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Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

River Otter

by Cheryl Millham, LTWC Exec. Dir

It all started on May 4th 2004, when I received a phone call from a long time rehab friend, Jay Holcomb. First thing he said was do you remember me. Jay was one of the team members who accredited LTWC (Lake Tahoe Wildlife Care) in 1993. How could I forget him!

Well the reason he called was to ask LTWC if we would be willing to take a baby river otter, rehab it and release it in a river otter habitat. Jay knows we are the only rehab center with a river otter rehab cage that was constructed just for this one species. They need to learn a lot of lessons before they can be released with even a slight chance of surviving in the wild. It's hard to only raise one baby of any species - so many calls were made to many rehab centers, but no other baby river otters turned up. So our little one was to be raised on its own.

The record showed the river otter was born around April 26th, in a construction zone, where land was being cleared to build track homes. A back hoe backed up over the bank of a water canal and destroyed its den. The mother river otter was moving her babies and didn't come back for the last one. It was picked up by the workers, held for a few days then turned over to the International Bird Rescue Research Center in Suisun City. It was cared for by a young lady named Gerry.

Of course LTWC was willing to take the young baby and raise it, so Gerry brought it to Tahoe on May

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This River Otter is 2 1/2 weeks old, almost half way through her Raising and the first part of Rehabilitation. THEN, she will go to the final stage of "Rehabilitation", out to the pen where she has three different pools and learns how to swim and eat different types of food. River Otters cannot enter water (river or otherwise) until they are THREE MONTHS OLD! They stand the chance of getting pneumonia which would very likely be fatal! This kid was released in late October 2004.

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SECRETARY'S WHITE-OUT

by Tom Millham, LTWC Secretary/Treasurer

APPRECIATION FROM EDC BOS

Well, I guess we are not done with our dealings with the **El Dorado County Board of Supervisors**. (In case you were wondering, that is what the EDC BOS stands for in the title).

Once a year, the Board is required to meet in each of the five districts. Well, obviously, since the county offices in Placerville are in ONE of the districts that means that the Board must meet in the other Four Districts. South Lake Tahoe represents the 'majority' of one of those districts. Our County Supervisor for District V is **Dave Solaro**. (Now you have had your history lesson for the day.)

The Board scheduled their meeting for District V on Tuesday, September 21st this year, at the Lake Tahoe Golf Course Club House. **Lake Tahoe Wildlife Care** was asked to send at least one representative to the meeting. (And here, I thought we were done jumping through all their hoops. Oh, silly me.)

Well, I am silly, because THIS time, the Board wanted to present LTWC with a Certificate of Appreciation. It was a very nice gesture by the Board to do this for the work LTWC has done for the many years of



Supervisor Dave Solaro presents Certificate of Recognition to LTWC Secretary/Treasurer, Tom Millham at Lake Tahoe Golf Course, September 12, 2004.

service. Following their luncheon with the SLT City Council, the Board reconvened at the LTWC Center so each of them could get, first hand, an up close view of the caging and facilities AND, could see exactly what we do in our attempt to Raise, Rehabilitate and Release the wildlife entrusted to us.

We are very grateful to the Board for this recognition and I am very pleased to share with you the wording on the Certificate.

CERTIFICATE OF RECOGNITION

*Presented to **Lake Tahoe Wildlife Care**. On behalf of the citizens of **El Dorado County**, the **Board of Supervisors** would like to specially recognize and commend the Executive Director, **Mrs. Cheryl Millham**, the volunteers and the board of directors of the **Lake Tahoe Wildlife Care, Inc.** for your untiring commitment to the rescue and rehabilitation of wildlife. Thank you for all you do.*

Supervisor Dave Solaro, District V, Lake Tahoe
Dates: September 21, 2004
El Dorado County Board of Supervisors
Meeting, South Lake Tahoe

Pine Tree Printing

THE QUILL

Published Quarterly
Tom Millham, Editor

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Change of Address

As a matter of information,
LAKE TAHOE WILDLIFE CARE is in the process of having **ALL** mail and parcels delivered to the street address;

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

If you still are using the
**P O Box 10557,
South Lake Tahoe, CA 96158-3557,**

it will only be used for the next 6 months. After that, all mail, for a 12 month period of time, will be 'forwarded' to the street address. So, we ask for you to please update your address book to have all mail go to the street address.

The same is for **Tom and Cheryl Millham's** 'personal' mail.

**P O Box 7675,
South Lake Tahoe, CA 96158-0675**

has already been closed out. All mail is NOW being forwarded to the Cherry Hills Circle address.

We thank you for your attention to these changes.



Wintertime in Lake Tahoe! There is nothing like the white, fresh beauty after a snow storm has just dropped 6" of snow. The blue skies show the storm has moved on and left a blanket of 'white' which dictates a new, clean beginning. The clean, COLD air, the white snow frozen on trees and shrubs is a feeling like nothing on earth.

Bob's Barometer

by Bob Rutherfordale, LTWC President

If you have never walked in Cheryl's shoes for even one day, you should. It's a real eye-opener. During the height of the baby season, her day starts at dawn and doesn't end until late night; and that's just taking care of birds, animals and volunteers. The phone rings 24/7. With as many hours as she puts in, the average person would quit.

