



National
WILDLIFE REHABILITATORS
Association

Announcing NWRA Symposium 2016

All for One—One for All

March 8–12, 2016

Embassy Suites by Hilton in Norman, Oklahoma

Hosted by: **WildCare Foundation**

Come learn with the best.

**Join fellow wildlife rehabilitators, veterinarians, and educators
for an outstanding educational event!**

Program Sampling

More topics and details are announced as they are confirmed.

[<www.NWRAwildlife.org>](http://www.NWRAwildlife.org)

Lecture sessions

(Each session contains several lectures.)

- Mammals
- Oiled Wildlife Care
- Reptiles and Amphibians
- Research
- Marine Mammals
- Public Relations and Social Media
- Nutrition
- Pharmacology
- Raptors
- Many more under development, to be announced when confirmed

Hands-on workshop experiences

- Pediatric Mammal Critical Care
- Pediatric Avian Critical Care
- Mammal Necropsy
- Adult Avian Critical Care
- Fluid Therapy—updated
- Avian Necropsy
- Advanced Turtle Techniques—updated

Eight-hour pre-conference seminars

- Basic Wildlife Rehabilitation—updated
- Patient Diagnostics—updated
- Wildlife Education and Training—NEW

You—and wildlife in your care—benefit from a diverse and dynamic program

Qualified speakers and workshop instructors

Current, pertinent, reliable, and useful information

Program designed by wildlife rehabilitators for wildlife rehabilitators

Friendly and supportive learning environment

Lots of choices

Program

Something for Everyone

Four full days of concurrent sessions plus Tuesday Seminars add up to more than 140 hours of valuable educational choices. Many presentations within the sessions listed are confirmed.

You select what to attend according to your needs and interests, whether you are experienced or new to the field. Gain additional knowledge and skills in your specialty area or investigate something new. More specific topics and speakers are announced in the NWRA registration brochure, member emails, and website <www.NWRWildlife.org>.

Pre-Conference Seminars

Three eight-hour seminars on Tuesday offer in-depth study with limited enrollment for quality learning. Advance registration is required. Certificate of Attendance is given for attending the entire seminar.

Plan to register early—seminar space is limited!

Basic Wildlife Rehabilitation—updated for 2016

This seminar is for those new to or considering entering the field and gives an introduction to and explanation of wildlife rehabilitation: networking with experienced rehabilitators, phone skills for the public, establishing a veterinary relationship, and necessary record keeping. Gain hands-on learning on avian and mammalian carcasses: full physical exam, assessment of dehydration, appropriate fluid therapy protocol, selection of the correct syringe and needle, practicing subcutaneous and intramuscular injections, tube feeding, and basic stabilization bandaging. Included is an overview of wildlife disease, proper cage cleaning and disinfection, housing for different species with different impairments, and release considerations. Discussions include learning to say no, offering quality vs. quantity care, and dealing with difficult issues.

Patient Diagnostics—updated for 2016

This seminar is focused on practical, low-cost diagnostics to better understand what is affecting patients and to help determine treatments. Emphasis is on techniques that can be done in-house, though preparation of samples for outside testing also is addressed. Wet lab activities are supplemented with brief didactic lectures to illustrate certain techniques or conditions. Using this approach, the seminar covers general palpation, ophthalmic exam, crop

wash, ear exam and swab, nasal flush, skin scraping, fecal and urine collection, and blood collection. Each person conducts a diagnostic necropsy on their 'patient' demonstrating comparative anatomy and collecting samples for additional diagnostics. The afternoon is spent preparing, examining, and interpreting the samples. Participants must provide a pen or pencil.

Wildlife Education and Training—NEW

How can we best communicate with animal ambassadors? Is it possible to transition from traditional management methods to more positive interactions? How can we most effectively and humanely work with educational animals to provide excellent educational experiences for audiences? How can we meet the needs of animals while messaging the behavior changes we want to see in audience members?

This full day covers the what, why, and how-to of educational programming. Through videos, interactive activities, and discussion, learn how to choose and prepare animals to participate in educational programs. Discuss animal learning and practice training techniques to apply in your own facility, including how to deal with some of the more challenging behaviors. Techniques for program presentation and how to plan for success with varied audiences, with or without animals, are covered.

