# PROGRAM SUMMARIES

**KEYNOTE ADDRESS: “Marsupials on Two Continents: Here and Down Under”** John D. Harder, Associate Professor Emeritus of Evolution, Ecology and Organismal Biology at The Ohio State University, Coauthor of *Mammals of Ohio*.

Marsupials have evolved separately from other mammals since the age of dinosaurs, some 190 million years ago. Consequently, differences between these groups abound, particularly in their modes of reproduction. Learn about our own Virginia Opossum, the surprising species richness of its Neotropical relatives, and the fascinating diversity of form and function of marsupials in Australia. Join Professor Harder as he explores locomotion, reproduction, behavior, ecology, and so much more!

**LUNCH: Annual Members Meeting,** OWRA Board of Trustees

**BANQUET: “Urban Carnivores”** Dr.Stanley D. Gehrt, PhD, Author, Professor of Wildlife Ecology at The Ohio State University and Chair of the Center for Wildlife Research at the Max McGraw Wildlife Foundation.

What a delightful way to begin the evening festivities with a discussion about the ecology, conflict and conservation of the urban carnivore. There is no denying the sprawl of human populations into what was once a flourishing landscape for wildlife. Many animals learned to adapt in order to survive however, human-carnivore interaction in these transformed urban areas has become a growing concern for wildlife managers, conservationists, urban planners and the public. Learn about the roles of the carnivores in the urban ecosystem and the unique biological and ecological issues associated with this survival adaptation.

# GENERAL SESSION: SATURDAY

**One Wild Ride: Dynamics of Ectoparasites, Pathogens and their Wildlife Hosts,** Risa Pesapane, PhD, The Ohio State University

This session will cover regionally important vectors and emerging vector-borne diseases, their association with wildlife and possible impacts on wildlife health plus…. precautions for human caregivers. \*L1, L2, L3

**Avian Disease and Diagnosis,** Priscilla Joyner, DVM, The Wilds

Diseases such as West Nile, Aspergillosis, Candidiasis, etc., have several clinical signs however, those diseases may present differently in varying species, making diagnosis and treatment far more challenging. Dr. Joyner will discuss avian diseases commonly seen in Ohio and their distinctive presentations amongst raptors. \*L2, L3

**Husbandry Equals Health for Reptiles and Amphibians!** Gary Riggs, DVM, Metropolitan Veterinary Hospital

Husbandry issues account for the majority of health issues in captive reptiles and amphibians. In this session Dr. Riggs will discuss the important parameters of captive husbandry and their relationships to animal health conditions and disease. Proper temperature, UVB, diet, substrate and general enclosure design all play important individual roles in animal health. We’ll look at ways to maximize their benefits for better preventative health. \*L1, L2, L3

**Mammal Ophthalmology**, Nicki Rosenhagen, DVM, PAWS

Join Dr. Rosenhagen for a general overview of anatomy and physiology and the science of ophthalmology. Get a broad understanding of eye diseases, presentation, their causes, prognosis, treatment, monitoring and management options. \*L2, L3

**Assessing Long-term Animal Welfare,** Melissa Moore and Gail Buhl, The Raptor Center of Minnesota

When is it time to hang up the jesses? Educators must face the task of assessing welfare in the ambassador birds/animals they have come to love and respect. Sometimes it’s as simple as, “time to enjoy the life of retirement” but sometimes it’s accepting harder decisions about prolonged care when the ambassador’s health may be failing. No matter the situation, being objective and respectful for the welfare of the ambassador is crucial. Listen as Gail and Melissa help make this difficult topic easier to understand. \*L1, L2, L3

**One Health/One Welfare** Rustin Moore, DVM, Dean, The Ohio State University College of Veterinary Medicine

One Health is an integrated, unifying approach aimed at balancing the health of humans, animals and the ecosystem in a holistic manner. One Welfare recognizes the interconnectedness and promotes action to improve the wellbeing and support global sustainable goals. Examples will be discussed regarding these approaches to a broader ecosystem health and vitality and how these are critically important to wildlife, domestic animals and people, and why wildlife are vital to ecosystem balance and in turn, human health. \*L1, L2, L3

**Ohio’s Magical Marsupial: Insights and Techniques**, Elisabeth Hartman, Wild At Hart Wildlife Rehabilitation Inc.

Enjoy a fun twist on last year’s phenomenal Opossum session as Elisabeth expands upon the unique techniques used with Virginia Opossums! Listen as she zeros-in on specifics of diet, tubing/lapping, enrichment and general care, using the insight of documented behaviors and little-known published research on these truly magical marsupials! \*L1, L2, L3

