

Mission Statement

CCWR works to promote the highest standards of animal care in wildlife rehabilitation by providing education and networking opportunities among wildlife rehabilitators and regulatory agencies.

Summer 2014

20th Annual CCWR Symposium

< LOOKING BACK, Moving Forward >

NOVEMBER 7—9, 2014 AT RESORT AT SQUAW CREEK, OLYMPIC VALLEY, CA

ymposium registration forms have been mailed to all members and also posted on our website at www. ccwr.org. Register now and don't miss out on a weekend filled with classes and networking in the beautiful High Sierra Mountains. Some of the featured classes are: Wildlife Advocacy, Avian Fracture Repair, Nutrition, Skunks, Opossums, Snake Rehabilitation and Great Horned Owl Renesting among others. This year the Fawn Committee meeting/roundtable will be open to all attendees. Labs are \$15.00 per lab and attendees must register for the symposium and attend the prerequisite a Mammal Radiography lab. Friday night will feature special guest speaker Gabriela Cowperthwaite, director of the film, "Blackfish." "Blackfish" documents the treatment of the captive Killer Whale "Tilikum" who killed his trainer at Sea World and two others before her. Saturday night Linda Cherkassky will present "The Cat Is Never Away, The Mice Can No Longer Play" and we will conduct our Silent Auction and Chinese Raffle.

Book your room at The Resort at Squaw Creek by calling 1-800-327-3353, and using the symposium code 34TU0UG

for a special standard room price of \$119.00 + 10.1% taxes and resort fees per night. For an additional \$20.00 per night (plus 10.1%) you may book an upgraded fireplace suite that comes with a full kitchen including all preparation, cooking and eating utensils. The hotel is shutting down for a seasonal makeover

on November 10 so they are not accepting Sunday night reservations. The good news is attendees can arrive early to enjoy hiking, golfing and sight-seeing in the Lake Tahoe area and utilize the same low symposium rate. Also Sunday everyone gets a "late checkout" if they

wish as there will be no guests arriving Sunday night to get rooms ready for.



Attending the symposium will count for 12 hours of continuing education by the California Department of Fish & Wildlife. The opening remarks portion is our annual membership meeting. Please be there to hear the Board members report.



lecture for the labs they attend. The lab lectures are open to all attendees, the physical labs have limited space for those that preregistered only. There are two identical Physical Therapy labs and Heron & Egret Rehabilitation labs. Also offered are an Avian Radiography and

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Your Board Activity

Ballots for electing new and returning Board Members have been sent out via the CCWR website for individual members and via USPS for Family & Organizational members who get two votes each.

Please respond to your ballot by September 20 so your vote will count. The prerequisite for being elected to the CCWR Board of Directors is serving one year on a committee. We encourage all CCWR members to join committees. CCWR is your organization, so make sure your voice is heard and help shape the direction of wildlife rehabilitation in California by joining a committee. Please visit our website at www.ccwr. org to learn more about the committees

and decide which committees best suits your interests and skill sets.

We hope our current CCWR committee members who have served for at least a year will consider expanding their roles by applying to become board members. Our by-laws allow us to have up to 15 Directors on the Board. If you've served on your committee for at least a year, consider applying to become a Board Member.

Any member is welcome to attend the board meetings. Please advise CCWR President Leslie Bale at least two weeks prior to attending. Members who wish to present a topic must understand that speaking time will be limited as the meeting agenda is typically full of items to be discussed. Also the board may call an executive session or vote during the meeting and all regular members will need to temporarily step out of the room.

Upcoming Board Meeting

Nov 6 at the Resort at Squaw Creek



CHANGES IN MEMBERSHIP

Greetings CCWR Members!

We would like to make you aware some recent changes in your membership services. Twhe following changes have

been made to better serve our members and support CCWR membership services.

Renewal Date: Effective immediately, the annual membership renewal date has been changed from December 31 to November 30. The expiration date change will accommodate the preparation of our membership directory for publication in a timely manner.

All memberships expiring on December 31, 2014 will receive a renewal notice via email in late September asking to renew by November 30, 2014. Timely renewal

will ensure that your information is updated and included in the 2015 CCWR Membership Directory. Renewals received after November 30 will not be included in the directory.



