

# Wildlife Lines

Evelyn Alexander

Fall 2017  
Volume 21  
Issue 4

## WILDLIFE RESCUE CENTER



### GREAT BLUE HERONS...

- are the largest and most widespread heron in North America
- are very tall, standing 3 to 4.5 feet high with a six-foot wingspan
- diets consist mainly of fish but they will also eat amphibians, invertebrates, reptiles, small mammals and other birds
- forage in fresh and brackish water as well as open fields
- nest in pairs and take turns incubating their eggs for 4 weeks

### Many species of heron live on Long Island:

Great Blue Heron    Little Blue Heron  
Tricolored Heron    Green Heron  
Black-crowned Night-Heron  
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron

## FISHING LINE AND A GREAT BLUE HERON

On September 14, a woman walked into our center very upset that she spotted an ailing large bird on her property several miles away. Rescue/Transport volunteer Shane Carter happened to be at the Center and offered to go take a look. When he arrived, he saw a very frightened Great Blue Heron, all tangled in fishing line and unable to move. Skillfully, he draped a large towel over the bird, reached under, and held his head away from him as he lifted the large bird into the rescue container. He did this to protect his face and eyes, since large wading birds with their long sharp beaks tend to stab at a rescuer's face. He drove quickly back to our Center with the bird.

Once in the exam room, Animal Care Technician Staci Earl quickly removed the fishing line since it was tangled around his legs, wings AND beak. Then she set the bird back down in the container and allowed him to rest. The bird felt much better after the line was removed, and began to stand and look around at his new surroundings. After his initial resting period, Staci conducted a more thorough examination. In addition to deep gashes in his wing webbing and throughout his legs, she was horrified to see maggots heavily infested in the wound. The poor bird must've suffered like this for days. She flushed the wounds and removed the maggots, gave him fluids, electrolytes and vitamins and set up his caging with a hiding area for the night.

The next morning, we were disappointed to see that he had not eaten. Blood was drawn and results indicated his red cell count was low. He also looked weak. He was given more fluids and also hand fed a few small fish. Three more days passed with daily bandage changes, gentle hand feedings and a comfortable place to rest with lots of padding. On the fourth day, he was stronger and started to eat. On the 10<sup>th</sup> day, he started to perch which was very encouraging.

As happens too often in an artificial rehab center setting, the bird somehow managed to injure the back toe on his left foot. Although we inspected his cage, we could not see where he injured himself and surmised that it must have happened when he flew up to his higher perch. You see, when birds are in captivity, especially large birds such as the Great Blue Heron, we still can never replicate the expanse of a true wild setting where the bird can maneuver properly. We treated the wound, but it soon became apparent that the toe would have to be amputated. Again, Dr. Justin Molnar of the Shinnecock Animal Hospital came to our aid and surgically removed the back toe.

The heron perched well, even with the back toe missing and consultation with avian experts indicated that it shouldn't matter if he is missing one back toe. As soon as another few days of warm, clear weather came along, on October 27<sup>th</sup>, we released this gorgeous bird and watched him fly away. We were so happy we could give him another chance at life.

Please do not discard fishing line or pick it up if you see it along our beaches and waterways. We wonder how many other animals die that go unnoticed. This one was lucky.

-Virginia M. Frati

# Eastern Long Island's ONLY Wildlife Hospital



## A MESSAGE FROM GINNIE

*Evelyn Alexander*  
**Wildlife Rescue Center**  
**Eastern Long Island's**  
**ONLY Wildlife Hospital**  
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The Evelyn Alexander Wildlife Rescue Center Hospital is located at Munn's Pond County Park through a cooperative agreement with Suffolk County Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation and the EAWRC, a private, non-profit environmental group. A financial report is on file with the NYS Attorney General, 120 Broadway NY, NY and on the web at [www.charitiesnys.org](http://www.charitiesnys.org)



All of our recent promotional materials are now emphasizing "What Would Happen?" as in *What Would Happen If We Didn't Exist?*

Our Center admits over 1,300 animals each year – all needing first aid and rehabilitative care. These admissions only occur after the initial rescue. We have 30 to 40 trained rescue/transport volunteers, responding to calls to our center of injured or sick wild animals throughout the East End of Long Island. We also help callers from areas farther away, referring them to wildlife rehabilitators and animal hospitals that accept wildlife in their area.

