



Meet The Vet

The Center is excited to introduce the newest addition to our veterinary staff Dr. Megan Kirchgessner.

Dr. Kirchgessner joined the Center full-time this past July. She is a graduate of Cornell University Veterinary School and recently completed her internship at the Louisiana State University's Veterinary Teaching Hospital. Among her many accomplishments are an undergraduate degree from the State University of New York

School of Environmental Science and Forestry, working at the South African Center for the Conservation of Coastal Birds and publication



of several articles including the Journal of Aquatic Animal Health and the Journal of Exotic Pet Medicine.

Dr. Kirchgessner joined us not only during the busiest time of year for animal care but also during the busiest intern season in our history. She seamlessly integrated into our hospital and she has been an enormous asset to our patients and the students working with her.

Intern Update

We are just finishing up the busiest intern season in our history. This summer we trained 31 interns from high schools, colleges and universities including:

Northeastern University, Norfolk County

Agricultural High School, Franklin and Marshall College, Emory University, Bowdoin College, University of Massachusetts-Dartmouth, Colby College, Becker College, Wingate University, Manhattan

College, Yale University, Wellesley College, Moravian College, Boston University, Stonehill College, Principia College, University of Massachusetts-Amherst, University of Maine, Dartmouth College and Middlebury College

Leave Your Legacy at the Center

The turtle and fish pond has become the focal point for our many visitors to the New England Wildlife Center and you can be a part of it! A \$2,500 donation, or a pledge of \$500 over five years would entitle you to one engraved granite stone that would be permanently affixed to the ledge of the turtle and fish pond and add you as another major supporter to the work that is done here to preserve the legacy of wildlife and environmental stewardship in New England.

Schedule of Events

All events/programs have a \$5 admission fee unless otherwise specified

- Every Tuesday 1:00 - 2:00
“Wild Thing’s” Pre-school Playgroup. An hour-long funfest featuring storytelling, music and movement, arts and crafts, games, and live animals.
- Every Saturday 2:00 - 3:00
Folk and Blues Jam featuring local bands and musicians
- 1st Sunday 2:00 - 3:00
Nature Walk on the Andrea McKenna Harris Nature Trail
- November 11 2:00 - 3:00
New England Herpetological Society presents Ian Ives, from the Massachusetts Audubon Society, speaking on Indonesian turtles. Herp Members admitted free.
- November 25 2:00 - 3:00
“*Animals In Winter*” presentation with Dr. Mertz.
- December 9 2:00 - 3:00
New England Herpetological Society Annual Christmas Party. Herp Members admitted free.

November 2007

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3 Folk and Blues Jam
4 Nature Walk	5	6 Pre-school Playgroup	7	8	9	10 Folk and Blues Jam
11 New England Herp Society Presents...	12	13 Pre-school Playgroup	14	15	16	17 Folk and Blues Jam
18	19	20 Pre-school Playgroup	21	22	23	24 Folk and Blues Jam
25 Animals In Winter	26	27 Pre-school Playgroup	28	29	30	

December 2007

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Folk and Blues Jam
2 Nature Walk	3	4 Pre-school Playgroup	5	6	7	8 Folk and Blues Jam
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23	24	25	26	27	28	29 Folk and Blues Jam
30	31					

Recent Patients

Great Horned Owl

The Great Horned Owl, *Bubo virginianus*, is a very large owl native to North and South America. It is an adaptable bird with a vast range, though it is not as widespread as the Barn Owl.

The breeding habitat of the Great Horned Owl extends almost throughout both North America and South America. The habitats they can take up residence in include mixed forests, tropical rainforests, pampas, prairie, mountainous areas, deserts, subarctic tundra, rocky coasts, mangrove swamps, and some urban areas.

