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MERRY CHRISTMAS and HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Baby Freetail Bats

by Denise Upton, LTWC Board Member

When Cheryl called me and asked if I wanted to help out with some baby bats I didn't hesitate to say yes! Although some people have "mixed" feelings [or down right horror] when bats are brought up in the conversation, I'd always found them fascinating! What I wasn't prepared for were the "amount" of baby bats she had and how small they were!

These were Mexican Free Tailed Bats from the Sacramento area that had fallen from the ceiling of an old Masonic Temple building. There is a huge breeding colony in this particular building and when the temperature reached record highs, the babies started falling down to the ground (sidewalk and street). Some of them die, some are injured and "un-knowing" individuals wash the rest down the drain. That's when the rescue and rehabilitation groups step in and try to save as many as possible. These groups recognize the importance of bats as insect eaters and know how important they are to the area's ecology.

They were successful in rescuing over 200 baby bats, then started making calls to other groups to help out. That's how we ended up with 15 of them! Cheryl decided to split them up amongst 3 of us. Cheryl, myself, and Sally Sjolin all got 5 each of the "little guys"!

At this point we figured it would be a "cinch" to get these guys up and flying. That's until we got the

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This is what a Mexican Freetail Bat looks like. No, we didn't know what they looked like either, until this August. This little male will be released in the spring when the 'rest' of the bats return from Mexico. He is one of thirteen successfully raised by LTWC.

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Secretary's Write-Up

by Tom Millham, LTWC Secretary/Treasurer

This is the time of year where we give thanks for all that has happened to us. Kevin did that so eloquently, I won't add to what he already said. In this issue, you will read about the Mountain Lion, the Mexican Free-Tail Bats, the Angora Fire and the great volunteers we had working with us this year.

But, each year, some one, or some entity comes to our rescue with an idea, a concept, a thought, or, better yet, a check, to help us with all the things we do to help all the orphaned and injured wild birds get back into the wild. This year, there were several and I would like to take MY time in this issue of the Quill to thank them.

First, back in June, this town was devastated with the Angora Fire. Fortunately for us, it started about 3 miles to the WEST of our facility and headed NORTH! Only in the early stages of the fire, were we concerned about possibly evacuating. And, YES!! We did have a plan in mind, should that have come to pass, which, thank the Good Lord, it did not. You have heard the saying, "For every Bad, there is a Good"? Well, from the Bad of the fire, LTWC received calls from – literally – all over this great country of ours. (Continued on Page 13)



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Photo by Taylor Flynn, Tahoe Mountain News

Tom Millham (L), LTWC Secretary/Treasurer is pictured with Morgan Kaufer (C) and Cassidy Jackson (R), Publishers and Editors of the **KORU KONNECTION**, just after they presented Tom with \$141.

KORU KONNECTION

by Tom Millham, LTWC Secretary/Treasurer

Watch out Mountain News!! Take heed Tribune!! Here comes the "**Koru Konnection.**"

In the summer of 2006, two young ladies were sitting around the house, wondering what they could do. The mother, who lives at the house where they were, said, "Why don't you put together a neighborhood newsletter?"

Well, as with some great ideas, this one stood on the shelf for a while. BUT, when summer of 2007 hit, the girls went full speed ahead and began publishing the own neighborhood newsletter, "The Koru Konnection"!

Who are the two girls??? They are Morgan Kaufer and Cassidy Jackson and are 12 years old. The first couple of issues were printed and distributed to those 'neighbors' who 'purchased' subscriptions. BUT, the girls felt they needed to be environmentally conscience. So, they began e-mailing the newsletter to their subscribers, not only saving paper, but the 'cost' of the paper as well as the postage.

The format of their newsletter includes a recipe, a cartoon and a news item from at least one of the neighbors. They also sell 'ads' to help pay the bills. Their first edition this year came out one week prior to the Angora Fire. Seneca Drive, where the fire began, is just three short blocks to the north of Koru. Fortunately for THIS neighborhood, the fire did not turn around and head south.

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The girls both have a love of wildlife and decided, early in the summer, that any profits they made would be donated to Lake Tahoe Wildlife Care. In late September, I received a call from Morgan's mom, Hedy Kaufer. She told me about what her daughter – and her friend - had done. I contacted Taylor Flynn of the Tahoe Mountain News and asked him if he would be willing to do a story on the girls. He said that it was too late for the October issue, but he would 'love' to do one for the November issue.

So it was done! Now, after getting ink in the Mountain News, the girls make the **BIG TIME!** The "Quill". Unlike the Mountain News, our newsletter is not 'limited' to South Lake Tahoe, as the Quill reaches 45 of these United States, PLUS the District of Columbia.

After all was said and done, the girls donated \$141.00 to Lake Tahoe Wildlife Care. We had a little ceremony in the upstairs den of the Kaufer residence and at that time, I informed the girls that, should they be willing, they will receive a complimentary admission to LTWC's Training Seminar next year.

Thanks girls. GREAT JOB!



One of the MANY Chipmunks raised by LTWC in 2007.