I don't believe many people know how many presentations she gives each year. Recently she gave a wonderful talk to the BEAR League at their annual dinner with some great videos. When you see her, it would be really nice if you would take the time to tell her how much you appreciate all that she has done for LTWC in their over the 27 years of existence. I personally appreciate all she has done for me while I was sick this year. With as many hours as she puts in, we are lucky, in our community, to have someone so knowledgeable about the critters and with such high work ethics. If that's not enough, Cheryl is also very active in the Kiwanis Club of Tahoe Sierra.

Cheryl did find some time to sit upstairs in the clinic this summer and view the bear cubs on the new video cameras that we purchased thanks to a donation from Harrahs. Our own Board member Kirk Gillaspey installed them for us. This not only gave Cheryl a little relaxation and enjoyment, it furthered her knowledge about how cubs act and their intelligence.

SOOO... a great big "Thank You" from me to Cheryl on a job well done!

Sierra-at-Tahoe Snowsports Week

by Tom Millham, LTWC Secty/Treas

Lake Tahoe Wildlife Care has been asked to join with and assist four other local non-profit organizations with the *Sierra-at-Tahoe Snowsports Week*.

The benefit allows skiers and boarders a chance to purchase an all day ski pass at 'Sierra' for **ONLY \$25.00!** LTWC was asked to participate with the 2005 renewal of this event which will be held in February, from the 7th thru the 10th. *Sierra-at-Tahoe* in turn then makes a donation to those non-profit organizations involved with **Snowsports Week**.

In the last few years proceeds from this event helped purchase 20 automated external defibrillators for community facilities and emergency vehicles in both El Dorado and Douglas counties. It also funded scholarships at LTCC, and provided books, materials and assistance to children and students at the elementary, middle, and high school levels through the Lake Tahoe Educational Foundation. The Lake Tahoe Educational Foundation also supported the Track renovation project at South Tahoe Middle School which will provide a state-of-the-art track and field facility for the entire South Shore community.

For Snowsports Week 2004, we received a \$2,000 after the fact donation and agreed to participate with the 2005 edition. We would like to thank our friend, John Rice, the General Manager of Sierra at Tahoe, for inviting us to participate with this annual fund raising event. The donation we receive will go into our general fund, but a major portion will be earmarked to fund new netting for the flight area. This is the netted in area where the larger raptors (eagles, hawks, vultures and owls) are kept prior to either their release to the wild, or their flight exercise.

If you are a skier or boarder, and would to take advantage of this special offer, you can contact Lake Tahoe Wildlife Care at 530-577-2273, or stop by our center located at 1485 Cherry Hills Circle (off of Elks Club Drive). At press time, we do have TWO other businesses which have committed to selling these discounted tickets. They are the **Seven-Eleven** on Kingsbury Grade and Alpine Animal Hospital at the 'Y'.

Sierra-at-Tahoe
SNOWSPORTS WEEK
February 7 - 10, 2005



These two cubs were the first 'local' cubs since we received permission to care for the bear cubs in 2000. One came from the Fallen Leaf Lake Campground area and the other from the Northern Boundry of D. L. Bliss California State Park.

Bear Cubs

by Cheryl Millham, LTWC Exec. Dir.

One of the mysteries of running a wildlife center is you never know what will be picked up and brought in for care. I do know we will probable have baby raccoons, squirrels, chipmunks and lots of baby birds. But in 4 years, after obtaining our permit to raise & rehab bear cubs, we have only received 5 cubs; three during the month of June and two in January. The winter two were so under weight, (both were under 15 lbs) they were never going to survive the winter months. Unable to find food in winter and having no body weight to hibernate, is why they were brought into LTWC. After a few months of eating like – well, bears - they were released in the spring with good body weight over 65 pounds.

When I got a call in June about a little cub running up and down Fallen Leaf Road, with no mother in sight, I told the caller to just leave it alone. Mom was probably around somewhere. After three days of getting calls about this little cub, I called the BEAR League to see if they had any more info on this cub. I was then informed an adult bear - with a small cub - was hit by a car right at Highway 89 and Fallen Leaf Lake Road about 1 wk before. Upon talking it over we figured the mother must had died from the accident and the baby was on its

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Kid's Korner



Word Search

Can you find these words in the chart below??? They will be horizontal, vertical and/or diagonal. ALL of the words are either a bird or animal which live in the Tahoe Basin. Good luck! Have Fun.

Find these Birds and Animals in the chart below. Circle the name when you find it, then cross the name off the list.

A	S	K	C	D	U	W	N	M	S	L	E
H	Q	T	H	A	T	C	U	O	R	B	S
Q	U	A	I	L	K	Q	T	S	F	G	W
J	I	M	P	V	X	Z	H	P	Y	A	A
A	R	K	M	A	L	L	A	R	D	T	L
Z	R	G	U	I	O	T	T	E	R	B	L
I	E	D	N	C	N	A	C	Y	I	Q	O
R	L	X	K	D	P	G	H	T	T	S	W
T	M	A	G	R	O	S	B	E	A	K	Y
B	A	H	O	U	S	E	F	I	N	C	H
A	M	E	R	G	A	N	S	E	R	D	T
L	U	W	P	B	H	I	E	T	O	D	R

- CHIPMUNK
- GROSBEAK
- HOUSE
- FINCH
- HUMMINGBIRD
- MALLARD
- MERGANSER
- NUTHATCH
- OSPREY
- OTTER
- QUAIL
- SQUIRREL
- SWALLOW

2004 LTWC Fund Raising Raffle

The 2004 Fund Raising Raffle was yet another success. How do we spell S-U-C-C-E-S-S??? Well, it is very simple. We have a yearly goal of how much we hope to take in from the time we send out the raffle tickets until the drawing.