Renewal Rates: Membership Fees Membership fees will be increased \$10 in each membership category. Membership fees have not been increased in 4 years. This slight increase will help CCWR support the increased cost of essential membership services, such as our beautiful website and membership database.

> If you have any questions or concerns about these changes, please contact Veronica Bowers, Membership Chair, at veronica@CCWR.org

> Thanks for all that you do for California's wildlife!

Sincerely,

Your CCWR Membership Committee

By Monte Merrick, Chairperson

AB 2205: Mammals: use of dogs to pursue bears. CCWR lent its support to the defeat of this bill, authored by Tim Donnelly (R-33) that would have repealed SB 1221, banning use of hounds to hunt bear and bobcat. Our support was in the form of use of our Facebook page to encourage the bill's demise. The bill died in committee 29 April.

AB 2343: Free-roaming Cats. CCWR sent a letter opposing this bill as it was worded since it allowed for immediate release of all impounded stray cats who could not be identified or tracked to a responsible owner. It was an apparent attempt to build the legitimacy of Trap Neuter Release (TNR) programs.

Mike Gatto withdrew the bill, hopefully in some small part due to the letters that were sent from Bird AllyX, Native Songbird Care and Conservation, etc. Most likely the withdrawal was largely the result of the coalition of organizations that were not part of the California Shelter Report stakeholder group and who were very opposed to its recommendations.

This fight, of course, has not concluded. Without question the Advocacy Committee recommends that CCWR stay up-to-date and ready to counter the no-kill movement, which is the driving force bringing TNR into counties and municipalities as a "more humane" approach to stray cat management.

April 26 California Fish & Game Commission (FGC) meeting:

Pertinent agenda items included the California Endangered Species Act (CESA) wolf listing, coyote killing, and the surprise agenda item, the challenges of wildlife rehabilitation.

Coyote Killing Contest: CCWR sent a letter encouraging the FGC to adopt code that will ban "incentivized hunts" like derbies, etc. For now this is limited to predators. Turkey, dove, crow, etc "shoots" as well as "fishing derbies" are not seen as blood sport just yet. Coyote contest rule making process was started by a 3-2 vote. Jim Kellogg and Jacque Hostler- Carmesin opposed.

CESA Gray Wolf: The Center for Biological Diversity and Environmental Protection Information Center petitioned the commission in 2012 to list Gray Wolves under the California Endangered Species Act. The process led to an April 16 decision date, which was then put off another 90 days, with the reasoning that additional comment from Northern California is wanted.

June 4 California Fish & Game Commission (FGC) meeting: CCWR, Bird AllyX, Humboldt State University representatives and many others rallied at the meeting to witness the FGC vote 3-1 to list the gray wolf as endangered in California. The CCWR Advocacy Committee drafted a letter and sent it to the FGC prior to the meeting indicating our support for a vote to list the wolf.

This followed directly on the heels of a remote camera in the Rogue River-Siskiyou County National Forest in southwest Oregon picking up images of



at least 2 wolf cubs apparently fathered by OR-7, a former lone male wolf who was crossing the border between California and Oregon for several months. Offspring from OR-7 will likely disperse into California. http://search.aol.com/ aol/image?q=OR7+wolf+cubs&v_ t=keyword_rollover

AB 2657: Anticoagulant in wildlife areas (as defined). Bans the use of Second Generation Anti-coagulant Rodenticides (SGARs) in designated wildilfe areas. Passed, but is in the process of amending to be more restrictive. http://leginfo. legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient. xhtml?bill id=201320140AB2657

Future Efforts of the CCWR **Advocacy Committee:** Legislation that protects wild animals from the most common injuries, or at least mitigates in some way the impacts of these causes ("there oughta be a law" is the vernacular). See SchoolHouse Rock http://www. youtube.com/watch?v=tyeJ55o3El0. The committee will be developing this idea over the next year. We are interested in what issues members would like the CCWR Advocacy Committee to pursue. Possible campaigns include:

- Ban cat feeding stations
- California Redemption Value (CRV)-type deposit for fishing lines
- Nesting season pruning regulations
- Develop a statewide policy of requiring proof that nonlethal measures have been attempted for so-called nuisance animals before a depredation permit can issued (with the exception of imminent threats to public safety)

Let's hear from you! Monte@ccwr.org or info@ccwr.org 😘

Use of a Herbicide has Taken Away a Home for Monarch

By Andrew Pollack Published: July 11, 2011, New York Times

This is a follow-up story on why the relationship of monarchs and milkweed is important.