Chipmunks abound - But, No Alvin

This year was the year of the Chipmunk!! It seemed like every few days, three to six baby chipmunks would arrive. At one time, we had to hurry and make more baby cages because we ran out of our existing cages already made up.

When the final count is done, by the end of January, I feel the number will be more than twenty. Be sure and check the 'Annual Report' in the Spring issue of the Quill!

Kevin's Korner

by Dr. Kevin Willitts, President, LTWC

Since I'm filling in for Bob Rutherford as President of the LTWC board Tom thought I should fill in and write his column as well. Being a such a prolific writer, this will be my seventy-first article for the quill. Actually I think it's my first.

As the end of the year approaches I want to personally thank all the volunteers and supporters that allow LTWC to provide care for wildlife that are sick or injured. Whether it was working with the animals, helping out at our fundraisers (just as important) or just making a donation, we couldn't do it without you.

While no two seasons are the same the 2007 year at LTWC will be hard to forget. The devastating Angora fire has placed stresses on our local human and wildlife populations that will play out for years to come. Countless numbers of birds and ground animals perished in the blaze. The wildlife center got some national exposure and I heard from friends around the country after we treated the bear burned in the Gardner mountain area. Many people were instrumental in allowing us to successfully treat this bear and other animals injured by the fire.

If you didn't get a chance to see the 15 orphaned Mexican Freetail bats that Cheryl, Sally and Denise raise, you missed out an quite an opportunity. Watching them all lined up feeding with mascara sponges in their mouths was quite a treat. Check out www.ltwc.org website for some pictures.

There is also a great video of the River Otter training for release in a nearby creek. Thanks for ALL the great work on our web site to our WebMaster, Karen Johnson.

Bears seemed to be a dominate theme this year. Not only have we raised 5 orphan cubs which will be released in January to remote backwoods dens but the fire and draught created more interaction with adult bears in the basin. When we are called upon to help the bigger area wildlife, security is always a concern

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A Mtn. Lion in the Keys
By Cheryl Millham, LTWC Exec. Dir.

The call came in on Monday morning, November 12th from the South Lake Tahoe Police Department dispatcher! “There is a Mountain Lion in the Keys! The officers, at the site, are requesting for your assistance.”

In the 30 years LTWC has been in existence in Lake Tahoe, we have had a number of ‘Mountain Lion’ sightings, but never actually seen one. We do know there is one cougar living in the Echo Summit area and one in the Spooner Summit area.

About 10 years ago, calls came in from the Keys area. EVERY caller said there was a mountain lion. So, I went down and was shown the “Mountain Lion”, which turned out to be a very large Yellow House Cat!

So, while driving down to Ala Wai address (the very end of Tahoe Keys Blvd.), Tom and I were talking about whether or not there really would be a lion there.

When we arrived, Dan Thrift (photographer from the Tahoe Daily Tribune) met us and took us around a condominium facing Lake Tahoe. I thought it might be a large ‘Bobcat’.



Photo by Dan Thrift, Tahoe Daily Tribune

BUT - - - when I saw that LONG tail, I knew it was a Mountain Lion. (Note: In case you are wondering, Cougar and Mountain Lion are the same thing.) By the footprints in the sand, we knew he had come down from Camp Richardson. So we set up a diversion to try and get him to get BACK that way.



Photo by Dan Thrift, Tahoe Daily Tribune

Dr. Kevin Willitts of Alpine Animal Hospital in South Lake Tahoe, removes some Porcupine quills from the front legs and paws of the Cougar. Dr. Willitts pronounced the cat in ‘excellent’ shape at 97 pounds and about 2 - 4 years of age.

BUT - - - the mountain lion had a mind of his own. Once we got him to move from behind his security blanket (a bush which did NOT hide him very well), he went around the condo to the right and into more fences and condo’s. It was then that the deputy sheriff requested Animal Control to bring their tranquilizer rifle to the scene, and ‘tranq’ the cat. However, they did not have any drugs so they were unable to respond. More and more people were arriving and the cougar was getting more nervous.

Sergeant Pete Van Arnum (El Dorado County Sheriff) has been trained on our tranquilizer rifle and requested that we bring ‘our’ rifle so we can anesthetize the cat and remove it from the housing area. Cheryl spoke with Dr. Kevin Willitts, owner of Alpine Animal Hospital and President of Lake Tahoe Wildlife Care, to get the proper drug dosage to ‘knock’ the cat out. It was a ‘Text Book’ capture.

The cat was taken to Dr. Willitt’s office where he was given a complete examination and removed over 45 quills which were imbedded in the cat’s front leg and paw. He was taken to an area where there would be plenty of food (deer, rabbits, etc.) and there he woke up, ‘hopefully’ NEVER to return to South Lake Tahoe again!

Visit our web site and take a look at our ‘Store’. You just ‘might’ find something for that Someone Special in your life at Christmas time.

<http://ltwc.org/store.html>

Angora Fire

by Cheryl Millham, LTWC Exec. Dir.

On June 24th, one of the biggest tragedies to EVER hit the Lake Tahoe basin was the Angora Fire.