An average Great Horned Owl is 22 inches long, has a wingspan of 49 inches and weighs about 3.1 lbs. Generally, the largest owls are found closer to the Polar regions and the smallest owls are found closer to the Equator. Females are larger than males. Adults have large ear tufts, a reddish, brown or gray face and a white patch on the throat. The iris is yellow, except in the race *B. v. nacurutu* where it is amber. The ear tufts are not actually ears, but simply tufts of feathers. The under parts are light with brown barring; the upper parts are mottled brown. The legs and feet are covered in feathers up to the talons. These owls also have spectacular binocular vision needed to pinpoint prey and see in the dark. Because owls cannot move their eyes like we can, their neck must be able to turn a full 270 degrees in order to see in other directions without moving its entire body. An owl's hearing is as good — if not better — than its vision. Owls have stereo hearing that allows them to find the exact location of their prey.



American Woodcock



This American Woodcock was admitted after it had apparently been hit by a car. It had a bloody beak and a laceration on its chest. The woodcock was treated for shock and the laceration on the chest was treated with 3X antibiotic ointment. In the past, woodcocks at the Center (and other facilities) have not fared well because of captivity stress, and often succumb 24-48 hours after admitted, so we planned a therapeutic regimen to have minimal contact with humans. The patient was fed and watered (sometimes force fed), the laceration was not surgically closed but given an opportunity to heal by “3rd intention” (this is a surgeon’s word for letting something heal naturally. Only surgeons could come up with a work 3rd down in a list describing what happens naturally as less desirable than what the surgeon intends. Surgeons first – God third. No lights, no stress.

The woodcock survived in the hospital for two weeks; this is much longer than any previous woodcock in our care. Unfortunately, it died of complication of the wound healing. (Maybe surgeon’s do have their priorities straight.)

Another woodcock was admitted a few days later, again, hit on the road by a car. It was treated for shock, fed and water and kept in complete darkness for three days and nights. It was then released quite successfully. The 24-hour darkness may be an important tool in woodcock care in the future.

Red Fox

The Red Fox is most commonly a rusty red, with white underbelly, black ear tips and legs, and a bushy tail with a distinctive white tip. The "red" tone can vary from crimson to golden, with bands of red, brown, black and white on each individual hair when seen close up.

The fox's eyes are gold to yellow and have distinctive vertically slit pupils, similar to those of a feline. Their eyesight is also as sharp as that of a feline, and combined with their extreme agility for a canid, the Red Fox has been referred to as "the cat-like canid". Its long bushy tail with distinctive white tip provides balance for large jumps and complex movement. Its strong legs allow it to reach speeds of 45 miles



per hour, a great benefit to catching prey or avoiding predators. The Red Fox may reach an adult weight 6-15 lbs. but this varies from region to region; European individuals being larger, on average, than those in North America.

During the autumn and winter, the Red Fox will grow more fur. This so-called 'winter fur' keeps the animal warm in the colder environment. The fox sheds this fur at the onset of spring, reverting back to the short fur for the duration of the summer.

New England Wildlife Center
500 Columbian Street
South Weymouth, MA 02190

Helping To Preserve New England's Wild Legacy

Did you know that the Center has a wish list of items that we are looking for. Here are some items we are currently looking for:

Bookshelves	Sunflower Seed
Heating pads	Mixed Bird Seed
Dust Buster	Dry Dog Food
Nebulizers	Peanuts
Vaporizers	Suet
Espresso Machine	Blenders
Craft supplies	Food Processors
Throw Rugs	Heating Lamps
Tables & Chairs	Scrubby Sponges
Couches	Dawn Soap
Hammers	Wheat Germ

Ongoing Events

Tours

Self-guided tours are available at \$5 per person each day from 10 am to 2 pm. Guided tours are available by appointment at \$10 per person. Call (781) 682-4878 Ext.126 for further information.

Volunteers

The New England Wildlife Center runs on volunteer power. As we continue to grow, our need for volunteers continues to increase. Those interested in lending a hand should call (781) 682-4878 Ext.126 for further information.

Birthday Parties

Parents are discovering an exciting new alternative to the same old birthday party ideas. They've learned that a party at the New England Wildlife Center is a gift in itself, an experience that their children will remember for years. Give your birthday boy or girl a wild time at our beautiful new wildlife hospital and environmental learning center. Call 781 682-4878, extension 126 for further information.