That "Magic" number is \$10,000. Basically, this is almost the amount of funding needed for us to get through each winter. This year, those of you who purchased the raffle tickets helped us to again attain our goal. The \$10,000 represents about 12% of our total annual budget. That 12 – 15% will help us to pay all the bills for almost ½ of the year. Obviously, it is the SLOW half of the year, but ½ the year still. We consider the 'Other' half of the year to start on November 1st and end on April 1st.

We had more than 350 people respond to our raffle opportunity. Out of those, we selected 75 winners for the prizes donated by businesses supporting our effort. This year, we were blessed to give away THREE (3) Grand Prizes. In addition to the annual donation we receive, courtesy of Lesley Overfield from Harrahs Tahoe (two night stay, a dinner and a show), this year, we received the same donation, only it was for Harrahs OR Harveys. AND, it was not just ONE prize, but TWO, one from each property. AND, in addition to that, with the help of our longtime friend and former Board Member, Skip Sayre, we were able to secure a donation from the Las Vegas Hilton, home of the Elvis collection, where the King performed MANY of his performances.

And the first winner, with their choice of one of the three GRAND Prizes were Gary and Pam Zak (the Las Vegas Hilton), where Pam stated they had NEVER been to Las Vegas. The two Harrahs/Harveys prizes were Jim McKray (Incline Village) and Bill and Carole Baldwin (Santa Clara, CA).

Our congratulations to all three Grand Prize winners AND our congratulations to ALL winners in the 2004 Fund Raising Raffle.

We also would like to extend our sincere gratitude to all the businesses who donated so unselfishly to help us attain our goal and have another successful Raffle.

Cold Stone Creamery & LTWC - MMMMM Good!

30 Year Lake Tahoe Residents and long time LTWC supporters Steve & Angel Charpentier have a delicious offer for LTWC members & friends. Buy and delicious Cold Stone Creamery cakes from now until June 30, 2005 and Cold Stone will donate \$3 for small or \$5 for medium on every cake purchased. Bring coupon to the store or just mention that the purchase is to benefit LTWC and

use it as many times as you want:

Valentine's Day, Mother's Day, Father's Day, a birthday, or any day!

Offer is good at both Cold Stone's:
Lake Tahoe/1001 Heavenly Village
Way #24(next to Heavenly's Gondola
At the Marriott) 530-544-3000

Carson Valley/963 Topsy Ln (next
To In-N-Out Burger) 775-267-6690

PLEASE: no other coupons used with this Offer. Be sure to tell Friends, family, co-workers etc. to Mention LTWC when purchasing cakes.

CAKE FUNDRAISER

Purchase a cake from

COLD STONE 
CREAMERY

Between December, 2004 & June, 2005

\$3 for a small cake or

\$5 for a large cake

will go directly to

LAKE TAHOE WILDLIFE CARE

Valid only at the S. Lake Tahoe/Carson Valley locations.

Call 530-544-3000 OR 775-267-6690 to place your order

Coupon must be present

Not valid with any other offers. Valid only at the location listed. No cash value. No reproductions will be accepted. Creations and images portrayed are trademarks of Cold Stone Creamery Inc. ©2002-2005 www.coldstonecreamery.com

2004 LTWC Fund Raising Raffle Winners

<u>DONOR</u>	<u>WINNER</u>
Action Watersports	Phil Aaron
Action Watersports	Karen Cudney
Al's Chevron Way	Loree Eliot
Al's Chevron Way	Mary Kay Frazee
Al's Chevron Way	Rene March
Al's Chevron Way	Paul Morris
Al's Chevron Way	Dr. Kevin Willitts
Aspen Hollow	Joyce Tepper
Aspen Hollow	Rosemarie Wilson
Baja Fresh	Carol Auslen
Baja Fresh	Debi Moore
Baja Fresh	Kathi Rutherford
Beacon B& G OR Fresh Ketch	Paul & Judy Bruso
Beacon B& G OR Fresh Ketch	Bob Rutherford
Bijou Golf Course	John Gianotti
Bishop's Rock Shop	Marcia Hopkins
Burger King	Mark & Sherri Acri
Burger King	Sherry Brown
Burger King	Greg Cook
Burger King	Cyndi Cooper
Burger King	David Lawrence
Dart Discount Liquors	Schyler Beaty
Embassy Vacation Resorts	Chris Miller
Ernie's Coffee Shop	Fay Wagner
Harrahs/Harveys Lake Tahoe	Bill and Carole Baldwin
Harrahs/Harveys Lake Tahoe	Jim McKray
Head to Toe	Rich Vonderscher
Kentucky Fried Chicken	Robert Lee
Lake Tahoe Cruises	W.W. Cecil, Jr.
Lake Tahoe Cruises	Dr. Patricia Ferraro
Lake Tahoe Golf Course	Cindy Juhl
Lake Tahoe Golf Course	Carla Yant
Lake Tahoe Snowmobile Tours	Howard Perry
Lake Tahoe Wildlife Care	Dave and Kelli Baker
Lake Tahoe Wildlife Care	Larry and Diana Scallin
Lake Tahoe Wildlife Care	Ben Scott
Las Vegas Hilton	Gary Zak
Lilly's Firestone	Bill Fritz