I think one of the hardest things is to see your volunteers and friends lose their homes. The second is to know that all the wildlife, in the fire area, lost their homes AND their lives.

I had calls - from all over the state - from people and wildlife rehabbers wanting to come and help rescue the wild animals. It was so hard to get all those kind hearted people to understand that the majority of the wildlife burned up in the very fast moving fire.

All of the baby birds and baby squirrels in their nests literally burned up. They had NO way to get out. The first instinct of the ground mammals was to go back to their (underground) den, where the heat and smoke killed them.

All of the slow moving animals, such as porcupines, couldn't run fast enough to outrun the flames.

On Wednesday, during the week of the fire, I received a call from the Well's Fargo Foundation who said they wanted to donate \$10,000 to help, and help it did. We were able to get equipment, medicine and drugs prepared and 'ready', so - AFTER the fire - when we were allowed to go into the burn area, we would be ready.

We were joined in our efforts by the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW), from South Yarmouth, Massachusetts. This organization travels all over the world, assisting wildlife in need. Because of the devastation of this fire and how quickly it spread, they saw a need to be in South Lake Tahoe. We would like to thank Jenn and Wit for being here and offering their assistance in our neck of the woods. In addition, the girls assisted in getting an approved grant request from IFAW for \$5,000.

On Thursday, the first call came about a neighborhood bear that was not moving, even when a dog came right up to her.

Sally, Tom and I went out to the sight and were able to determine she needed help, as it appeared her paws were burned. Sergeant Pete Van Arnum with the

El Dorado County Sheriff's Department, also an LTWC volunteer, was on sight as well. He asked us to make a call to Dr. Willitts from Alpine Animal Hospital who is our vet and President of LTWC, for some drugs and dosage's to knock the bear out. Pete is checked out on the tranquilizer rifle. When all the medicine, equipment and calls were made, about one hour had passed. We then gathered back at the spot where the bear had been laying - and not moved in over 3 hours (during the day).

After she had been shot with the tranquilizer dart, and we were waiting for her to go to sleep from the tranquilizer, the crew that was on the fireline, told us a little of the story.

The day 'before', the wind turned and the fire was coming right at them. The crew made a 'fast' retreat. As they were running for their lives, "Baby", a 3 - 4 year old female bear, was running right beside them. As they were running over the burning fire, they could feel the heat right through their boots. Of course, Baby had no boots.

The next day, the crew was back working in the area. As they dropped a burning tree, they saw the bear sit up behind a rock. They were very worried about her. I don't think we could have 'made' them leave.

Once she was knocked out, our team then moved in. Dr. Willitts, Sally Sjolin, Lindsay Sjolin (Sally's sister and a vet student who works for Dr. Willitts) and myself.

The neighborhood has known this bear since she was a 'baby' (hence her name), but some called her 'Cinnamon', based on the color of her fur.

Dr. Willitts and Sally worked on the 'back' left paw and Lindsay and I worked on the 'front' left paw. We debrided, cleaned and administered ointment on both paws, which both received third degree burns. Dr. Willitts gave her a long term antibiotic shot and she was then moved back into the shade. Some optical ointment was placed in her eyes and then we all left her to sleep it off.

One of 'Baby's' friends on the block, April, has kept us updated on her progress. Five months later - - - Baby (Cinnamon) is walking normally.

There are other stories associated with the Angora Fire. This is but one. We would like to thank ALL the people who donated. Because of your donations we were - and are - able to care for many other birds and animals.

My First Year with LTWC - - - As An Employee

by Sally Sjolin, LTWC Employee

Last Spring, for the first time in 30 years, Tom and Cheryl thought it would be beneficial to hire another employee, to work alongside Cheryl. There was a need to get another person involved and trained in the day-to-day management of Lake Tahoe Wildlife Care in case Cheryl ever decides that she needs permanent free time - AKA retirement. The idea was presented to the LTWC board of directors about hiring an assistant for Cheryl and it was approved. I was invited sometime in May to work for LTWC during the summer. My initial reaction was surprise, since there had never been a paid employee at LTWC - other than Cheryl. After that, I was really excited about getting paid to do something I love. Simultaneously, Tom was eagerly planning his retirement from the post office. I'm sure he had visions of leisurely golf games and summer strolls, but we soon realized that Cheryl had enough work to keep us BOTH busy. How on earth had she done it all herself in the past?

Since 2002, I have been a volunteer every Tuesday & sometimes Thursday at LTWC, so I thought that I knew what I was in for. Little did I know that it is a lot different working there everyday. I immediately felt a much stronger sense of responsibility and commitment to the animals in our care. When something went wrong, it was a lot more emotional. As a volunteer I came once a week, and everything had changed since the last time I were there. As an employee, I could watch the progression, and was aware of every detail. I quickly realized that close observation of each animal was important and that serious mistakes could be made from not being observant.

My main roles for the summer were to train the new volunteers and learn to properly manage the phones and the center. This would allow Tom and Cheryl to

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A Pumpkin Patch

Donations come to Lake Tahoe Wildlife Care in many different forms. Some people ask us to 'help' with an event they are planning. Others may ask us to help 'plan' something. Still others already have something in place and ask us to participate by serving food for the attendees (Gatsby, Living History and Kokanee).