Hands-on Workshops

Learn by doing—the best way! Instruction is provided by experienced wildlife veterinarians and qualified individuals. Enrollment is limited. Advance registration is required.

Plan to register early—workshop space is limited!

Returning Favorites

- **Fluid Therapy**: fundamental basic and advanced techniques across many species
- **Pediatric Mammal Critical Care**: exam, injuries, treatments, release potential, and more
- **Adult Avian Critical Care**: advanced aspects of avian intake and stabilization
- **Advanced Turtle Techniques**: challenging topics and techniques in turtle rehabilitation

New or Updated for 2016

- **Pediatric Avian Critical Care**: stabilization and critical care techniques for avian species including birds of prey, waterfowl, and songbirds

Hands-on Workshops (continued)

New or Updated for 2016

- **Mammal Necropsy:** both similar features and anatomical differences among many species commonly presented for rehabilitation
- **Avian Necropsy:** anatomical and physiological differences and dissection techniques between different groups of birds

Workshop schedule, topics, and pre-registration instructions are sent to those who register for the Symposium before the early deadline date. Workshop fees range from \$15 to \$20 each to cover materials and equipment. Watch for the registration brochure in November.

Poster Session

Posters are a great way to illustrate case studies, diets, techniques, and research findings. View posters during the Tuesday evening Icebreaker Social and ask questions of the presenters. More information on page 7 of this brochure.

Invitation from NWRA

The **National Wildlife Rehabilitators Association** has a recognized tradition of presenting successful world-class educational events since 1982! **We take pride in offering useful, practical, and current information in a friendly and comfortable learning environment.** We listen to members' and symposium attendees' comments and suggestions to make each symposium even better than the last.

The NWRA National Symposium Committee is working closely with our Host Committee, WildCare Foundation, to produce another high-caliber event. We encourage you to take advantage of this opportunity! **Join us for our first Symposium in Oklahoma!**

Come for the incredible speakers and hands-on workshops and seminars! Stay a few extra days to explore, connect with friends, or enjoy a vacation.

Watch for the registration brochure in November with more topics, details, schedules, field trips, expenses, and workshop pre-registration information.

Is this your first NWRA Symposium? Don't worry! Fellow attendees are friendly, kindred spirits. Attend the Meet & Greet orientation about NWRA and the Symposium, and always feel free to ask questions!

Make a Wise Investment in Your Passion and Yourself

Symposium 2016 is the BEST way to invest in your passion—helping the wildlife you love. Increase your knowledge and understanding, find new ideas and techniques, take home information to share, and make connections that prove valuable long afterward. **Improve your effectiveness in animal care. Gain tangible results, valuable skills, current information, useful references and resources, new contacts, more confidence, and renewed energy.**

The NWRA Symposium is the largest gathering of wildlife rehabilitators in North America. Even with 400+ people attending, each symposium still retains a flavor of sharing and friendly camaraderie.

Invitation from Our Host

The **WildCare Foundation** in Noble, Oklahoma, looks forward to welcoming rehabilitators to the Sooner State for NWRA Symposium 2016.

Since its humble beginning in 1984, WildCare Foundation has admitted more than 70,000 patients, and has grown steadily. On June 20, 2015, staff and volunteers moved into the new 5,200 square foot Rehabilitation and Education Center. We are offering special tours to view the new Center along with 7 acres of outside enclosures including 13,000 sq ft of mammal space and 26,000 sq ft of aviary space.

WildCare is dedicated to the rehabilitation of injured and orphaned native Oklahoma wildlife. Open every day, the mission is to provide people with a place to bring native wildlife struggling to survive, with the goal of releasing healthy individuals back to nature.

Annually, the Center treats more than 5,000 patients, including birds, mammals, reptiles, and amphibians. Admitting more than 140 different species leads to gaining a deep appreciation and understanding for their differences and needs in order to provide proper care and treatment for each one.

Please join us for extraordinary learning opportunities and camaraderie at Symposium 2016! Come with open mind, positive attitude, and desire to learn.