What would happen to these animals if we didn't exist? Would they lie in the road, painfully waiting to die? Would a sympathetic police officer shoot them? In front of how many bystanders? Would they languish on your lawn or property, cold and injured, while your young child cries and asks you to do something?

And yet, we don't charge for the care and comfort we bring these animals. Day in and day out, our staff and volunteers change bandages, administer medications, do physical therapy, change bedding, replenish food, arrange veterinary care. Then there is the endless cage cleaning, laundry, sweeping and mopping, sanitizing surfaces and all the back-breaking work that goes along with it.

Fundraising becomes more difficult as area non-profits vie for the limited kindness of supporters. While we have been blessed with donors who sponsor the building of a cage or



equipment, the continuation of our every-day services depends on donations for our operating budget – for food, medicine, veterinary care, insurance, gasoline, telephone, animal care staff and more.

Please help us by donating. No amount is too small since the bulk of our operating money comes from adding up all the general donations. You may also purchase raffle tickets for our upcoming drawing on December 30 to win \$1,000 worth of groceries to the supermarket of your choice. Or consider a generous donation for our end-of-year appeal that is going out in the mail this November.

We want to exist – for you, for the community, and especially for our wild friends. Please help us continue to do so.

*-Virginia Frati, Executive Director*

### **We are pleased to announce that attorney, Zachary Riyaz, has joined our Board of Directors**



Zachary was raised on Long Island. He graduated from Sachem High School and earned his undergraduate degree from the State University of New York at Stony Brook. Thereafter, he attended Albany Law School of Union University, where he was editor of the Environmental Outlook Journal. Furthermore, Zachary received his Masters of Business Administration (M.B.A) from the Johnson School of Business at the Cornell University. Zachary has devoted his practice to commercial litigation, matrimonial and family law on Long Island, representing business owners, executives, teachers, police officers, doctors, attorneys, homemakers, union members, and firefighters. Zachary has succeeded in obtaining favorable results for his many clients over the years. He is well known among judges and fellow attorneys as a knowledgeable, skillful and compassionate advocate. The law offices of Zachary I. Riyaz, P.C. are located in Riverhead and Roslyn, New York.

# THANKS TO OUR VOLUNTEERS AND STAFF!

## A BIG THANK YOU TO THE PEOPLE WHO ASSISTED US LAST QUARTER!

**HOSPITAL/EDUCATION VOLUNTEERS:** Katie Bradley, Doria Canino, Denis Carpenter, Alison Coffey, Susan Coseglio, Alyssa Cummo, Angelina Dickinson, Theresa Dietrich, Elloise Dransfield, Geraldine Donadio, Amanda Ellis, Jackie Farris, Tammy Flannel, Bette Lou Fletcher, Jodie Flynn, Luke Forgacs, Michael Fried, Joan Fusco, Brenda Gibney, Jane Gill, Lilly Griffin, Brenda Harms, Rylee Hirshenson, Hannah Immerman, Jill Janiel, Layne Koeppel, Mary Koval, Kendra Kunzer, Allison Ross Landon, Kyra Leonardi, Carol Lozano, Jim and Cheryl MacDougall, Christina MacDougall, Gina Martin, Nicole Matuza, Sarah Meyer, Eileen Miller, Allie Mirsky, Mary Ann Mulvihill-Decker, Sharon Nelson, Emily Newman, Marissa Pfeiffer, Audrey Roessel, Xylia Serafy, Shannon Sheridan-Chiaro, Susan Siegel, Cathleen Springer, Sue Vaughan, Andrea Vignola, Karen Weber, Freddi Whitall, Holly Williams

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**SPECIAL THANKS** to Bob Eisenberg of East End Blueprint in Watermill for donating the printing of our newsletter.

## Supporter of the Quarter

We would like to extend our sincere gratitude to Ingrid Arneberg and Will Marin for their unwavering support of our hospital and center. We appreciate all that you have made possible for us!