Heather Cowan (L) and Robin Eichenfield (C) of the Deerfield Lodge, show a few of the pumpkins left over from their Pumpkin Patch. Cheryl Millham, Exec.Dir. of LTWC happily accepts more 'food' for the bears!

Well, THIS year, we had something fairly new. We got a call from the **Deerfield Lodge** on Ski Run Blvd. Heather Cowan, the manager, told us that they were going to have a Pumpkin Patch and all proceeds from the event would be donated to LTWC! We asked them what we needed to do. Heather responded with, "Nothing! Just let us use your name then come by and pick up the money." Now, that's OUR kind of fund raiser!

The Pumpkin Patch was held on Saturday, October 27th, in their beautifully landscaped patio area at 1200 Ski Run Blvd. Heather received consent from owners, Robin and Eric Eichenfield, who enthusiastically encouraged the promotion of this event.

When the Pumpkin Patch was concluded, lo and behold, there were about 50 (or more) pumpkins left over. Heather asked us if we could use the pumpkins for any of the wildlife we had at the time. Well, it just so happens - - - in late October, one of the FAVORITE foods for the bears we are raising is - - - PUMPKINS!!! So, the five bears we are rehabbing had their FILL of pumpkins over the next week or two.

We would like to thank Eric, Robin and Heather for thinking of LTWC. The donation amounted to \$381.50. Thank YOU!



Did You Know . . . ???

by Bob Dietz, LTWC Board Member Emeritus



that birds evolved from reptiles???? Hence, the scales on their legs.

that most birds have NO sense of smell? Some birds, though, smell quite well. Our national symbol, the eagle, smells AND thrives on road kill. Vultures and seagulls will also scavenge old or dead matter.

that coyotes never kill for fun?? They kill ONLY to feed themselves and their pups. Domestic dogs, however, will often kill many animals at once, such as chicken, sheep and household cats. These deaths are often blamed on coyotes.

that ‘deliberately’ feeding coyotes and bears puts you, your pets AND your neighbors at risk?? Animals soon lose their fear of people and become bold and over aggressive. Here, in Tahoe, pets are often attacked by coyotes. This year, several bears have had to be “put down” (euthanized) because ‘well-meaning’ residents are trying to “save the bears”.

that in the “real world”, rodents make up 90% of a coyote’s diet??? Except, of course, when we leave our garbage out and let our pets run free.

Just thought you would like to know!

And – finally – this reminder!! SNOW TIME is almost upon us. “Blanket of Snow” has a literal meaning to plants, animals and small ground birds. Temperatures under seven (7) inches of snow can be as much as 50 degrees warmer than surface temperatures. SO - - - when you wake up to a “Blanket of Snow”, it is a good thing!!! (I believe. I BELIEVE!!!)



Please visit our website:
www.ltwc.org

FIVE Bear Cubs Rehab @ LTWC

by Cheryl Millham, Exec. Dir., LTWC

Never in the history of LTWC have we ever had more than TWO bear cubs at one time - - - UNTIL 2007!!! This year, we have a 'bumper' crop of FIVE (5) cubs!

The first cub we received was the one whose picture was on the front of the Spring Quill with his bottle of milk. We then received two cubs (one male and one female) from Yosemite. Their mom was a naughty bear and the park wildlife officials didn't want her to teach her cubs any BAD habits. So, they euthanized her and asked LTWC to raise her kids. It is always so sad when this decision is made, but at least her two cubs will be going back home. In fact, the plans are made to release them back in the park on January 9, 2008!

There was another unfortunate incident in Christmas Valley (just 'south' of South Lake Tahoe), when a momma bear was shot when she had entered a house. Outside - were her two male cubs, waiting for mom. When we received permission from Fish and Game to



rehab these final two cubs, that brought our total up to five!

We still haven't heard from California Fish and Game about the other three cubs and when they plan to release them. We are anticipating a date in January (possibly the same as the Yosemite cubs), or maybe in February. All five cubs have

learned their lessons well. They have been eating EXTREMELY well with foods they will find in the wild, such as fish, nuts and fruits. What a privilege it has been to watch the cubs learn and grow. And grow. And GROW!!! We have 'hours' of video tape, showing them playing and interacting with each other.

ALL of the cubs we have released back into the wild, since we began this program in 2000, have been successful. NONE have turned up as having been 'Garbage' bears or getting into trouble. We have no doubt that these five will follow in the 'positive' footsteps of the previous cubs.

SnowSports Week

at

Sierra @ Tahoe

Feb 11 - 14, 2008

What is SnowSports Week???

Very simply put, Sierra at Tahoe has selected five non-profit organizations in South Lake Tahoe to 'benefit' from Sierra's generosity, with very little effort on the part of the non-profits. They (we) merely SELL ski lift tickets - at a considerably reduced rate - provided by Sierra at Tahoe. Then, Sierra, in turn, disperses a check to each group. In 2005, each organization received more than \$6,700 for their part in SnowSports Week and this year (2007), even with hardly ANY snow, we each received over \$3,400.