<u>DONOR</u>	<u>WINNER</u>
Marie Callendar's	Cori Meyer
Mile High Fishing Charters	Carl Gustafson
Molly's Bed and Breakfast	Carol Ledesma
New York Pizza	Marcia Gaudet
New York Pizza	Dr. Kevin Willitts
Port of Subs	Janet Baumann
Port of Subs	Dr. Kevin Willitts
Scotty's Hardware	Dr. Wendy Schopf
Seven-Eleven	Vicki Bain
Seven-Eleven	Salena Davis
Seven-Eleven	Warren Jensen
Seven-Eleven	Phil Junkins
Seven-Eleven	Rae Krieger
Seven-Eleven	Carol Ottomeier
Seven-Eleven	Willette Strong
Seven-Eleven	Bob Wikoff
Sierra-at-Tahoe	Judi Harkins
Simpson's Diamond House	Winnie Costello
Steamer's Bar & Grill	Jan Chamberlain
Steamer's Bar & Grill	Pat Rabbeck
Steamer's Bar & Grill	Dr. Kevin Willitts
Tahoe Paradise Golf Course	Sheryl Ferguson
Tahoe Paradise Golf Course	Louis Ianni
Tahoe Valley Tans	Stephanie Snyder
Tep's Villa Roma	Pat Colletti
Thomas Beaman Photo	Keith Klein
U S Bank	Julia Moore
Video Library	Mary Aseltine
Video Library	Lori Herman
Video Library	Suzanne McDowell
Video Library	Paul Sullivan
Wallace Theaters	Tammy Hassett
Wallace Theaters	Sam Pierini
Wallace Theaters	Russ Sherman
Womack's Texas Bar-B-Q	Mary Miller
Zephyr Cove Snowmobile	Wayne & Raelynn Omel
Zephyr Feed and Boarding	Mike Hughes

(River Otter: Continued From Page 1)

7th. The otter was so small, it fit into the palm of my hand. At 10 days old it was still considered a neonate, so it had to be fed every 3 hours day and night. It was kept in one of the baby squirrel cages on flannel and a heating pad.

The baby did well and grew each day. Otters open their eyes between 28 & 35 days. Mothers don't start swimming lessons until the babies are 3 months old, and, believe it or not, the mother has to push the baby into the water. Sometimes, they have been known to give the pup a piggyback ride then dump them when they get to deep water, forcing them to learn to swim. Well our little otter was no different than his wild brothers & sisters. He did NOT like water. He started his swimming lessons in the kiddy wading pool in the clinic. He would get out almost as fast as we put him in. Because he still had his 1st coat (baby fur) he would have to be dried off with towels. When the otter was 3 ½ months, he was taken outside and got to play in the fish pond. There was only one hang up. I had to take my shoes off and go in the pool with him or I couldn't get him to stay in the water.

Pam Guzzi was working hard to get the River Otter pen all secured, the pools all holding water and the pump running smoothly, so when he was ready for the deeper ponds, they would be ready for him. We also wanted to get him used to his own cage a few weeks before the open house. As we have found out in the past, river otters are a **BIG** hit with the visitors who come to see the wildlife center. They are such clowns and love to play and show off. If there is an audience who laugh and clap - the otter will play even more.

About 1 week before the open house our otter was ready to start living outdoors in his own area. By then, he was living in a plastic airline pet carrier, which was taken outside and put in his cage (with the door removed) and some of the towels left in for him to sleep on. The first thing he did was take his towels **OUT** and move them around to **HIS** liking. He did have a mind of his own. At this point, he was eating more cat fish nuggets which was his food of choice and weaning off his last morning and night bottles.

Other foods the otter learned to eat; crawdads, minnows, mussels, mice & trout.

The otter got to go down to the Truckee River in August to learn more about streams. Some of the volunteers - who wanted to - were welcome to come along. Again, in this **NEW** world it was off with the shoes and into the water with him, **OR** he would NOT

GO in the water very far. By September, you just had to drive him down and walk the shore. He got the name "Adventure Otter". He would dig in the mud and come up with something in his mouth and eat it, swimming and exploring further and further away, so the lessons were paying off.

I made a call to friend of ours, who is also a game warden in Alpine County, told him the story of our otter and why he could not be released back where he came from. I asked permission to release him in Alpine County and if he said yes where there was a colony to release him.