s recently as a decade ago, farms in the Midwest were commonly marred — at least as a farmer would view it — by unruly patches of milkweed amid the neat rows of emerging corn or soybeans. Not anymore. Fields are now planted with genetically modified corn and soybeans resistant to the herbicide Roundup®, allowing farmers to spray the chemical to eradicate weeds, including milkweed. While that sounds like good news for the farmers, a growing number of scientists fear it is imperiling the monarch butterfly, whose spectacular migrations make it one of the most beloved of insects — "the Bambi of the insect world," as an entomologist once put it.

Monarchs lay their eggs on milkweed, and their larvae eat it. While the evidence is still preliminary and disputed, experts like Chip Taylor say the growing use of genetically modified crops is threatening the orange-and-black butterfly by depriving it of habitat. "This milkweed has disappeared from at least 100 million acres of these row crops," said Dr. Taylor, an insect ecologist at the University of Kansas and director of the research and conservation program Monarch Watch. "Your milkweed is virtually gone."

The primary evidence that monarch populations are in decline comes from a new study showing a drop over the last 17 years of the area occupied by monarchs in central Mexico, where many of them spend the winter. The amount of land occupied by the monarchs is thought to be a proxy for their population size. "This is the first time we have the data that we can analyze statistically that

shows there's a downward trend," said Ernest H. Williams, a professor of biology at Hamilton College and an author of the study along with Dr. Taylor and others. The paper, published online by the journal Insect Conservation and Diversity, attributes the decrease partly to the loss of milkweed from use of "Roundup Ready" crops. Other causes, it says, are the loss of milkweed to land development, illegal logging at the wintering sites in Mexico, and severe weather.

The study does not suggest the monarch will become extinct. But it questions whether the annual migration, the impetus for butterfly festivals around the United States and waves of tourism to Mexico, is sustainable. Still, the paper does not present any data backing its contention that genetically engineered crops are reducing monarch populations. Some experts dispute that the monarch populations are declining at all, and say it is unclear whether the biotech crops are having an effect.

Andrew K. Davis, an assistant research scientist at the University of Georgia, said censuses of adult monarchs taken each fall at Cape May, N.J., and Peninsula Point, Mich., did not show any decline.

It could be that "even though the overwintering population is getting smaller and smaller, once they come northward in the spring they are able to recoup the numbers," Dr. Davis said. His paper disputing that there has been a decline in the monarch population was published online by the same journal.

Leslie Ries, a research professor at the University of Maryland, said other butterfly counts she had examined also did not show a decline, but rather year-to-year fluctuations. Since milkweed populations are not likely to fluctuate as much, the milkweed is probably not the major determinant of butterfly populations, she said. Two other researchers, Karen Oberhauser of the University of Minnesota and John M. Pleasants of Iowa State, cite other evidence for a decline: the number of monarch eggs in the fields of the Midwest. "Monarch production has decreased significantly" Dr. Pleasants said. "The reduction is caused by loss of milkweed resources available to them." The two scientists have submitted a paper to a scientific journal and said they did not want to discuss their data before publication.

Roundup Ready crops contain a bacterial gene that allows them to withstand Roundup or its generic equivalent, glyphosate, allowing farmers to kill the weeds without harming the crop. Because they make weed control much easier, the crops have been widely adopted by farmers. This year, 94 percent of the soybeans and 72 percent of the corn being grown in the United States are herbicide-tolerant, according to the Department of Agriculture. In turn, that had led to an explosion in the use of glyphosate, according to the Environmental Protection Agency. About five times as much of the weed killer was used on farmland in 2007 as in 1997, a year after the Roundup Ready crops were introduced, and roughly 10 times as much as in 1993.

Farmers, of course, have always tried to eliminate weeds, by tilling or by spraying other herbicides. But while herbicides often had to be used before crops emerged from the ground, glyphosate can be sprayed later in the growing season because it won't damage the resistant crops. That and the general effectiveness of glyphosate have led to greater weed control. "It kills

everything," said Lincoln P. Brower, an entomologist at Sweet Briar College who is also an author of the paper documenting the decline of monarch winter populations in Mexico. "It's like absolute Armageddon for biodiversity over a huge area."