This coming year (2008), SnowSports Week will be held February 11th - 14th. The price of the one day ski lift ticket is \$35. How you use the tickets is up to you. If you buy four tickets, for example, you can ski for each of the four days yourself, OR, you and three other friends can ski on one of the four days. Or, if you prefer, you can split them up. They only can be used on those dates and the discounted tickets can NOT be purchased at the resort.

The businesses that will be selling tickets on the south shore will be: 7-11, Kingsbury Grade, ColdStone Creamery, Rainbow Mountain, 'both' Sports LTD's, LTCC Bookstore, Sunrise Ski & Snowboard Rental; Meyers Chevron; New York Pizza (Al Tahoe Blvd), Lira's Market, 'both' Longs Drug stores and the Barton Hospital Foundation office.

If you are a skier and will be in Tahoe February 11th thru 14th, we hope you will take advantage of this excellent financial bargain and help several non-profit organizations at the same time, including **Lake Tahoe Wildlife Care.**

Snowsports Week



\$35 Lift Tickets
(\$64 Regular Day Rate)



Monday - Thursday
February 11 - February 14

Tickets available at the following locations:

7/11 on Kingsbury Grade
Barton Hospital Foundation *
Goldstone Creamery
Fresh Pond Trading Post
in Pollock Pines
House of Ski
Lira's Market
Long's Drugs at Bijou
Long's Drugs at the Y
LTCC Bookstore

Meysers Chevron
PLA, Placerville
Rainbow Mountain
Ski Doc in Sacramento
Sports LTD at the Y
Sports LTD in the Village Center
STA Travel at
Sacramento State Campus
Sunrise Ski & Snowboard

Ski for a Cause!

Snowsports Week benefits local agencies

Ski or ride cheaper for four days while helping raise funds for five South Lake Tahoe community agencies. Sierra-at-Tahoe is offering reduced prices for lift tickets during Snowsports Week, February 11-14, 2008.

The ticket will be good any day during Snowsports Week. Plan your ski holiday at Sierra-at-Tahoe and help serve the South Shore community. Buy your ticket(s) now for Snowsports Week and decide later which day(s) you will ski or snowboard. (Tickets only valid on Feb. 11, 12, 13, & 14, 2008)

These specially priced tickets must be purchased in advance. They will not be available at Sierra-at-Tahoe.

Checks payable to:

Lake Tahoe Educational Foundation (LTEF)

Credit card sales:*

Barton Foundation: (530) 543-5614, or
www.bartonhealth.org/events

General information:

Barton Foundation: (530) 543-5614, or
www.bartonhealth.org/events

Proceeds Benefit:

Barton Memorial Hospital Foundation
Lake Tahoe Community College Foundation
Lake Tahoe Educational Foundation
Lake Tahoe Wildlife Care
Sierra-at-Tahoe Education Foundation

* Credit card purchase of tickets can only be made through Barton Foundation by calling (530) 543-5614, or at www.bartonhealth.org/events.

Baby Freetail Bats (Continued from Page 1)

instructions on their care! She figured that 5 would be a handful since they had to be fed 3 times a day. It took an average of 45 minutes to an hour each time to “perfect” the burrito wrapping technique and feed them! She was sooo right!

You see, Mexican Free Tails (for reasons STILL unknown to me) don’t have the ability to lap milk from a bowl or syringe. Of course not, THAT would have been way too easy! These little ones need to have a “special” technique applied to them that we were unaware of until it was demonstrated to us! We refer to this as the “burrito” technique! Each one of the Mom’s preferred a certain “burrito wrapper”. My own special preference being Viva paper towels as they got stronger and “broke free” from the “inferior” brands! [I’ve often thought that would make a great paper towel testimonial!]

These youngsters who, keep in mind are half naked, squirmy and about 1/2 the size of my little finger, are wrapped up like a burrito, one by one, and placed up-side down between folds of a towel. Next we take sponge make-up applicators-dip them in the formula and place them in their mouths one at a time. Sounded easy enough! If all goes well, the baby starts to nurse.

BUT, if the formula is too hot OR too cold, he spits it out. Then you start all over again. When you get them ALL nursing, you place a drop of formula onto each makeup applicator until their bellies are well rounded. (That’s when the nickname, “Buddha Belly” was established.)

As they grew, it got a little tricky and you realize that by the time you get them ALL wrapped up, bat # 1 one has succeeded in squirming out of his “burrito” and is “skittling across the table to “parts unknown”! Or bat # 3 has decided the sponge-formula technique just doesn’t agree with him and he’s spit out the sponge and is working furiously to join bat #1! We got very good at counting bats to make sure none of them made a “permanent” getaway!

It took all 3 of us a few days to get it down to a system with our own batch of bats and then we were off and running! We quickly learned just how much personality each one had and they quickly recognized us as their new “Mom’s”! They “sung and chirped” when they heard our voice and ran to us when called. Us “Mom’s” compared notes frequently since it was a learning process for all of us, bats included. We found out each one of us had a “special” youngster that needed a little extra care and took the longest to wean. After about 6 weeks we were told by the experts to slowly

switch them to mealworms. Of course-easier said than done!