**Canada Goose Husbandry and Rehabilitation,** Tim Jasinski, Lake Erie Nature Center

Canada Geese have their own unique characteristics, care requirements and challenges. Sit in with waterfowl expert, Tim Jasinski, as he guides you through the full range of rehabilitation (what to know and what to expect) of the amazing and wonderful Canada Goose. \*L1, L2, L3

**Techniques and Skills for Presentation,** Melissa Moore and Gail Buhl, The Raptor Center of Minnesota

Presentation skills are essential for successful programs but, they don’t often come naturally. Melissa and Gail will instruct you on engaging your audience, keeping their attention, minimizing distracting behaviors as well as learning how to develop behaviors or gestures to enhance your talk. \*L1, L2, L3

**Metabolic Bone Disease**, Nicki Rosenhagen, DVM, PAWS

Conditions which cause deficiencies or abnormal levels in Calcium, Vitamin D and Phosphorus can lead to bone loss, deformities, disability, fractures and more. There are many types of MBD but this session will focus on more common forms found in rehabilitation settings such as rickets and folding fractures. Learn how bones form, what leads to the condition known as “MBD,” the prognosis and management. \*L2, L3

**Coping Skills: Birds of Prey, Beak and Talon Maintenance**, Heather Tuttle, Back to the Wild

Learn the ins and outs of coping beaks and talons properly. This talk will include a basic guide to coping, common mistakes, tips and tricks for using a Dremel safely on the bird and information about correcting imperfections, cracks and deformities. \* L2, L3

**Emergency Disaster Preparedness,** Tammy O’Neil, Lake Metroparks

This class will cover a step-by-step guide to help you prepare for several emergency situations so your facility or home is ready if, or when, disaster strikes. Tammy will show you how to gather and organize the mandatory contingency plans required by the USDA and develop an emergency guide for your organization. \*L1, L2, L3

**Torpor and Hibernation in Ohio Bats,** Ann Wookey, Columbus Zoo/Ohio Wildlife Center.

This session covers the physiology of torpor and how to hibernate your rehabilitation bats over the winter months. Don’t have a wine cooler or proper hibernation equipment? That’s ok, learn alternative methods to lower body temperature to save on time, feeding, expensive feeder insects and still give your bats their natural restorative care. \*L1, L2, L3

**Raccoon Diseases and Afflictions**, Nicki Rosenhagen, DVM, PAWS

This session will cover the anatomy and physiology of Ohio’s most clever and mischievous animal, the Raccoon. Dr. Rosenhagen will discuss preventative care, vaccines, lungworm, trauma, distemper, clinical presentations and common diseases a rehabilitator is likely to encounter. \*L2, L3

**Managing Inherited Collections,** Gail Buhl and Melissa Moore, The Raptor Center of Minnesota

Stepping into a new education role can be tricky especially when “inheriting” education animals. The skills to manage this change are critical. Join the Raptor Center team of experts as they cover the nuances of accepting these responsibilities and the challenges which must be carefully managed for long term success. \*L2, L3

**YOGA Break:** Every now and Zen, you need to stretch those muscles and rejuvenate after a long day. Be kind to yourself and join Kelly Mehring, owner of Mat Happy Yoga, for a refreshing physical and mental break. She will show you techniques for “chair yoga” stretches to help through a long day of sitting! \*No mat or yoga pants required. Session is currently scheduled for Union classroom.

# GENERAL SESSION: SUNDAY

**Squirrel Rehabilitation 101,** Rachel Lovejoy-Wyand, Lake Metroparks

This session will cover the rearing of young squirrels to release in a rehabilitation facility setting with a focus on the Eastern Gray Squirrel and Eastern Fox Squirrel. Tracy will explain husbandry techniques to include species specifics about housing, feeding, enrichment and common medical issues presented upon arrival and during rehabilitation. \*L1, L2

**Rehabilitation and Falconry:** Christine Avery, Glen Helen Raptor Center

For years, rehab and falconry have been on opposite sides of a tall fence, the birds we love perched precariously on its posts. Challenge your perceptions and join rehabber and falconer, Christine Avery, for a discussion about the many goals and motives that modern falconers and rehabbers share and ways they are working together to protect and support wild birds of prey. \*L1, L2, L3

**General Case Studies**, Dr. Nicki Rosenhagen, Dr. Diana Huang, Tammy O’Neil

**“Melting Eye:”** Case study of melting ulcers (infection of cornea), what causes, how to identify and possible treatment.

**Dwarfism:** Skeletal dysplasia, “dwarfism” in wild mammals and prognosis.

**Laser Therapy:** Not just for domestics. Learn about ways to stimulate and accelerate healing in wild patients.

**Mammal Case Studies,** Barbara Ray, Ann Wookey, Vanessa Shanower

**Bat Dentition:** Spending the winter or staying longer term, don’t neglect the chompers. How to care for your Bat’s teeth.

