were placed. Thanks for Taylor Flynn The Mountain News (Feb. '10) for giving us a full two-page picture spread!

LTWC's WISH LIST

We often get calls asking if we have a 'Wish List'. We do our best to have something ready to tell people, but, other than money, which is needed for 'special' diets, equipment and medicine, we gave it some thought over the winter and actually came up with a list. Ready or not - - here it is!

**CARNIVORE CARE BY OXBOW.
LAUNDRY SOAP.**

**HEATING PADS – 3-SETTINGS (Without Automatic Turn-Off).
PAPER TOWELS.**

**GREEN 45 GALLON TRASH CAN
LINERS (Rolls of 80 from
Smart n Final).**

**GIFT CERTIFICATES – Feed Stores,
Grocery Stores, etc.**



**LTWC's Annual
OPEN HOUSE
Sunday
August 1, 2010
10am - 4pm**

(Eagles - Continued from page 5)

that week.

It is also on our web site at:

<http://www.news10.net/news/local/story.aspx?storyid=68585>



What you will see when you view this tape is something that has never happened to LTWC before. When we released the eagle, within just a few seconds, two other Bald Eagles came to find out who the new kid on the block was. Actually, they were saying, "This is 'our' area!! Get Out!" All three landed in the tree tops about 1,000 feet below our viewing area. Then, about 10 minutes later, we saw 'one' eagle flying around the tree tops. We feel he 'had' to be the one we had just released, due to his flying solo. Once he caught a thermal, he just circled and circled and circled – until he was even with us, then we were looking 'up' at him.

Finally, he was soaring away from us, still circling, still 'not' flapping his wings, until he was no longer in sight.

Our hearts were in our throats. We felt very confident about his chances in the wild and that he will do very well surviving as an eagle surrounded with no boundaries and no caging.

Our thanks to Wayne McKnight and Pete Van Arnum who are the 'Eagle Team Leaders'. They take the volunteers to the meadow for the exercise training and make sure that everyone knows and obeys the rules in handling eagles.



Lake Tahoe Wildlife Care was honored to accept a \$1500 check from U. S. Bank last June. The grant was to assist LTWC with our newsletter, the Quill. (Yes, it is the same newsletter you are reading now.) Cheryl Millham, Executive Director of Lake Tahoe Wildlife Care (second from right), is accepting the check from Terri Arnold, District Manager for U. S. Bank (center). Assisting Terri are Diane Imbach (far left) and Tammy Murphy-Idell, (second from left), the South Lake Tahoe branch manager. For 'some' unknown reason, Tom Millham (far right), Secretary/Treasurer, Lake Tahoe Wildlife Care, is 'not' the one accepting the check. "What's wrong with this picture???" Why doesn't the 'Treasurer' accept the check??? I guess that's just the way it is.

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 Rutherfordale | 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 2010 CALENDAR OF EVENTS!

May 18th LTWC Bi-Monthly Board Meeting @ LTWC @ 7pm.
 May 22nd & 23rd 30th Annual LTWC Training Seminar
 July 20th LTWC Bi-Monthly Board Meeting @ LTWC @ 7pm.
 September 12th Tour de Tahoe - Lunch Stop @ Kings Beach
 September 21st LTWC Bi-Monthly Board Meeting @ LTWC @ 7pm
 September 23rd Kiwanis Club of Tahoe Sierra Septoberfest - MontBleu
 October 2nd & 3rd 21st Annual Kokanee Festival

Check out our web site for ALL upcoming event. www.ltwc.org, then click on 'Events'!

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, **LTWC** has received over \$40,000 for vehicles and boats which have been received by contributors.

Other ways you can help **LTWC** in the future is to consider leaving a bequest. We 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 since 1978. Our success is due to assistance from our volunteers in the form of financial support, hours served and just 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 2010 the year to make a commitment.

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION!

****Active** (ONLY those who have taken the training class.)

****Honorary** (Those who wish to help out)

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
Anonymous
Judy Grutter
Big George Ventures**

Bobcat

(\$5,000 Donation)

**Estate of Alice Valla
John and Cari Simonsen
Sierra at Tahoe
Sharlee L Cotter
Carol Auslen
IFAW
Parasol Comm. Foundation**

Bald Eagle

(\$2,500 Donation)

**Mr. and Mrs. L. W. Lane
Harveys/Harrahs Lake Tahoe
Drew and Carol Rutter
McLane and Adelle Tilton
Edward Scripps**

Golden Eagle

(\$1,000 Donation)

Robert M. Lee Foundation	Marcia Hopkins
Rob and Chris St. James	Larry and Julie Moore
Kirk and Lynda Gillaspey	Barbara Harootunian
Greg Cattoni - Randy's Locksmith	Betsy Cohen
Jennifer Randall - Youth Develop. Fdn.	Bob Dietz
China & Don Niemann	Caesars Tahoe Dealer's
Tahoe League for Charity	Suey Smallwood
Bill and Jonna Hutt	Tammy and Harley Hoy
James Leva	B T Rocca Jr Foundation
Curtis Fong - TGFT - Bike the West	Willette Strong
Yosemite Foundation	Christina Robinson
Brenda Knox	Kiwanis Club of Tahoe Sierra
BEAR League	Mike Tolbertson
James Thulin	Kiwanis Club of Lake Tahoe
Cliff and Holly Hansen	

Great-Horned Owl

(\$500 Donation)

Kevin & Kathryn Schaller	Christensen Automotive
Mike, Lesley & Staci Furtado	Don and Kay Edwards
George and Jan Smith	Cliff Hansen
Mike and Charmaine Pape	Pat Fagen
Carla Yant	Howard and Linda Lewis-Perry
Richard and Dana Smith-Miller	Howell Johnson
Pat Banner	Bill and Carol Frye
Jim and Linda Mueller	Lake Valley Firefighters
Ron and Jan Cook	Alpine Co. Chamber of Commerce
Barbara Kucala	Dawn Holley
Dr. Mireya Ortega & Ron Cline	Rick Ahlswede
Evie Viera & Dave Isenberg	Cliff and Holly Hansen
Bob Eldon	Mark Ockerman - WINESOX
Soroptimist Int'l of SLT	Christina Robinson
Bob Zmuda - Comic Relief	Peter Gauthier

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

Non-Profit
Organization,
US Postage Paid
South Lake Tahoe, CA
96150
Permit No. 96

FORWARDING SERVICE REQUESTED