Well as most of you already know the answer was yes, and our otter was released the first part of November. It was a text book release. Tom & I hiked into the East Fork of the Carson River, sat on the bank and let the otter start to explore and swim around. I did take some food with us as it was a long hike and I know he would get hungry. He came over to me and had a snack then back to exploring his new river. At that point I got up and moved behind some trees, and then Tom did the same thing. We stood there for a few minutes and listened. The otter did not whistle for us nor did he come out of the water to find us. So we moved a little further away, and again stood and waited. If he did come looking or crying for us we were going to take him back home and try another day. But again, nothing. No crying sounds or coming out of the water looking for us. So we turned and hiked back to the car, knowing all the otter had to do was go down river around the bend to two large pools with lots of food and best of all **OTHER RIVER OTTERS!!!**. I'm sure our 'Adventure Otter' found his new friends and is now loving and living life in the wild!



The Day of Release. The River Otter is swimming in his NEW Home. He only took about 10 minutes to feel right at home!

Cruisin to Alaska

by Tom Millham, LTWC Secty/Treas

9 years ago, we took our first ever cruise. It was our 25th Anniversary gift from our oldest daughter, Debi. We absolutely loved it. Five days, from San Pedro to Catalina Island to Ensenada, Mexico, cruise for one day, then back to San Pedro.

EVER SINCE THEN, Cheryl has wanted to take a cruise to Alaska. We have had many friends who have done this and told us it is definitely something we HAVE to do, especially since we are in the 'wildlife' field.

When we were talking about going on this cruise, we have had several couples tell us that they would seriously consider going with us.

Well, we finally did it. We have a booking. NOW, this is your opportunity to go to Alaska. If you are interesting in joining us, we would LOVE to welcome you. Here are the specifics.

The cruise line is Princess Cruises. The ship is the soon to be ONE-YEAR-OLD 'Diamond Princess'. The departure port is Seattle, Washington on Saturday May 7th (4:00pm) for a 7 day cruise, returning on May 14th (7:00am return).

The first day (Sunday) is at sea, and then stops at Juneau, Skagway, Tracy Arm Scenic Cruising, Ketchikan and Victoria, with Skagway being the northern most point.

We plan to fly out of Reno in the late morning on the 7th, flying into Seattle and arriving at the ship by 2:00pm.

This could be one chance you have to go - with some people you know - to one of the last virtual wilderness areas. Unfortunately, we were too late for this cruise to book a group, but we will definitely plan to do something like this in the near future. Therefore, you must book the cruise yourself, either with your travel agent, or Princess Cruises. If you do book, PLEASE, let us know so we can get together while on board and have some group fun. Cruisin is always more fun when you are with people you know.

Want to go to Alaska? Join us on May 7th on the Diamond Princess!



The El Dorado County Board of Supervisors take time out to see, first hand, the operation of Lake Tahoe Wildlife Care, following their one meeting in District V (Lake Tahoe). Along with LTWC Vice-President Dr. Kevin Willitts (3rd from left), and LTWC Board Member, Mark Treiber (4th from left), LTWC Secty/Treas Tom Millham explains to the Board the process our volunteers take when receiving orphaned wildlife.

(Bear Cubs - Continued From Page 4)

own. So the next time I got a call on the cub, I called BEAR League members Mary Kay & Jack Frazee. We went out to see the cub for ourselves (people often misjudge the weight of bear). THEN, we could see if it really did need help. When we arrived the cub was up a tree and, YES, it was small - too small to be on its own. But since it was up the tree and would not come down - we left. LTWC got a call later that night. The man said, "We just left a live trap on your deck with a very small cub that's in need of help. Keep the trap." I called our Fish and Game Captain, Roy Griffith to inform him of the situation. They asked if we could bring the cub to Fish & Game in Rancho Cordova. Our Board President, Bob Rutherford, along with his wife Sue (who is also a LTWC Board Member), took the cub to F & G. After blood work and other test were done they decided the cub was a good candidate for rehab. Bob & Sue brought it back to the wildlife center that same day.

The 2nd cub is also a local bear. LTWC got a call from a ranger from D. L. Bliss State Park. There had been a family staying at the park for two weeks. The first week they had seen a momma bear with a small cub walking by. The second week they saw the baby - but no mom. After a week, the family called the ranger who in turn called the wildlife center, who in turn called Fish & Game. I really don't recall who called whom, but our Captain, Roy Griffith called and said if the cub is out of the state park, go and pick it up. Three days later, we got a call from a private house under construction, which was just to the north of Bliss State Park. So Tom and I took a cage some food and took off. The little cub

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New Location

by Tom Millham, LTWC Secty/Treas

When LTWC went before the El Dorado County Board of Supervisors in December 2002, we were strongly 'advised' by the Board to earnestly look for a new location for our facility. We advised the Board that we had indeed been looking since 1995 to no avail.

At the December 2002 meeting, we did have an ally though. He was the incoming Mayor Pro-Tem of the City of South Lake Tahoe, **Tom Davis**. Tom informed the Board that he would work with the City to do what was necessary to find that 'location' for LTWC to move, where they would not be in competition with a residential area.

Originally, the city was making an attempt for us to move to the property to the north of the airport tower. Unfortunately, after some additional research, they needed to comply with FAA regulations (FAA funding was used to purchase the property) and we did not fit into those guidelines.

We met with the City of SLT, California Tahoe Conservancy, El Dorado County, TRPA and the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit (Forest Service). There was the possibility that the South Tahoe Public Utility District may have had some property which we could have utilized. Nothing! Everywhere we turned, the door was closed. NOW, the committee, which was helping us find a new location, could see exactly what we have been encountering since 1995, which is when WE started looking for a new location.