Advance Planning Information

More details become available online and in the registration brochure (look for it in November) but start planning **NOW!** You'll be glad you did!

Dates to Mark on Your 2016 Calendar

Tuesday, March 8

- Attend a full-day pre-conference seminar or join a fun and refreshing field trip.
- Pick up your attendee information packet and program book at the registration table.
- New members and first time attendees are invited to the *Meet & Greet* to get acquainted and learn how the symposium works.
- Workshop sign-up opens for those not pre-registered by mail.
- See old friends and make new ones during the evening Icebreaker Social. Relax!
- View the poster presentations and talk with presenters.

Wednesday through Saturday, March 9–12

- Keynote Presentation is Wednesday morning.
- Sessions, papers, and hands-on skills workshops are all day Wednesday through Saturday afternoon.
- Concurrent sessions provide abundant choices.
- Presentations may be scheduled some evenings.
- Don't miss the Banquet on Friday evening, with raffle drawings, Silent Auction, and Awards presentations.

Symposium Registration

The Symposium registration brochure with details and registration form is **available in November**. The main registration fee covers the full four days of sessions and Tuesday evening's Icebreaker Social. Pre-conference seminars, field trips, workshops, and the Banquet have separate fees paid by those who choose to attend. Registration discounts are available for NWRA members and students.

Transportation

Will Rogers Global Airport (OKC) is served by several major airlines. Shuttle service to the Embassy Suites costs about \$38 one way with a reduced rate of \$3 for each additional person in a group if a group is pre-arranged and one person pays for the group.

More shuttle information available in November.

Explore travel options on the Internet or ask a travel agent for alternative transportation methods, connections, and schedules.

Lodging and Food

The NWRA special Symposium room rate at the Embassy Suites by Hilton in Norman, Oklahoma, is \$119/night (plus 13.25% tax) for a two-room suite with one king or two queen beds; all suites have a queen sofa-bed. Amenities include small refrigerator, coffee maker, microwave, and hair dryer. In-room internet is extra. Parking is free. Within the hotel are a business center, gift shop, pool, fitness center, and restaurant.

The signature feature of Embassy Suites is their complimentary breakfast buffet with many choices and cook-to-order omelets. Afternoon beverages and snacks are also complimentary!

Share a room to cut your costs; NWRA offers roommate match-up with registration.

More lodging information in the registration brochure in November.

Concerned About Costs?

Gain tremendous value for your investment! NWRA makes a special effort to hold down symposium fees; we know this is important to you.

Practice Your Networking and Resourcefulness!

- Save money by sharing costs. Locate colleagues through NWRA's active member network or your local group or state association, and plan to travel, room, and dine together.
- Search for reasonable transportation—carpool, train, bus, public transit, airline, or other means.
- Ask around to see if someone will give you frequent flyer miles or train miles.
- **Start asking now for donations and sponsorships to fund your education and training at this event.**
- Shop for groceries to stretch your dollars, instead of eating all meals at restaurants. The Embassy Suites has a microwave and small refrigerator in each suite.
- **Apply for a scholarship through NWRA (a list is in this brochure), a state rehabilitation association, regional group, or local network.**

This is the perfect opportunity to combine an outstanding educational event with a few days of well deserved rejuvenation and inspiration.
Have fun learning!

More Reasons to Attend Symposium 2016

Diverse and dynamic program: Designed by wildlife rehabilitators especially for wildlife rehabilitators presentations include the most current, pertinent, and reliable information.

Exceptional selection of topics: Learn from many experienced rehabilitators, veterinarians, and educators. Preliminary list is in this brochure. More information announced when confirmed.

Lots of choices: Choose from among more than 100 presentations offered over 5 days in concurrent sessions. You select what you need most.

Hands-on skills workshops: Learn by doing in labs taught by respected wildlife veterinarians. Workshops are limited enrollment and require advanced registration, but workshop lectures are open to all symposium attendees, not just those registered for workshops.

Continuing education requirements: Gain valuable information, training, and hands-on skills to improve rehabilitation work and to meet CE requirements for your permit(s). Veterinary sessions and hands-on workshops taught by veterinarians qualify for CEUs for veterinarians and veterinary technicians.