The amount of milkweed on farms in Iowa declined 90 percent from 1999 to 2009, according to Robert G. Hartzler, an agronomist at Iowa State. His study, published last year in the journal Crop Protection, found milkweed on only 8 percent of the corn and soybean fields surveyed in 2009, down from 51 percent in 1999. Because of weed-control

efforts, even before the advent of Roundup Ready crops, any one farm is not likely to harbor that much milkweed.

But the sheer amount of farmland in the Corn Belt has meant that farms, in aggregate, have accounted for a vast majority of monarch births, according to another study published by Dr. Oberhauser and colleagues in 2001. That study estimated that in Iowa,

farms produced 78 times the number of monarchs as nonagricultural sites, and in Wisconsin and Minnesota, 73 times as much. While monarchs come from other parts of the country as well, the Midwest is widely believed to be where most of them are hatched. Still, even Dr. Hartzler said in his paper that it was difficult to assess what impact the decline of Iowa milkweed was having on monarch populations.

A spokesman for Monsanto, the inventor of the Roundup Ready crops and the manufacturer of Roundup®, agreed, saying "knowledge is still evolving about whether and how agriculture in Iowa affects monarch population biology." And what is true of Iowa, he said, might not apply to other regions.

This is not the first time genetically modified crops have been thought to threaten the monarch.

In 1999, researchers at Cornell reported that monarch caterpillars could be killed if they are milkweed onto which the researchers had dusted pollen from another type of engineered crop known as BT corn. That corn has a bacterial gene allowing it to produce a toxin that kills certain pests. Subsequent research, financed in part by the biotechnology industry, found that caterpillars were not likely to be exposed to lethal amounts of BT corn pollen under actual field conditions. That concern has died down.



Scientists say it is not surprising that suppressing weeds would have an effect on insects, and probably not just the monarch. The National Academy of Sciences discussed this in a 2007 report on bees and other animals that pollinate crops. The report cited a British study that found fewer butterflies in fields growing genetically engineered beets and canola than in fields growing nonengineered crops. That raises the somewhat radical notion that perhaps weeds on farms should be protected. "There's a change in agricultural thinking, because the weedfree field was the gold standard," said May Berenbaum, head of entomology at the University of Illinois. Still, she and other insect experts say it is unrealistic to expect farmers to give up the herbicidetolerant crops — so efforts should be made to preserve or grow milkweed

elsewhere, perhaps on farmland set aside for conservation. Monarch Watch is encouraging gardeners to grow milkweed.

Dr. Taylor of Monarch Watch offered a modest, possibly ironic proposal for biotechnology companies. "I would implore them to develop a Roundupresistant milkweed," he said.

A version of this article appeared in print on July 12, 2011, on page DI of the New York edition with the headline: In Midwest, Flutters May Be Far Fewer.

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Editor's Note: Although this article specifically concerns the crops in the mid-west United States, as wildlife rehabilitators and environment-conscious individuals, we need to think about the welfare of all wildlife. As one of the articles suggests, let's all plant a little patch of milkweed in our gardens no matter how big or small to help monarchs. Thank you to JoLynn Taylor for researching the above supplemental articles on the monarch butterfly.

An interesting site on monarchs at www.livemonarch.com

WHAT IS FRACKING?

racking is a slang term for hydraulic fracturing. Fracking is a well stimulation technique that creates fractures in rocks and rock formations by injecting a highly pressurized fluid combination of water, chemicals and sand into cracks to force them further open. When the hydraulic pressure is removed from the well, small grains of hydraulic fracturing proppants (either sand or aluminium oxide) hold the fractures open once the deep rock achieves geologic equilibrium. The larger fissures allow more oil and gas to flow out of the formation and into the wellbore, where it can be extracted and marketed.

Aluminium oxide, which is used as a proppant, was taken off the United States Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) chemicals lists in 1988. Aluminium oxide is on EPA's Toxics Release Inventory list if it is a fibrous form. Aside from proppants, slickwater fracturing fluids are mostly comprised of water, generally 99% or more by volume, but gel-based fluids can see polymers and surfactants comprising as much as 7 % volume- ignoring other additives. Other common additives include hydrochloric acid (low pH can etch certain rocks, dissolving limestone for instance), friction reducers, guar gum, biocides, emulsion breaker, emulsifiers, and 2-Butoxyethanol.