Then, this past September, **Tom Davis** informed us of a 16 acre piece of property which was FOR SALE. We weren't exactly looking to purchase property, as we were in hopes we could get in on the shirt-tails of another entity (government or private) which had property and we would be able to get a long term lease at a LOW annual rate (like \$1 a year??). Nothing.

So, we are at a point now that we have defined a location. The property - IF we can swing it - would solve most of our problems. It is less than 5 minutes from our present location, yet very accessible. There would be no close neighbors. It would not have the coverage restrictions we currently have for additional or special enclosures.

(Continued - Next Column)

(New Location - Continued)

Our Board has voted to look into the possibilities of funding for purchase AND construction. The new facility would not only take care of REHABILITATION, as we do now, BUT, it would also serve as an EDUCATIONAL CENTER displaying birds and animals of the High Sierra's. It would offer a 'Wildlife Park', which would show wildlife, IN THEIR NATURAL HABITAT! This would be a place for locals and non-locals would visit to expand their education on the wonder of Mother Nature. After all, we are here to

"Give Mother Nature a Helping Hand!"

Now we need to put together some plans for the property, price out what the cost would be, then - look for funding. The PRELIMINARY budget looks to be in the \$8 - \$10 Million dollar range.

So, if any of you have this kind of money where you would like to get a tax deduction (we are a 501(c)(3) Non-Profit organization), PLEASE, have them contact us. OR, IF you know of someone in this category, please let them know what we are planning.

This shall prove to be a **VERY INTERESTING** over the next few years.

Our Special Angels

by Tom Millham, LTWC Secty/Treas

As most of you know, the past couple of years have been 'lean' on the financial side. Not just at LTWC, but in our community, state and country.

2003 was a particular struggle for us as our Membership renewal was down, our fund raisers were down and our Private Donations were down. We were coming to the end of the year wondering how we were going to make it through the winter. We knew that in April (2004) we would be sending out our membership renewals for 2004-05, but that was over 5 months away.

Cheryl was *seriously* considering taking a winter job to help offset the costs of the organization, let alone our personal costs as well. It was the first time since we hired her as our FULL TIME Executive Director that we have been in this type of situation.

I had a vision that would enable us to financially get through the winter and keep Cheryl from working TWO winter jobs. Yes, it is true that her job as Executive Director with LTWC is minimal in the winter time, but, this is when she finishes up the paperwork from the previous summer and prepares for the upcoming baby season. No. She never stops working. And, we do,

(Continued - Next Page)

(Our Special Angels - Continued)

every year, have some wildlife to care for in the winter-time which need food and cleaning.

I sent out some letters to some of YOU who have shown the ability – AND WILLINGNESS - to financially contribute to our organization in our effort to care for the orphaned and injured wildlife entrusted to us for their eventual release BACK TO THE WILD!

My goal??? To raise \$15,000 - which would get us through to the April membership drive. I am pleased to inform you that we raised over \$18,000 from this plea. As I told the recipients in the letter they received, this is the first time in 28 years that I have had to resort to this type of 'drastic' measure and I hope that I never have to do it again. The request was for a minimum of \$1,000 per request, expecting 15 or 20 of the recipients to respond. To my delighted surprise, 28 responses were received which did get us through our temporary predicament. To EACH and EVERY one who responded in our time of need, we thank you. YOU are OUR Special Angels!

I am very pleased to offer a Special Thank you to Our Special Angels. There were others who contributed, but, for their own reasons, asked that their names not be listed. In the box below, you will see those who not only helped us out, but then agreed to allow us to list their name so we can thank them privately AND publicly. So, on behalf of our Board of Directors, our volunteers and, especially, the wildlife we care for,

THANK YOU!!!

Betsy Cohen, Dave and Carla Ennis, Eric and Ann Nelson, Jonna and Bill Hutt, Wayne Hyllegard, Bill and Jean Lane, Doc Llamas, Steve and Laurie Malley, Jim McKray, Julie Moore, Drew and Carol Rutter and Evie Viera & Dave Isenberg.

(Bear Cubs - Continued From Page 9)

was so hungry it took no time at all and he was in the cage and on the way back to the wildlife center. After a trip down to Fish & Game for blood work and evaluation, we were told we could rehab this cub too.

After we made sure the cub was eating we started introducing the two cubs to each other. At first, they did not take to each other. The first cub (from Fallen Leaf) made sure the new cub (from Bliss State Park area) understood it was her cage and she was in charge. This attitude lasted about 2 weeks. Finally the

cubs got to be friends. From that time on, they have been inseparable.

We had finished the work on the bear cage, ready for its first inhabitants. It now has NEW chain link for the food area and den ceilings and, the best part, Kirk Gillaspay, installed our 3 video surveillance cameras. I have two brothers who both got involved as well. Darryl Bender, my older brother, figured out the problem and fixed the gelatin doors - which never worked properly from day one. They now work perfectly. My younger brother, Dr. Robert Bender, strung the audio and video cabling to both the Bobcat cage and the Bear Cage. Without my whole family pitching in, we wouldn't have finished it before the 2004 Open House on August 1st.