**Time to Fly:** Hacking young bats. How to do so safely and properly.

**Mother’s Day:** Tips for caring for pregnant or nursing bats in rehabilitation.

**Avian Case Studies:** Heather Tuttle, Rebecca Jaramillo, Dr. Priscilla Joyner

**Feather Care:** The condition of feathers is critical to the survivability of birds. Poor feather conditions such as damage or contamination may delay release. Learn the basics of keeping those feathers healthy.

**Bumble Foot/Pododermatitis:** This inflammatory or degenerative condition of the foot is the most common issue seen in raptors. Factors such as perch shape, poor sanitation, trauma, wounds and nutritional deficiencies can all contribute.

**Avian Biosecurity**: Steps for Prevention! The low down and, not so dirty, of protecting your patients.

**Reptile Case Studies:** Saul Bauer, Nicole Hafer-Lipstreu, Emma Welker

**The Shirt off their Backs:** Snake Shedding is an essential but poorly understood feature of reptile biology. Saul will discuss the process and problems with shedding and corrective steps to take to maximize this process.

**Coping Turtle beaks** is not intimidating when you know how. Wild reptiles can manage this process through their natural environment, but long-term captive reptiles need help. Learn the importance of trimming an overgrown beak to its natural shape.

**Aural Abscesses** are fairly common in both captive and wild turtles. Surgically opening the ear, removing the hardened area and flushing are the common actions needed to relieve your turtle of this painful condition.

**Muskrat Susie, Muskrat Sam: Looks like Rehab ,** Barbara Ray, Crows Hollow Wildlife Care

As the song goes, “*they whirl and they twirl and they tango”* but, in captivity, Muskrats are not as charming to manage. This session will address some of the challenges associated with Muskrats in a rehab setting, physical examination, stability, common health issues and what to look for, bone cancer, case studies and more. \*L1, L2, L3

**Roundtable, Fundraising Ideas and Techniques for Home-based Rehabbers,** Sharon Doerge, Lori Williams, Dr. Diana Huang, et al.

This interactive discussion will include some ideas how home-based rehabbers can raise revenue. Many fundraising classes are center focused with staff or volunteers dedicated to this cumbersome task however, how does the home-based person accomplish this along with the myriad of all other responsibilities? \*L1, L2

**Relocation, Translocation, and Release: Why it Matters,** Kristen Beck, Clover Field Wildlife Care

Wildlife rehabilitation in Ohio is governed by mandates set forth by the Division of Wildlife as well as other state and federal agencies. The regulations pertaining to the release of rehabilitated wildlife are often science based which aim to maintain healthy wild populations and, in some cases, protect the public. This presentation will clarify terminology and explain specific laws as they apply to the responsible release of individual species and their supporting biology. \*L1, L2, L3

**Sticky Situations: Glue Trap Removal,** David Donahue and Gwen Hoogendoorn, Ohio Wildlife Center

Glue traps have many consequences for wildlife from small rodents to birds, bats and other mammals. This lecture and short **hands-on** lab will focus on birds. Learn techniques for removing birds from traps with vegetable oil without damaging feather structure. Learn how to do a “feather test” before washing, removing contaminants and reducing your patient’s stress level. \*L1, L2

**Critical Communications,** Judith Vaughn, Crows Hollow Wildlife Care and Dr. Cindy Herzberg, EdD, LSW, LPCC-S

When work environments and conditions lead to exhaustion, frustration and mental fatigue, knowing how to assess ourselves, identify ways to allow for self-care and communicate the need for help can make a major difference in how we cope. \*L1, L2, L3

**Mitigation and Exclusion Calls and Comments,** Jess Armstrong, SCRAM- Ohio Wildlife Center

Help! There are squirrels in the chimney and raccoons in the attic! Every interaction with a presenter is an opportunity to educate. This session covers non-lethal options rehabbers can use to guide the public. DIY opportunities for humane exclusion. Also, an understanding of Ohio’s nuisance laws and how to talk to the public about a difficult subject. \*L1, L2, L3

\*L1 – Basic Level Class

\*L2 – Intermediate Level Class

\*L3 – Advanced Level Class



**The techniques, procedures, views or opinions expressed by conference speakers are not necessarily endorsed by OWRA.**



*The mission of the Ohio Wildlife Rehabilitators Association is to promote wildlife conservation by providing resources to wildlife rehabilitators, educators and the community.*

**OWRA would like to thank all the speakers and volunteers who have donated their time**

**and expertise to advance the quality of wildlife rehabilitation and education in Ohio.**

**Thank you for your continued support and sponsorship:**







**Melissa Muth**

**Sheila Zirkle**

**Larry and Linda Abbott**





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