At first, we hand fed them with hemostats, and that went fairly well. We had to cut the heads off of mealworms, squeeze out the ‘insides’ into the mouth of the bat. This is called, “Toothpaste”, because it came out of the hard, worm casing, just like toothpaste. Of course, this was a slow process. In between learning to eat toothpaste, we were still feeding them the formula. Then we had to teach them to eat out of a dish on their own-not so easy! Some of them seemed terrified of their worms and it was our job to convince them that they would be O.K. if they were to eat the worms for breakfast, lunch and dinner! I am STILL finding runaway mealworms in our bathroom where the bats were kept, even though the bats themselves were in a large screened terrarium!

After a little training we got them all headed in the right direction. The last week we brought all our “kids” back to the Wildlife Center so they could get used to the other bats. Of course in a short time Cheryl got them all eating well. We still laugh that when Sally brought hers in they looked like little blimps and would never fly! She was a VERY attentive Mom! We’re fairly sure hers got formula and mealworms!

By then it was getting late in the season and we tried to get them flying in an outside flight cage we built especially for them. Unfortunately the temperature plummeted and it was just too cold to fly. All they wanted to do was cuddle up in their heating pads! We made some phone calls and decided they would be better off wintering in a half-way-house until being released in the spring.

We collected them up and took them to Corky Quirk, with Nor-Cal Bats, in Davis, to be re-united with other bats from their colony. We released them in their new home, a large L-shaped flight pen with all the bat amenities. It was great! They all of the sudden remembered they were bats and started flying all over the place! They were having a regular bat party! They’ve settled in nicely and will stay there until spring when they will be released near the Yolo Causeway and start doing their jobs eating insects from the farmer’s fields.

We all agreed it was a unique learning experience for us and when Cheryl asked us if we’d do it again. We hesitated for a bit, thinking of all the time and energy we spent on them, and then answered with an emphatic, “YES!”

(Kevin's Korner - Continued from page 3)

and these animals need to be sedated. The local law enforcement agencies, Sheriff, Police and Animal Control are always there to help. Special thanks go to Lt. Les Lovell, for his continuing help and especially to Sergeant Pete Van Arnum, both with the El Dorado County Sheriff's Department, for always being there to help us with the tricky task of darting the animals.

Just recently, as many of you know, we aided the local authorities with a Mountain Lion found in the Keys. I have worked with big cats in the past, but this a first in Tahoe for me and LTWC. Why was he (a seemingly healthy young adult male) in the Keys? Young adults, think teenagers, often explore the limits of their territory looking for new experiences and sometimes push the envelope too far. Possibly the fire damage pushed him to move towards the keys. I not sure we will ever know. He has been relocated out of the populated areas where his natural food sources should keep him busy.

Happy Holidays and, please, check out the website.

LTWC's NEW Logo

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

Order from our Web site. Go to:

www.ltwc.org/store



The 'Boys' who worked the grills at this year's Kokanee Festival, are discussion just how they are going to serve 700 salmon steaks in two days!

Fund Raisers and Volunteers

by Tom Millham, Secretary/Treasurer, LTWC

2007 will be remembered (at least by me), as the year of the volunteer. I can't tell you how many times, people came out of the woodwork to help us with work here at the center, or at our MANY fund raisers this year.

When I retired in July, I thought, "OK. I now have ALL this time, so I won't need as many volunteers as usual!"

WRONG!!!

Maybe my being around more 'CREATED' more work for the volunteers. (Sounds good!) Several times, I was wondering WHERE I was going to get the help we needed to make this project work. And, lo and behold, YOU came through. The Death Ride, Living History Days, Great Gatsby and the Kokanee Festival, just to name a few. On EACH of these events, I did not have the required number of people to make it work 'smooth', as we are accustomed to. And in each case, our volunteers came to the rescue.

So, for that, I say, "THANK YOU"! You did a marvelous job this year, and, consequently, this was, by FAR, our best year for fund raising.

This year's Kokanee Festival surpassed the best previous year, which, coincidentally, was LAST year.

(Continued on page 13)

A NEW TRUCK

by Tom Millham, LTWC Secretary/Treasurer

Every once in a while, we get someone who calls or writes and wants to 'help' us. Well, such was the case this past August.

I received an e-mail from a gentleman who said that his family had just established a Foundation and after he saw our website, he felt that LTWC would qualify to receive some grant funds. He asked me to send him some 'basic' information on our organization and that we would be hearing more from the family in a week or two.

His name is Kirk Hardie and he is associated with the Hallador Legacy Fund. When asked what we would use the funding for, I informed Kirk that we have been looking to get a 'newer' truck donated since the two trucks we have are 18 and 28 years old respectively. He thought that was a valid request and sent the forms.

A new volunteer this year, Katherine Borges, just happened to be volunteering one of the days we were talking about this and she told me that SHE has a friend, Phylise Walker, who writes grants. Katherine volunteered to pay for the fee Phylise charges, so there would be NO COST to LTWC. Phylise got busy, did some investigation and wrote the narrative.