When the bears were moved over to their new cage, they really seemed to have fun exploring the area and playing with all the 'new' toys. I taped a lot of their play time and it was very interesting watching them interacting - when they had no idea they were being watched. They now had the ability to run and hide from us. Every time they hear someone open the outside door, they run into the back den and hide. The 'den' door is then dropped down and we go in and clean the feed and play area. Food is then placed around the cage in different places for the bears to find when we open the den door and leave the cage. The bears then move into the play area to see what they can find and we sneak back in and close the Play Room door - and clean the den area. This may seem involved - just to clean their cage - but this way we are not in contact with them, (*even visually*) in any way.

In the summer, the cubs ate mostly fruits and greens, along with fish & crawdads, caught by Sayers Tanner. Another rehabber, Sue Hammer, who started and runs Tri-County Wildlife, was able to freeze and donate some fawns that didn't survive. This way, the cubs were introduced to lots of *natural* food. Right now - their favorites are pumpkins, nuts and persimmons.

I have been asked where they are going to be released. That decision still belongs to Fish & Game, but we do have a location to place them. The BEAR League and the Washoe Indian Tribe made four bear dens above Homewood Ski Area and, since they are both local cubs, I hope we could get permission to release them there.

BEAR League Dinner

Editors Note: Cheryl was asked to be the Keynote speaker for the BEAR League's Annual Dinner on November 11th. She did her usual outstanding job with videos and commentary on the two bear cubs we are now raising, that it earned this reply from the BEAR League Board. Judge for yourself.

Dear Cheryl and Tom,

Need I tell you what a 'super-duper' presentation you gave the other night at the BEAR membership dinner? It was truly a memorable event. The Board members have been writing back and forth to each other all weekend, congratulating themselves on 'what an outstanding evening' the Millham's provided last Thursday night!!

Did you notice how everyone was enthralled and didn't move? When I first saw the cubs on the screen before dinner, I knew that dinner was going to be a lot of fun. What a perfect touch for the pre-dinner! Dave Baker mentioned to me at the table that having the cub footage to watch also provided an 'ice-breaker' of sorts for the members from which to begin talking about bears. I believe I saw a real 'thinking' going on with the cubs. You could almost see thought processes in the little guys: their thoughts beforehand, too, of probable consequences for an action. Bear do have so many capabilities that show just how intelligent they really are. And, thank heavens, that fact is finally beginning to be realized. I found the footage outstanding and certainly endearing . . . as we ALL did. I bet you no longer need television. Watching those cubs is so much better than any reality show!

You have a knowledge and expertise about animals, in general . . . bears, in particular, that makes listening to you talk so interesting, informative and entertaining. Of course, the subject matter is one very dear to all our hearts! Both of you, Cheryl and Tom, exude so much good humor, ease and friendliness that being a part of the audience is a delight and real treat. The BEAR League Board wants to express our gratitude to you.

"Thank you so much, Cheryl and Tom"

The BEAR League Board

Many Ways To Volunteer

Linda Mueller, LTWC Board Member

One of the biggest rewards for many Lake Tahoe Wildlife Care volunteers is to work directly with the wildlife at the center. The majority of people who come to the Annual Training Seminar each year are eager to work with the animals. In a typical summer at LTWC, there are raccoons and fawns to bottle feed, baby songbirds to feed every half hour throughout the day, owls, hawks, and eagles to feed and plenty of squirrels and chipmunks in need of care. On occasion LTWC has also received bear cubs to rehab, river otters to raise, and bobcats recovering from injury. Each year LTWC is grateful for the volunteers who come out to help care for the animals at the center.

As important as it is to care for the wildlife, it is not the **ONLY** way in which to volunteer at LTWC. Like most non-profit organizations, fundraising is also an important aspect. Volunteering at the LTWC Food Booth at the Great Gatsby Festival or the Kokanee Salmon Festival is a great way to help out the organization. LTWC also sponsors an aid station for the annual Death Ride and Tour de Tahoe, and is always in need of volunteers to help set up and work the stations. Help is also needed stuffing envelopes and affixing address labels during both the annual fundraising raffle and membership drive, not to mention THIS publication - *The Quill!* Do you consider yourself a "people person"? Perhaps helping to obtain the raffle prizes from local businesses would be a fun way in which to volunteer. Or maybe SELLING raffle tickets is more to your taste.

For those with a flexible schedule, LTWC often needs assistance with transporting animals on short notice. Are you a carpenter, electrician, or plumber by trade? LTWC can use your talents. Volunteers are also welcome to submit articles of interest for publication in *The Quill*.

If any of these volunteer opportunities interest you, AND you are looking for an enjoyable way to give of your time, please contact LTWC at **577-CARE**. Also be sure to mark your calendar for **LTWC's 27th Annual Volunteer Training Seminar** scheduled for the weekend of May 21st - 22nd, 2005.

Lake Tahoe Wildlife Care, Inc.

27th Annual 2-Day Training Seminar

2005 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 foster home 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.

Learn to be a trained wildlife care volunteer by taking this two-day seminar. The lecture will cover diets, feeding techniques, housing and first-aid, 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 21st & May 22nd, 2005**. The **Saturday** session is from **9am to 4pm**. The **Sunday** session is from **10am to 5pm** at **LTWC's** Center with lunch provided (Sunday).