Meet like-minded individuals: Don't be shy! Make new friends and find ongoing sources of information and support. Opportunities to meet include breakfast, Membership Meeting, meal breaks, Icebreaker Social, workshop lab partner, traveling companions, roommates, banquet table neighbors, New Member Meet & Greet event, discussion groups, and lobby conversations.

Tour a brand new 5,200 square foot wildlife center: See how it is designed to handle more than 5,000 animals of 140 different species, including 7 acres of outside enclosures for various species from beavers to eagles.

Enjoy the Embassy Suites: A beautiful and comfortable environment conducive to learning and to making and meeting friends; free parking, free breakfast with many choices each morning, and free drinks and snacks each afternoon.

Explore exhibits: Meet the vendors, ask questions, and purchase supplies and books for the coming season, from milk formulas and rehabilitation supplies, to books and clothing, from liability and business insurance, to Directors and Officers insurance, plus wildlife art and gift items, and more.

Friendly and supportive learning environment: Feel the positive energy as you learn with colleagues in a friendly and safe atmosphere. Have a great time and return home motivated, inspired, energized, and confident for the upcoming year.

Speakers and handouts: Many speakers are available during the Symposium to talk with you or answer specific questions in more detail. Presenters are asked to provide handouts for posting on the NWRA website. Symposium registrants receive a password allowing access to all handouts.

Invest in your passion: Help the wildlife you love. Symposium 2016 is the BEST way to increase your knowledge and understanding, find new techniques and ideas to use, take home information to share, and make connections that prove valuable long afterward.

Improve your effectiveness in animal care: Gain tangible results, valuable skills, current and relevant information, useful references and resources, new contacts, more confidence, and renewed energy.

Certificates of Attendance: Certificates suitable for framing are available for pre-conference seminars, individual hands-on skills workshops, and general Symposium attendance. Demonstrate your pride in NWRA continuing education to permitting agencies, donors, grantors, community leaders, colleagues, volunteers, and visitors.

Networking opportunities: Sharing ideas, discussing problems, finding solutions, and talking to people with similar interests and concerns add to the value of a great Symposium experience. Plan to stay in touch after the Symposium.

Knowledge ↔ Fun ↔ Camaraderie

Meet the people of NWRA in person:

- Attend the Membership Meeting.
- Meet our friendly staff who answer the phone, respond to emails, and send your purchases.
- Examine the numerous rehabilitation, medical, and educational references and resources available through NWRA.
- Build your library and increase the information at your fingertips.
- Watch for discounted items!
- Shop for gifts for special people back home—volunteers, colleagues, critter sitters, friends, veterinarians, family members—or yourself!
- Pick up your 2016 Membership Directory.
- Pick up pre-ordered Symposium logo shirts.

Have FUN at the banquet Friday night!

Enjoy good food, great company, Silent Auction, dozens of Raffle drawings, and entertainment. On a serious note, join us in recognizing the deserving NWRA Lifetime, Significant, and Bulander Achievement Award recipients.

To Do Now List

- Mark 2016 calendar now—March 8–12**
- Start planning time off
- Start saving and/or budgeting money
- Seek donations to help pay expenses
- Apply for a scholarship to help with costs**
- Look for friends to share expenses
- Plan to pre-register for workshops
- Watch for the registration brochure in November and register early**
- Start planning for animal care while gone
- Plan to donate Raffle/Auction items, or workshop supplies
- Consider sponsoring a session or workshop
- Anticipate an exceptional experience!**

Information is available at
<www.NWRAwildlife.org>
with updates posted later in the fall;
click on NWRA Symposium or call the
NWRA Office 320-230-9920.

~ National Wildlife Rehabilitators Association ~

Improving wildlife care by providing specialized training, information, and resources to wildlife rehabilitators, veterinarians, and educators since 1982

Concerned about Costs?