About two weeks later, we had an on-site inspection by two family members. I handed them the documentation they requested and they told me we would hear from them in a couple of weeks. ONE WEEK LATER - - - I received a phone call saying that our grant request was approved and we would receive a check in about 7 - 10 days.

As it turns out, a friend of ours passed away the past May. His wife did not want to keep his 1997 Dodge Ram and tried to sell it. When we were told we had the funding, we called her and asked if she had sold the truck yet. She had not and she was very pleased that we were able to put something together. This was definitely a WIN-WIN situation. We now have the truck in our possession and LTWC is the new legal owner.

We would like to thank Kirk Hardie for thinking of us. We would like to thank Katherine Borges



Because we have FIVE bear cubs this year, for the first time, we had to utilize BOTH of our bear rehab cages. In addition to the traditional 'Bear Rehab Cage', we also have permission from Fish and Game to use the 'Bobcat Cage' to rehab bear cubs. So, THESE two cubs are the orphans which came from Christmas Valley in August when their mom broke into a house and was killed.

As you can see, they are eating ONE of their daily meals which is just plumb full of lots of vegetables and greens. At this time, the plan is to release the cubs sometime in January or February. Fish and Game will pick the location and they will pick up the cubs on the same day they will release them.

On the day of release, these two male cubs 'SHOULD' weigh in at about 100 pounds.

Currently, we are preparing them for hibernation, which means that we will be feeding them less and less until we stop feeding them altogether. When in hibernation, their system SLOWS down considerably, but, contrary to belief, they still DO get up and move about during the winter months. They just don't eat! In fact, their normal body temperature only drops 6 degrees (C), from 37 degrees (C) to 31 degrees (C).

These cubs will still move around and drink water, they just won't be eating any food, mainly because we won't be giving them any.

for putting us in touch with Phylise AND for making the donation to pay for Phylise's services. We would like to thank Phylise for her excellent work. We are looking forward to working with her in the future. AND, we would like to thank the Hardie family and Hallador Legacy Fund for granting and funding this request!

(Secretary's - Continued from page 2)

We got phone calls asking, "What can I do to help?" Because we really didn't need that much assistance, we told the people that should we need anything, we would contact them. However, there was ONE organization which didn't wait to get a response from us. They responded TO us. And, they are from Massachusetts. The organization is called, simply, IFAW! This stands for the International Fund for Animal Welfare. They send aid, around the world where assistance is needed. IFAW sent two very intelligent and experienced young ladies to our aid, Wit Davis and Jennifer Miller.

Wit and Jenn spent three days with us and toured the fire area, looking for any wildlife not yet rescued. Unfortunately, any animals which were NOT able to escape the flames were, more than likely, engulfed with them and perished. We only received about 12 – 14 wildlife from the fire. The rest either escaped or did not make it.

In addition to IFAW sending Wit and Jenn, they also sent a financial contribution of \$5,000 to help us obtain equipment and supplies for our center.

I must say, the help from IFAW did NOT come from 'out of the blue'. We (Cheryl and I) have a VERY good friend in the wildlife rehab industry, who is very involved with IFAW annually. He runs the International Bird Rescue and Rehabilitation Center (IBRRC) in Fairfield, CA. His name is Jay Holcomb and he is the Executive Director. We have known Jay for only about 28 years – ever since we began attending the national wildlife rehab conferences. The IBRRC now deals with oil spills, around the globe. It is nothing for us to be talking to Jay one day, while he is in Fairfield, and the next day, he is in Africa or Europe or Asia. We would like to thank Jay for 'guiding' IFAW to our aid.

On the third day of the fire, Cheryl was called by KNX 1070 NewsRadio out of Los Angeles. They wanted to get, first hand, how the fire affected the wildlife and the people of the area and did a live interview with Cheryl. The next day, KNX received a call from a representative from Wells Fargo Foundation and they had a three-way conversation. After the discussion, the rep from Wells Fargo informed Cheryl that his Foundation was going to be sending LTWC a check for \$10,000 to help us with food, medicine, supplies, etc.

And, finally, as you will read in this issue of the Quill, we received an \$11,000 grant to purchase a much needed 'newer' truck for our needs here at the center. The two trucks we have were both donated by Sierra Pacific Power Company and have served their time well, but they are both getting - - - OLD! The first one we received, in 1990, was a 1979 Ford, so it is NOW, 28 years old. The second one, which we probably will keep for a little while, is a 1989 Dodge Dakota (18 years old) and still working OK, but is good only for short trips around the immediate area. We got a call from Kirk Hardie with the Hallador Legacy Fund and he told me that he thought we would qualify for a grant with his family's new Foundation. He sent me the paperwork and, lo and behold, we now have a new(er) truck. It is a 1997 Dodge Ram 1500.

So, as you can see, 2007 was 'financially' a good year, especially with out of towners assisting us with our needs. On behalf of our Board of Directors AND all of our volunteers and supporters, I want to send along a very special "Thank You" to the people who helped us out this year, and we look forward to a challenging 2008!