Petroleum engineers have used fracking as a means of increasing well production since the late 1940s. Fractures can also exist naturally in formations, and both natural and man-made fractures can be widened by fracking. As a result, more oil and gas can be extracted from a given area of land. Fracking has recently increased in several states resulting in many oil and gas wells attaining a state of economic viability, due to the level of extraction that can be reached.

According to a San Francisco Chronicle review printed August 30, 2014, of a federally commissioned report, fracking in California may endanger groundwater in the state. The newspaper reports:

"The report found that half of the oil wells fracked in the state lie within 2,000 feet of the surface, close to aquifers. Hydraulic fracturing uses a high-pressure blend of water, sand and chemicals to crack rocks containing oil or natural gas. Those cracks can sometimes extend as far up as 1,969 feet – not far from the surface."

"Fracking chemicals, some of them toxic, could migrate along the cracks and leach into drinking water," according to the report. There are no recorded cases of that happening in California, the authors note, but it remains a possibility needing further study.

'In California, hydraulic fracturing is occurring at relatively shallow depths and presents an inherent risk for fractures to intersect nearby aquifers,' reads the report, from the California Council on Science and Technology. "Water wells in Kern County, where most of California's fracking takes place, lie 600 feet to 800 feet below the surface, according to the U.S. Geological Survey."

In its own separate analysis of the federal report, the Center for Biological Diversity listed the federal review's most disturbing conclusions:

"Fracking in California happens at much shallower levels than elsewhere, and the report notes that 'Hydraulic fracturing at shallow depths poses a greater potential risk to water resources because of its proximity to groundwater and the potential for fractures to intersect nearby aquifers.' The study notes that investigators 'could not determine the groundwater quality near many hydraulic fracturing operations and found that existing data was insufficient to evaluate the extent to which contamination may have occurred.'

Some fracking chemicals used in California are 'acutely toxic to mammals,' the report says, while also noting that 'No information could be found about the toxicity of about a third of the chemicals and few of the chemicals have been evaluated to see if animals or plants would be harmed by chronic exposure.'

The report says that 'Current practice and testing requirements do not necessarily protect against adding produced water contaminated with hydraulic fracturing fluid to water used in agriculture.'

Fracking removes millions of gallons of precious freshwater from the water cycle in a drought-ridden California which affects our crops, our wildlife and natural plants access to water.

Each well uses between two and five million gallons of locally-sourced freshwater which will be permanently contaminated by ground contaminants and toxic chemicals contained in the fracking fluid.

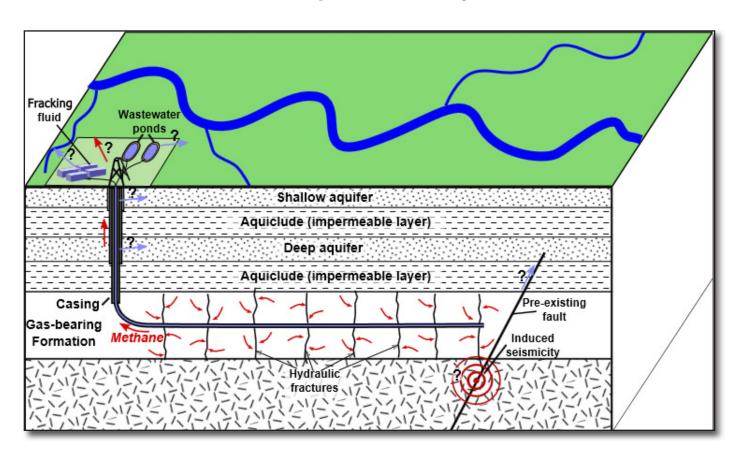
About half of this water returns to the surface, where it is stored in steel containers until it can be injected deep underground in oil and gas waste wells.

No one is entirely sure what happens to the other half of the water used in the process. The best guess is that the water remains underground, though there are indications that at least some of this toxic cocktail makes its way back into the water supply. With our concern for California's wildlife and the environment, fracking should set off our alarm bells. If you see unexplained die-offs in your area where the symptoms resemble poisoning, find out if there is fracking in the area. We need to monitor this potential new threat.

Anyone who wants to be more personally involved, you may want to visit the website: http://www.americansagainstfracking.org/about-the-coalition/members/

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