



# *Wild Life Lines*

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## *Wildlife Mom*

*by Shayna Carter*



**A**lthough Mother's Day has long passed, we'd like to honor a very special wildlife mom who touched the hearts of every volunteer and staff member at the rescue center.

One morning, a mother opossum was brought to our facility after being struck by a car. She and her 9 babies were all alive, thankfully, but mom had suffered damage to both of her nostrils and was also battling head trauma, as she likely had been struck in the head. It was hard for her breathe through her nostrils, and the head trauma she sustained made it very difficult for her to function properly. The first few days she wouldn't move around much and she wasn't eating on her own. Staff had to hand feed her to give her the nutrients necessary that mom needed to keep her and her 9 babies alive. It was a rough road to recovery but mom opossum started to pull through! She started to become more active, eat on her own, and of course take care of her babies. We were amazed that throughout all the trauma she suffered, her babies and the pouch they were kept in (as opossums are marsupials and their babies are kept in a

pouch for the first stages of life) stayed very clean thanks to mom!

Mom continued to get stronger and stronger, her head trauma and the damage to her nostrils slowly healing up very well. Some time after mom and her 9 babies came in, we admitted 4 baby opossums whose mother was hit by a car and unfortunately didn't make it. The 4 babies were just about the size of mom opossum's 9 babies, and mom had 4 more nipples for milk to spare, as opossums have 13 nipples in total. The hospital staff decided to give the orphaned babies a new mom! And she took to them immediately! Cleaning them, allowing them access to her nipples for milk, she became a star mom and adopted mom! Eventually mom opossum completely healed from the trauma she had suffered after a few long weeks of recovery; and by the time she and the babies were ready for release, a few of the babies were big enough to be on their own. When they were admitted, the babies were under 50 grams!

Mom opossum and her 13 babies were released back to the wild where they'll hopefully stay far away from cars. We would like to remind everyone to be mindful of wildlife when driving, as they live here as well and depend on us to watch out for them when they decide they need to cross a roadway. Good luck mom and babies!



*Evelyn Alexander*  
**Wildlife Rescue Center**  
**Eastern Long Island's**  
**ONLY Wildlife Hospital**  
 631-728-WILD (9453)  
 228 W. Montauk Highway  
 Hampton Bays, NY 11946  
 info@wildliferescuecenter.org  
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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)



## *A Message From Ginnie*

Virginia Frati, Executive Director

**A**s I was driving home the other day, I turned onto my street, only to see that another piece of vacant property had been cleared. All the trees had been removed and were laying on their sides. Now mind you, this was the beginning of July – right at the prime nesting season for our songbirds. Horrified, I stopped my car and walked through the lot trying to see if I could find any nesting baby birds that couldn't get away from the bulldozer but had somehow managed to survive. After awhile, I realized it was a monumental task; and I was not strong enough to lift the piles of cut trees and branches strewn along the ground. My heart hurt – not only for all the trees, many probably older than myself, but for the baby birds that certainly must've been killed and maybe ended up in the wood chipper. Parent birds have no way of moving their young and could only watch helplessly as their babies were knocked down and crushed. A strange silence permeated the former wooded lot, and it seemed to add to the shock of the situation.

Most songbirds are federally protected, and it is illegal to disturb their nests when there are eggs or chicks present. Why, then, is land clearing allowed during May, June and July, when bird nesting is at its peak and each acre plot of land can contain a minimum of 3 to 4 nests?

With your help and support, we continue to fix the animals that have been impacted and spread the word about the perils they face as they navigate the maze of human development.

On another note, the NYSDEC has responded to our new petition where we are attempting to keep a non-releasable female deer, Jane Doe, to continue to take care of and comfort our newly admitted orphan fawns. This makes such a big difference in keeping the fawns from becoming habituated to humans, as they look to Jane for companionship. Our attorney is submitting a brief in answer to their response, and then we await a decision from the judge, along with our first petition seeking to possess adult deer longer than 48 hours to complete their rehabilitation. Once again, please use the enclosed envelope to make a donation; and if it is to assist in our legal expenses, please mark "Legal" on the envelope. Thank you so much.