**COOPERATING VETERINARIANS:** Dr. Jennifer Katz, Dr. Jonathan Turetsky and Dr. Eva Cohen from the Veterinary Clinic of East Hampton; Dr. Justin Molnar of Shinnecock Animal Hospital; Dr. Gal Vataash and Dr. Robin Jeager of East End Veterinary Emergency Center; Dr. Robert Pisciotto of North Fork Animal Hospital, Dr. Paul Hollander of East Hampton Vet Group, Dr. Claude Grosjean of Olde Towne Animal Hospital, Dr. John Andresen of Mattituck-Laurel Veterinary Hospital, and Dr. Jonathan Mehltro and Dr. Noelle LeCroix, Veterinary Medical Center of Long Island.

**SPECIAL THANKS** to Kelly Gang, deer rescuer extraordinaire

**SPECIAL THANKS** to Jim and Frank at Wild By Nature in Hampton Bays for supplying us with produce almost every day for our recuperating wild patients.

**SPECIAL THANKS** once again to the Life Skills Academy students at Hampton Bays High School for their assistance

## WHERE WOULD YOU BRING INJURED WILDLIFE IF WE DIDN'T EXIST?



**WE OPERATE ENTIRELY ON DONATIONS!**

**Please consider a tax-deductible, end of year donation.**

We are open **365 DAYS A YEAR** and are **ONLY** here because of your generosity! Our mission is to rescue, rehabilitate and release wildlife back into their natural habitat. The Evelyn Alexander Wildlife Rescue Center is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

# WHAT'S HAPPENING...



Thank you to Eagle Scout Jason Ambrose for his wonderful Local Birds Wing Span Display!



Our thanks to Nicholas Westeroff for his Eagle Scout Project of squirrel boxes and an informational kiosk!



Paws on Parade, Southampton



Bats, Barnacles, Broomsticks and at L.I. Aquarium, Riverhead



Craft Fair at EAWRC Hampton Bays



## J. McLaughlin

Southampton Village

Thank you to J. McLaughlin, Missy Hargraves, Stephanie Mattera and Jacques Azoulay for hosting a fun-filled benefit and shopping event!






## From the Mailbag

I am donating in memory of...Suzanne. What a great girl...what a wonderful organization.  
H.P. Weston, CT

You all are terrific! The opossum story last month was inspiring!  
L.C. Sag Harbor, NY

Thank you for helping the goose with the infected leg.  
M.N. New York, NY

Thank you for all the wonderful things you do to help the animals.  
V. K. Westhampton Beach, NY

Thank you for sending Ellen...to our woods [for] a deer lying down...everything turned out to be just fine.  
J & J MacKay East Quogue, NY

Thank you! To the volunteers and others who take care of hurt & sick animals in the Hamptons...you rescued a hurt swan from our house.  
L. A. New York, NY

Jim and his wife were wonderful...they introduced lots of new people to the great work that Wildlife Rescue does.  
V.K. Southampton, NY

Kindly accept this donation in appreciation of trying to save a rabbit...outside our homes.  
A.T., R.D. L.F, A, V.L. Blauvelt, NY

## Memorials

- Lou Arroyo
- Catherine Cahill
- Richard W. Carter
- Josephine Faller
- Jean E. Ferrigno
- Dorothy and John Topham
- Suzanne Obser
- Bekki Shires
- Carolyn Skiffington
- Adrienn Hellman
- David Jaklevic
- Nan S. Mason
- Chris Morrell

*Evelyn Alexander*



**Wildlife Rescue Center**

Get  
**WILD**



*Honorees Dr. and Mrs. Justin and Amy Molnar of Shinnecock Animal Hospital, picture with family. Ginnie Frati and Shelley Berkoski (left)*



Special thank you to our generous hosts, Leslie Alexander and Liz Brown, for welcoming us at their home in support of our Summer Gala. Don't miss our Summer 2018 event!

*Evelyn Alexander Wildlife Rescue Center*

**Drawing  
DECEMBER 30TH**

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\$1000  
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**To purchase tickets...**

**631.728.WILD**

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# STORIES FROM THE CENTER



## The Broken Wing

She gazed up at me with a tiny black eye, tilting her iridescent head. I didn't move. In my hand was a thin plastic syringe that had been adapted to look like a flower. Instead of a needle, it had plastic petals. Instead of medicine, it held a nutritious formula perfectly designed for a recuperating hummingbird. Which is what I so badly wanted her to be.