NWRA Scholarships Available for Symposium 2016

Hurry! Deadline is October 1, 2015

Ten scholarships are available to help cover costs of attending Symposium 2016

- \$500 James J. Wolf CARE for Wildlife Educational Scholarship
- \$500 Debra L. Chandler Memorial Scholarship
- \$625 Eric Sticht Memorial Scholarship
- \$750 Alma Natura Trust Scholarship (North America)
- \$650 Rachel Fischhoff Educational Scholarship certificate to pay for symposium fees, membership dues, and/or educational publications
- \$1,750 Alma Natura Trust International Scholarship (for persons outside North America)
- \$500 Ed Hiestand Memorial Veterinary Student Scholarship (for veterinary students)
- \$500 William Jessen Memorial Scholarship (for speakers)
- \$500 Walter Crawford Memorial Scholarship (for educators using wildlife)
- \$500 Michigan Wildlife Rehabilitators Association Scholarship (for MI rehabilitators)

Application forms, instructions, lists of past recipients, and eligibility details are available on the website <www.NWRAwildlife.org> or from the NWRA Office 320-230-9920.

Scholarship application must be submitted online or postmarked by October 1, 2015.

Nominations Open for NWRA National Awards

Hurry! Deadline is October 1, 2015

Nominations are being accepted now for three prestigious awards

to recognize and honor outstanding colleagues in the field of wildlife rehabilitation, medicine, and/or education. Nomination forms, specific award information, and a list of past recipients are available on the website <www.NWRWildlife.org> or call the NWRA Office 320-230-9920.

Lifetime Achievement Award—Given to an individual whose primary identification is with wildlife rehabilitation and who has contributed to the field on a national level for many years.

Significant Achievement Award—Given to an individual who has made a major contribution to the field of wildlife rehabilitation within the last two years, such as presenting research findings, organizing a program, or developing a new technique.

Marlys Bulander Working Together for Wildlife Award—Given to one individual or one group that has brought together individuals, organizations, rehabilitation facilities, agencies, industries, businesses, and/or academia in a cooperative effort to make a positive difference for wildlife.

Award nominations must be submitted online or postmarked by October 1, 2015.

NWRA Grants Available for 2016

Hurry! Deadline is October 1, 2015

NWRA grants are available to NWRA members, individual rehabilitators, centers, clinics, universities, state and provincial organizations, regional networks, and others striving to improve wildlife care.

Grant proposals must show a well thought out plan and budget for a project that is important and useful to the field of wildlife rehabilitation in North America. NWRA grants are available to fund studies to improve any aspect of wildlife rehabilitation, including medicine and education. Recipients are required to present results through an NWRA publication and through a presentation at an NWRA Symposium within two years of grant receipt. Application forms, instructions, and a list of projects previously funded are available on the website <www.NWRWildlife.org> or call the NWRA Office 320-230-9920.

Grant applications must be submitted online or postmarked by October 1, 2015.

NWRA Invites YOU to Present at Symposium 2016

Hurry! Abstract deadline September 30, poster deadline October 30, 2015

Share Your Discoveries, Techniques, and Experience! (Abstract deadline September 30)

Rehabilitators, educators, and veterinarians are invited to present at Symposium 2016 in Norman, Oklahoma. The NWRA Symposium Program Committee is accepting **all** topics and abstracts for consideration. Please submit what you wish to present and the NWRA Program Committee will be in touch with you. Speaker information and abstract form are available online at: <www.NWRWildlife.org/content/invitation-present>.

William Jessen Memorial Scholarship Available for Speakers (Application deadline October 1)

\$500 is available to help defray costs of one or more speakers presenting accepted papers during Symposium 2016. Submit scholarship application with Presentation Application. Details on the website <www.NWRWildlife.org> in the Symposium Speaker Resources section or call the NWRA Office 320-230-9920.

Poster Session Applications Now Being Accepted (Poster deadline October 30)

Do you get major butterflies even thinking about speaking in front of a group? If so, then you are the perfect person to present a poster at Symposium 2016. The Poster Session is Tuesday evening and changes the dynamics so you speak one-on-one to other attendees about your work. An interesting case, medical or research discovery, or new diet is easy to share through a poster. Go to the website <www.NWRWildlife.org> for further details or submit abstracts to DebD@NWRWildlife.org.



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Watch for more details in the
Registration Brochure
November 2015

Dated Material Inside
September 30 deadline for Presenters
October 1 deadline for Scholarships,
Grants, and National Awards