## *Memorials*



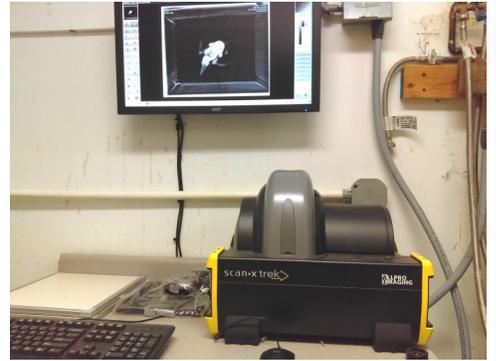
<i>Catherine Cahill</i>	<i>Joseph Kennedy</i>	<i>Carolyn Skiffington</i>
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<i>Scarlett O'Hara Doyle</i>	<i>Suzanne Obser</i>	

*Always on my mind*  
  
*Forever in my heart*

## Thanks to Ingrid Arneberg and Will Marin



**S**pecial thanks to Honorary Board members, Ingrid Arneberg and Will Marin for generously donating funding for a digital x-ray processor. Now, x-rays can be taken with ease as we upgrade to the world of digital. No more expensive chemicals, no more paying for hazardous waste disposal. We can now take x-rays and develop them digitally, allowing us to e-mail them to our wonderful veterinarians to see if surgery is indicated. Prior to this, we had to hand deliver films to our vet's offices. Thanks Ingrid and Will for your generosity!



## From the Mailbag



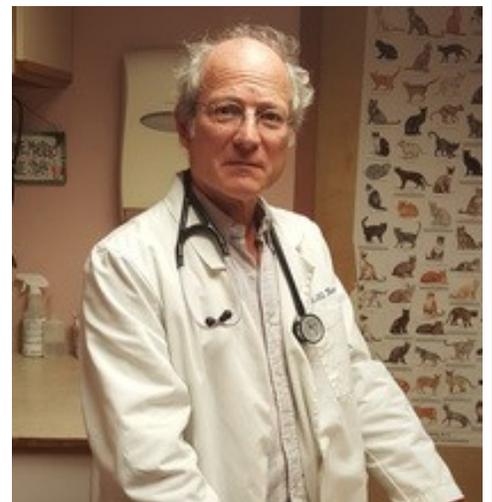
**I** recently reported an injured swan and I was so impressed with the speed, care and thoughtful way Keith dealt with the situation. Many thanks.  
F.M., Southampton NY

Hi Jim, thank you so much for your talk at our Audubon meeting! It was very cool and we have had several members say that it was a great meeting. See you again soon.

S.S., Eastern L.I. Audubon Society



**S**pecial thanks once again to Dr. Turetsky of the Veterinary Clinic of East Hampton for so skillfully putting a pin in the leg of this tiny fawn that was hit by a car. Within days, the fawn was walking without so much as a limp. It was a difficult surgery because quite some time had passed between the original injury and the surgery, making the muscles contract and making realignment difficult. However, our baby is up and walking around and spending quality time with our surrogate mom, Jane Doe, before release in the Fall. Thanks Dr. T!




  
**LOVING HANDS**  
**PET CARE**

Margaret Turner  
 631•329•4607  
 East Hampton

Several weeks ago, on a quiet weeknight, several neighbors in Eastport saw a mother duck in distress walking back and forth across the top of a sewer grate. It didn't take them long to see that 17 of her babies had fallen down into the drain. Frantically, they called the Center for help. Night time dispatcher Adrienne Gillespie put out several calls to our volunteers for help. Michelle Tarolli and her daughter Gina quickly responded. She came prepared with a net and box. With the help of the neighbors, they lifted the heavy grate and scooped out the babies. However, Mom had flown off! Not to be discouraged, Michelle picked up the box and went down to the pond which was within the complex. There was Mom! She gently tipped the box and out the babies ran - straight to her! What a success story! Thanks Michelle and Gina Tarolli for being this duck family's heroes.



(Duck pictures and rescue by Michelle and her daughter, Gina)

# Wild things!

## Fundraiser with Quogue Wildlife Refuge



On Saturday, May 20, the Evelyn Alexander Wildlife Rescue Center teamed up with the Quogue Wildlife Refuge to host our annual Chinese/Silent Auction. The event was held at 230 Elm in Southampton – a great venue where the food and atmosphere were fantastic. Artist Dean Andrews showcased her gorgeous wildlife paintings and graciously offered to split the proceeds of anything that sold with the two organizations.