The hummingbird had a broken wing, injured when a well-meaning homeowner tried to rescue her in a garage. A miniscule bandage now held the wing against her body like a splint. I could hardly imagine such a fragile, complicated little wing ever healing. It wouldn't unless she took the rich nectar we were offering every fifteen minutes. I remained still, pointing the tube at her delicate body perched regally on a small branch. She turned away. Finally she inserted her needle-like beak into the syringe and took a long drink. I sighed. When she was done, I reset the timer and went on to feed some nestlings in the incubator.

At the Evelyn Alexander Wildlife Rescue Center, I am privileged to assist many injured, orphaned and ill wild animals. Most are birds—from freshly hatched songbirds to adult mute swans whose necks are longer than my arm, whose webbed feet are larger than my hand. The center also rehabilitates many mammals, including foxes, opossums and woodchucks.

The most vulnerable animals here live in incubators. Volunteers have woven nests shaped like infants' hats. They are put in bowls, covered with tissues and filled with newborn songbirds. As I opened the incubator door, tiny beaks on sinewy necks stretched toward me. Into each gaping mouth, I inserted a portion of nestling formula. As soon as it was swallowed, up came each beak again begging for more. Finally sated, each baby bird then got a drop or two of water. I scooped them all up gently and replaced the tissues that lined their nests with fresh ones. I covered them lightly with another one to help them stay warm, as they aren't yet regulating their own body temperature.

Black Friday. Cyber Monday.  
**#GIINGTUESDAY™**  
 November 28, 2017

### Daily needs at the Center:

Bleach Dawn dish soap  
 Q-tips Tissues (unscented)  
 Paper Towels Epsom Salts  
 HE Detergent (unscented)  
 Baby Food (puree)  
 Yogurt (fruit and plain)

*Please think of us during your next shopping trip... even one item helps!*

**Margaret Turner**  
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*(The Broken Wing, cont.)*

There were six bowls of nestlings to feed. One bird was so tiny he looked like an embryo with wings. But when he gaped, he was all mouth. Some were larger and will soon move into nearby fledgling cages. These babies demanded much more of the rich mixture. They seemed insatiable, but I knew to stop before they overate, as their crops were full.

The following week, I walked in and my heart leapt. She flew figure eights around her cage. The wing had healed! She seemed jubilant as did the staff. Still she needed to be feeding herself 100% of the time. She was getting close.

An abundance of flowers bloom here in June—especially at our nurseries. Particularly notable are the species whose blossoms are tubular, their enticing petals offering a parfait of nectar within. Enticing that is if you are a ruby-throated hummingbird who favors this type of bloom.

When I next returned to the rescue center, I learned the good news. The gardens of a local nursery became the temporary home to one very lucky hummingbird, who once had a broken wing. She was released out of doors into this floral paradise, thanks to the incredible dedication, skill and compassion of the wildlife rehabilitators at our Wildlife Rescue Center in Hampton Bays. Like so many creatures they have released, she has returned to the wild, to freedom. She now grows stronger amid the delphinium, among the fuchsia and nourished by the sweet manna of beebalm and bergamot, hyssop and honeysuckle. She resumes her place within the web of nature, pollinating flowers, eating insects and perhaps mating. And when the light shortens and the nights grow cool, she will embark on a southern journey as remarkable, as incomparable as her exquisite beauty. She will follow imperatives, encrypted to all but her kind, which will guide her across forests, wetlands and bays, above farms, bayous and even the sea. And by the grace of God, she may well return to our South Fork carried by forces incomprehensible, compelling and elemental.

*- Mary Ann Mulvihill-Decker (EAWRC volunteer)*

**GET INVOLVED**

***VOLUNTEERS NEEDED***

- \*hospital help
- \*fundraising and events
- \*rescuing animals in the field

***RESCUE TRANSPORT CLASSES***

Learn how to safely handle sick, injured and orphaned animals in this free one-hour class given monthly.

***CHECK OUR WEBSITE FOR UPCOMING CLASS DATES AND APPLICATIONS!***

[www.wildliferescuecenter.org](http://www.wildliferescuecenter.org)

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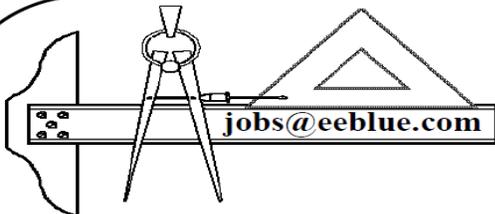
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