CLASS F.OEE

\$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**.

Deadline for registration fee is **Sunday, May 15, 2005!**

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 21st & Sunday, May 22nd, 2005.
\$60 Per Person! OR \$60 FIRST Family Member and \$40 for each ADDITIONAL Family Member!

Name _____ Street Address _____

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

2004 Open House

by Tom Millham, LTWC Secty/Treas

To say that LTWC's 2004 Open House was the most successful ever, would be an understatement. It was, by far, the best organized, best attended, best support by the volunteer staff and raised the most financial support.

The Board of Directors 'wisely' elected to have the Open House on the first Sunday in August this year, one week later than we had originally planned. Several things made this event significant. First of all, **FOR THE FIRST TIME EVER**, we had the birds and animals in the cages **FOR WHICH THE CAGES WERE BUILT!!!**

Imagine that. We actually had the raccoons in the raccoon cage, the bobcat in the bobcat cage, the river otter in the river cage - - - well, you get the point. Plus, we were fortunate enough to have two bear cubs in the Pete and Diana Mountanos Bear Rehab Cage. And, so that the public could actually SEE what was in the bear cage, we finally were able to set up the cameras and monitor we purchased with a donation from Harrahs Tahoe to monitor the cubs.

LTWC Board Member, Kirk Gillaspay volunteered his time to set up the cameras and run the cabling up to the clinic where he also set up the monitor and the VCR recorder. It is a surveillance type system that enables us to 'split' the monitor screen four ways, seeing four different views on the screen at one time. The public was able to see the cubs playing, without the distraction of hearing unfamiliar noises right outside the door to their 'home'.

The river otter, as usual, was playful to the point that river otters are. In other words, he was swimming, going up and down the chutes connecting his different pools and - basically - just being a normal river otter. There were golden eagles in the flight area, hawks and owls in the mew and coyotes in the coyote pen.

Over 1200 people visited Lake Tahoe Wildlife Care in a 6 hour span on Sunday, August 1st. With donations, t-shirt sales, and supporters offering their membership renewals, we raised over \$4,500, TWICE as much as ever before.

We would like to thank the Tahoe Daily Tribune (Paul Middlebrook, publisher) for their front page space announcing the Open House and thanks to KOWL,

KRLT and KTHO radio stations for their public service announcements.

Our Board of Directors would like to thank all of our volunteers who acted as 'Tour Guides' on this day. They were able to get this many people through the facility, show off the good work we accomplish and answer questions. **THEY** are the reason we are as successful as we are.

NORMALLY, the rehab area is off limits to the public. We get inquiries daily for people to come in and 'SEE' the wildlife we have in house. Due to the fact that they are in the 'rehabilitation' stage, we are unable to comply with their request, **BUT**, this one day of the year, we make an exception. It gives the local folks an opportunity to see what goes on behind our 'Closed Doors'.

If you were one of those who visited us on August 1st, we hope you enjoyed your tour. WE enjoyed having you!

Sierra-at-Tahoe SNOWSPORTS WEEK February 7 - 10, 2005

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	

LTWC's 2005 CALENDAR OF EVENTS!

*****Please Note***** At the October 10, 2004 Board Meeting, the Board of Directors voted Unanimously to CHANGE the QUARTERLY Board Meetings to MONTHLY Board Meetings (EXCEPT for June and August). Meetings will be held on the SECOND Tuesday of the month at 7:00pm @ LTWC!

January	11th	Monthly LTWC Board of Director's Meeting @ LTWC Center - 7:00pm
March	8th - 12th	NWRA Annual Symposium, Minneapolis, MN - Marriott
May	21st & 22nd	27th Annual Training Seminar

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 2005 the year to make a commitment.

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION!

Active (For 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, since 2000. 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
Anonymous

Bobcat

(\$5,000 Donation)

Estate of Alice Valla
Shactman Foundation

Bald Eagle

(\$2,500 Donation)

Tahoe Mountain Milers	Doni and Jim Glassmaker
Gloria Bourke	Mr. and Mrs. L. W. Lane
Tony and Beth Sears	Harveys/Harrahs
Drew and Carol Rutter	Sierra at Tahoe

Golden Eagle

(\$1,000 Donation)

Robert M. Lee Foundation	Willette Strong
Rob and Chris St. James	Caesars Tahoe Dealer's
Larry and Julie Moore	McLane and Adelle Tilton
Tahoe League f/Charity	Kevin & Kathryn Schaller
Evie Viera Dave Isenberg	Herbert "Rick" Ahlswede
Betsy Cohen Doc Llamas	Dave and Carla Ennis
Cliff and Holly Hansen	
Jennifer Randall - Youth Develop. Fdn.	
Kirk and Lynda Gillaspey	
Greg Cattoni - Randy's Locksmith	

Great-Horned Owl

(\$500 Donation)

Bob and Grace Rowland
Mike, Lesley & Staci Furtado
Yosemite Association
Pat Banner; Carla Yant
Richard and Dana Smith-Miller
Bill and Jonna Hutt; Ron and Jan Cook
Barbara Harootunian;
Don and Kay Edwards; Barbara Kucala
Tammy and Harley Hoy
Dr. Mireya Ortega and Ron Cline
Laurie and Steve Malley

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