This is the first time we have teamed up with our friends at the Quogue Wildlife Refuge for an event. Many people confuse our organizations, and we decided the best way to handle this was to introduce what exactly it is the two



organizations do.

Our organization provides wildlife rehabilitation services to injured, sick and orphaned animals at our hospital in Hampton Bays in the hopes of releasing them back to the wild. The Quogue Wildlife Refuge is a 305-acre expanse of protected land which offers nature trails, a Nature Center, and an Outdoor Wildlife complex which houses animals that have been injured and cannot be released. They also host many fun and educational activities at their Refuge.

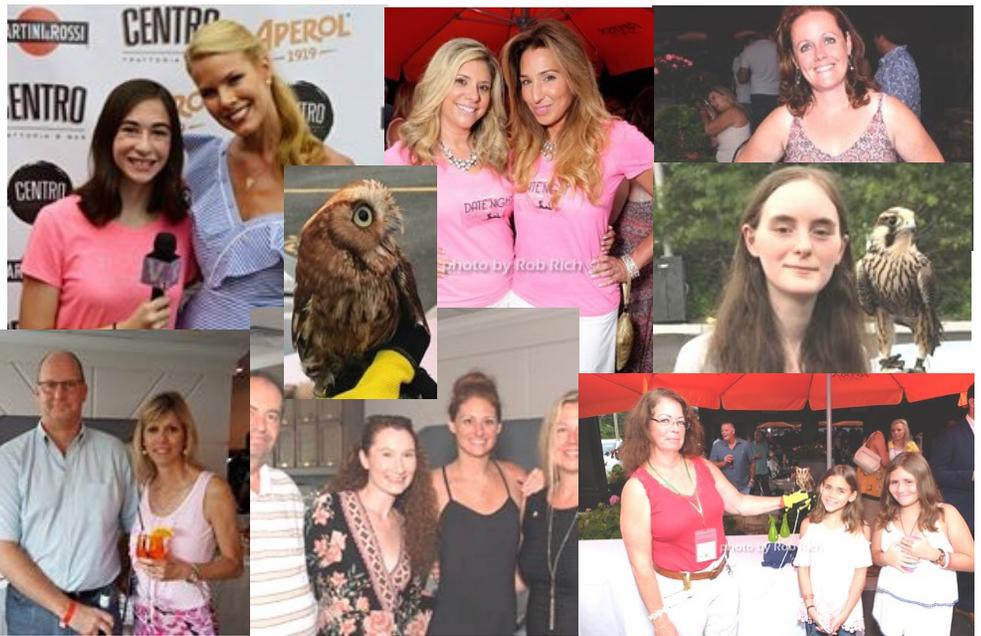
Our two organizations complement each other as we strive to keep Long Island's wildlife safe and teach our human species how to co-exist peacefully with our wild neighbors.



# GETTING WILD

AT **CENTRO**  
TRATTORIA & BAR

Special thanks to Sal, Nina, Jean Carlo and the rest of the staff at Centro Restaurant in Hampton Bays. Also, thanks to Hamptons Magazine, Beth Stern and Daniel Gale Sotheby's for a wonderful summer evening event "Getting Wild at Centro" on Thursday, July 20. Also thanks to our sponsors, Peroni, Aperol, Maison Belle Claire.



## Water Rescue

*By Shayna Carter*



Rescues on the water aren't something we at the rescue center perform very often, but when we do, there's certainly a story to go with it! We got a call from a fisherman about a gull hanging by his wing which had been caught in fishing line. He had been hanging on the old Ponquogue Bridge in Hampton Bays, on the part of the bridge that faces the water and where we couldn't get to him by foot. We weren't sure how we could assist as we don't have our own boat and the local fire department also did not have a boat. We were desperate to find someone with a boat to help us, when we called the wonderful Bay Constables of the Southampton Town Police Department. Two of their officers agreed to assist us! EAWRC staff members Greg and Shayna made the drive over and were soon headed out to the bay with Bay Constables Don Downs and Alfred Greenwald. Greg was able to climb up to the bridge and cut the gull loose. It was apparent the poor bird had been hanging there for some time, as he was weak, tired, and had been covered in feces. He was brought



safely back to the center and examined by the staff. With the help of x-rays to rule out any broken bones, it was determined that his wing sustained nerve damage; and we were unsure if he would make a full recovery. With time and physical therapy to his wing, the gull did in fact make a full recovery and was returned to the wild! We are incredibly grateful to the Bay Constables who assisted us, we couldn't have done it without them!