(Fund Raiser's - Continued from page 11)

We 'feel' it was because the Monday following the festival was a holiday, but we won't now for sure until NEXT year, when we 'don't' have the holiday after the event. The Gatsby Festival, as well as Living History Days (this was our second year) both surpassed last year, which were both good, but not as good as this year.

And, to cap off the year, the board decided to NOT have our fund raising raffle this year. The reason??? We felt that the local businesses have been 'Asked to Give' so much this year due to the Angora Fire and we did not want to press our luck by asking for MORE than they could give. So, we decided to go ahead with our mailing, but just not print or include the raffle tickets. We still need to exist in the winter months and the raffle income is what normally allows us that financial ability.

So far, (November 24th), after only 2 weeks of receiving donations, we have received almost as much as we did for the raffle last year. So, we have YOU to thank. When you come through with your financial contributions, whether it is \$20, or \$10,000, every donations means so much to us. It tells US that YOU believe in what we are doing and are encouraging us to continue.

THANK YOU!!

(My First Year - Continued from page 6)

actually leave the house once in a while. As the summer progressed they left me alone more and more to answer the phones and hold down the fort. As we all know, this was an interesting summer. Fires, burnt bear paws; bear break-ins, and bears being shot were only some of the events. Of course, it never failed, that some bear crisis would occur the minute they left. Although stressful at first, it was a great way to learn how to handle problems of all shapes and sizes. You never really know what you will hear when you pick up the phone.

The highlight of my summer was raising 5 Mexican free-tail bat pups. I took on the project naively, thinking, how hard can it be to raise bats? Bats are very time consuming! They take a long time to mature, are intelligent, affectionate and become very attached to their caregiver. I was equally attached to them and could tell them apart based on looks and personality. My bats recognized my voice and would peep when they heard it. After 2 1/2 months the day came to take them down to Davis to their flight cage. After much nurturing and care they were ready to learn to be wild bats. Cheryl and Denise brought tissue into the cage thinking that I would cry over leaving them. Actually, it was very exciting to see them spread their wings and fly. Last weekend on the way to Yosemite for the CCWR conference Cheryl tentatively asked both Denise and I whether we would be willing to raise bats again. We both gave an enthusiastic YES!

Despite the great experience with the bats, there were some sad events this summer. Without going into too much detail, losing animals that you have become attached to is very emotional and often raises the question; 'Why am I doing this?' Wildlife rehabilitation is hard work and sometimes requires thick skin. Fortunately, the good experiences seem to outweigh the bad. I was able to see raccoons, owls, hawks, osprey, jays, quail, squirrels, weasels, chipmunks, an ibis, a tern, and many other birds released successfully. I guess the recent question I've been asking myself is, 'Do you want to keep doing this?' The answer... Absolutely!



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! Thanks.



This Female Hairy Woodpecker was raised at LTWC early this summer along with three other brothers and sisters. All were released in early August.

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 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
Jarrod and Brennan Davis	Harrah's Tahoe
BankAmerica Foundation	Estate of Alice Valla
Tilton Family Foundation	Randy's Locksmith - Greg Cattoni
Kirk and Lynda Gillaspey	

LTWC's 2008 CALENDAR OF EVENTS!

ALL Board Meetings are now the 2nd Tuesday of each month (except June and August) @ LTWC.

- December 25th Merry Christmas
- January 1st Happy New Year
- January 8th LTWC Monthly Board Meeting @ LTWC @ 7pm.
- February 12th LTWC Monthly Board Meeting @ LTWC @ 7pm.
- February 11th thru 14th SnowSports Week at Sierra @ Tahoe
- May 17th & 18th LTWC Annual Training Seminar (Date Tentative)

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 for 30 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 2008 the year to make a commitment.

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION!

Active (ONLY those who have taken the training class.) **Honorary** (Those who wish to help out financially)

Our "Club" Program

Select your choice of either your favorite wild bird or animal, or the amount of your contribution.

Black Bear	\$10,000
Bobcat	\$5,000
Bald Eagle	\$2,500
Golden Eagle	\$1,000
Great-Horned Owl	\$500

Beaver	\$300
Merganser	\$150
Red-Tailed Hawk	\$100
Raccoon	\$65
Fawn	\$35
Steller's Jay	\$20

Your selection is:

Club Name

\$

Amount of Contribution

Are you an Active or Honorary member? Active Honorary

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Mailing Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Mail this form with your Tax-Deductible donation to:

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

LTWC 'Club Members'

Listed below are those supporters of LAKE TAHOE WILDLIFE CARE who have contributed (during a 12 month period of time) in an Extra Special Way. You will notice, in the 'Membership Information Form' (page 11), the various 'Clubs' which individuals or families can contribute. Would you like to see your name added to these lists? We sure would! Please help us to

"Give Mother Nature a Helping Hand!"

Black Bear

(\$10,000 Donation)

Pete and Diana Mountanos
Wells Fargo Foundation
Hallador Legacy Fund
Anonymous

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

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	

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	

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

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