## A Tribute to a Devoted Volunteer



**O**n Thursday, May 11, 2017, the world lost a wonderful animal advocate. Long-time volunteer Suzanne Obser passed away after a battle with a short illness.

Suzanne's love for animals was evident in her volunteer service with a center. For many years, she came in diligently one day a week to help feed and care for our wounded wildlife. For just as many years, she acted as a rescue-transport volunteer – helping to transport animals to and from various animal hospitals in the community.

After a few years, she decided to put her administrative talents to work and became an invaluable volunteer at every one of our fundraising events. Each event pictured her sitting at the cashier table, her smile brightening everyone's day. She was quite an expert in using our confounded mobile credit-card device that no one else could figure out how to use.

We will miss her, and our sincere thoughts go out to all her friends, family and co-workers at the Hampton Jitney.



*Special Thanks to the people who assisted us the quarter of April-June:*

**HOSPITAL VOLUNTEERS:** Karen Biddlecomb, Katie Bradley, Elsa Burt, Cassandra Butts, Doria Canino, Denis Carpenter, Robin Chambers, Alison Coffey, Susan Coseglio, Alyssa Cummo, Angelina Dickinson, Theresa Dietrich, Geraldine Donadio, Jackie Farris, Bette Lou Fletcher, Jodie Flynn, Luke Forgacs, Michael Fried, Joan Fusco, Lori Gatto, Brenda Gibney, Jane Gill, Steven Gonzalez, Cel Gravano, Jessica Graves, Brenda Harms, Jill Janiel, Kris Kim, Layne Koepfel, Mary Koval, Kendra Kunzer, Allison Ross Landon, Paula Laziuk, Kyra Leonardi, Carol Lozano, Jim and Cheryl MacDougall, Christina MacDougall, Gina Martin, Tyler Matthew, Sarah Meyer, Eileen Miller, Allie Mirsky, Kenneth Molnar, Mary Ann Mulvihill-Decker, Deborah Ostrosky, Sharon Nelson, Deborah O'Neill, Marissa Pfeiffer, Selena Richer, Shannon Riewerts, Patricia Roche, Audrey Roessel, Ginny Roeloffs, Xylia Serafy, Shannon Sheridan-Chiaro, Susan Siegel, Cathleen Springer, Karen Sroka, Sue Vaughan, Andrea Vignola, Karen Weber, Freddi Whitall

**RESCUE/TRANSPORT VOLUNTEERS:** Laurie Anderson, Patrick Bastible, Jennifer Brown, Cassandra Butts, Kathi Cavanaugh, Doree Cohen, Julie Czachur, Dawn Dawson, Angelina Dickinson, Keith Douglas, John Fabry, Kelly Gang, Judith Gibson, Jane Gill, Missy Hargraves, Vicki Hilles, Priscilla Hoffert, Michelle Janson, Allison Leslie Kappel, Landon, Jenny Landey, Noreen LeCann, Jim MacDougall, Mike Martinsen, Kyle McCaskie, Suzanne Obser, Chris Plock, Michael Quigley, Tommy Ratcliffe, Pauline and Robert Rosen, Marina Sabatacakis, Chrissy Sargent, Susan Siegel, Ethel Sussman, Michele Tarolli, Jackie VanDeMark, Valinda Valcich, Jason Wen, John Whitney

*An extra special thanks to Kelly Gang, deer rescuer extraordinaire, for the many deer rescues she has done in the past few years.*

**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 Vatash and Dr. Robin Jeager of **East End Veterinary Emergency Center**; Dr. Robert Pisciotta 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 Mehlorse and Dr. Noelle LeCroix, **Veterinary Medical Center of Long Island**.

**Printing of Newsletter:** Thanks to Bob Eisenberg of **East End Blueprint** in Watermill for donating the printing of our newsletter.

**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 with our newsletter.



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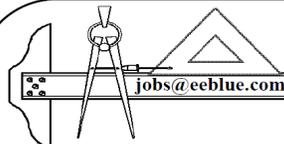
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 Branch Service Manager - Sr. Registered Client Associate  
 631-723-4156 - Corinne.heaney@rbc.com

**Christopher Drew**  
 Registered Client Associate  
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