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*California Council for Wildlife Rehabilitators*

# August 2019 Newsletter

## Message from the President



The CCWR board has been very hard at work. The past few months we were able to gather up all of CCWR's past documentation - about 12 boxes worth. A few of the board members got together and had a very informative work weekend. We were able to go through all of these historical documents and organize everything. It was amazing to see the legacy of CCWR through documentation. CCWR has a detailed Document Retention Plan and we followed it to an obsessive level! All boxes are now labeled with what its contents and how long those documents need to be saved for. We were able to

consolidate 12 boxes and several binders down to just 8 boxes. It was a tedious but fulfilling weekend.

Our team found past CCWR treasures in the organization hurricane. There were letters and flyers about getting CCWR organized dating back to the Council's beginning in 1992-93. Included in the boxes and binders of historical records were lists of members from several years, I recognized many of my personal mentors on those lists. There was a huge amount of material from the past 24 symposiums including brochures, agendas, silent auction forms and registration lists, all dating back to the first members meeting on March 18, 1995 at a Waldorf School in Sacramento. What a legacy this organization has and I personally want to send a huge hug of gratitude to everybody that has helped shape CCWR over the decades.

In the constant evolution of CCWR, the board has been diligently researching all of the new options on the market for website and membership management. Our current website maintained by our former board member Ruth McDunn, is a WordPress masterpiece and without being an expert in WordPress, it is difficult to navigate and use for the average person.

It is very important that CCWR as an organization can easily hand off duties to the next generation. Your BOD has dedicated the past few years to making the overall management of the organization easier. It should be simple to share internal documents and store documentation without giant binders and cardboard boxes following everybody around. Our communication should be simple and effective with our members and ourselves. Everything we do should not take years to learn, but a few tutorials away. Our community's time is precious and valuable. If we can reduce the amount of learning time and busy work, we can focus more of our time on up-to-date and critical information that our members should be made aware of.

With all this said, CCWR is very proud to reveal our new [website](#). Created using Squarespace which links to our membership database, Membership Works. Not only are the overall costs of these 2 programs cheaper than our current set-up but almost anybody can navigate and use these softwares. If you can't figure something out, it is just a tutorial away. In fact, it was so easy that we were able to put all of this together and include symposium registration into it within a few short months, most of us learning as we went. For more on our new Membership Software and how it affects you please refer to our Membership Works article.

Sincerely,  
Rachel Avilla

# **Symposium 2019 - The Mountains are Calling and I Must Go...”John Muir”**

This will be the 6th time CCWR has had a [Symposium](#) at [Tenaya Lodge](#). We decided to embrace our roots and go back for our quarter-century gathering! Things have changed at Tenaya Lodge, they have expanded and now there are more amenities and more food options! It is a beautiful location and if you book early you may be able to get a few more days added on with our special rate and take a trip out to Yosemite as well.

## **ACCOMMODATIONS AT TENAYA LODGE**

Tenaya Lodge at Yosemite is nestled among California’s High Sierra’s. Plan to explore the 35-acre hotel property crisscrossed with trails and alive with a wide variety of flora and fauna! Tenaya Lodge is located along Highway 41 just two miles from Yosemite’s South Gate. For more information visit <https://www.tenayalodge.com/>.



## **HOTEL RESERVATIONS**

CCWR has negotiated a specific number of sleeping rooms reserved at the special symposium rate of \$139 per night (not including taxes and fees) single/double occupancy plus a heavily discounted \$10 per day resort fee. We negotiated hard to get this reduced to an affordable level for members, so please understand that resort fees are something hotels are starting to require, and we will have to get used to. We highly suggest bunking up with a friend to reduce your overall costs. Additional adults (3 or more) will cost an extra \$15 a night. You must make reservations before October 1, 2019 in order to receive this rate. You can make your reservations online at our [CCWR Online Reservation Link](#) or you can call Tenaya Lodge at (800) 635-5807, Option #1 and identify you are with the California Council for Wildlife Rehabilitators or by using the group code 31I4AF to receive the group rate.

Once the rooms are filled, the symposium rate cannot be guaranteed, even if requested before the cut-off date. The special rate will be extended to attendees

for the nights before and after the symposium if space is available. The check-in time is 4:00 PM and the check-out time is 11:00 AM.

**Register for the 2019 Symposium Here!**



The first 20 members will get the early bird price of \$65, use the discount code “earlybird”. Thereafter the cost will be \$75 for members \$120 for non-members. This cost will include a welcome breakfast Saturday morning, access to nearly 30 presentations and labs, the ability to pre-register for the IWRC courses and more.

We are very excited to have IWRC host 2 of their courses with us this year. They will teach the [Pain and Wound Management](#) (8-hour course) on Sunday 1:30-5:30 and Monday 8-12. The [Zoonoses](#) (4-hour course) will also be on Monday from 8-12. The IWRC courses will have a separate registration through IWRC if you want to sign up for them. These are also the only classes that will happen on Monday so you won’t miss out on very many other presentations!



## **SCHOLARSHIP**

Generous donors to the CCWR Scholarship Fund have made three \$300 scholarships available to CCWR members for 2019. The scholarship is intended to help defray expenses to eligible CCWR members who would not otherwise be able to attend the symposium. To apply, please submit the following information to [jennifer@ccwr.org](mailto:jennifer@ccwr.org). All applications must be received by September 8th. Winners will be announced by September 30th.

- 1) Name, address, telephone number, email address
- 2) Permitted affiliation
- 3) Would you be able to attend the symposium without the help of a scholarship?
- 4) Why is wildlife rehabilitation important to you?
- 5) Give one example of how you've made a difference in the field of wildlife rehabilitation.

## **SILENT AUCTION AND RAFFLE**

CCWR will be hosting a silent auction and raffle at this year's symposium on Sunday, November 3rd during our fundraising banquet. We have some exciting items to bid on, including a night at Sorensen's Resort in beautiful Hope Valley, a Barn Owl nesting box, gift certificates to Rainbow Mealworms, animal themed gift baskets, relaxation items, jewelry, clothing, and more! The majority of items are donated by members or friends of members, and we are still in need of silent auction and raffle items. If you have a donation, please contact Jennifer Guess at [jennifer@ccwr.org](mailto:jennifer@ccwr.org). Thank you!

## **MEMBERSHIP THAT WORKS FOR YOU!**

We have switched to an easier membership system called Membership Works. This will allow you to update your own membership, look at a directory of members, and much more! To begin using this on the new website, follow these three steps:

1. Go to the "Member Login" tab under "Membership"
2. Request your password. You will have the chance to reset it to something you will remember. Retrieve it from your email.
3. Put in your password. This will take you to your profile. You can use the tabs to update your specialties, address info, and anything else you need to.

PLEASE NOTE: You need to do this BEFORE you register for the symposium as

a member. You will use your same password that you create to login to get the membership rate. You will have the opportunity to purchase banquet tickets, pay lab fees, and more once you have logged in and registered for the symposium.

NOTE 2: This is not the same password used to access "Member Resources". One limit of the software used to create the new website is we can't have individual passwords to access pages. Request the password and you'll be given it. Please trust us that the temporary inconvenience is well worth the ease of the new website builder that does not require any specialized knowledge to create or manage pages. That means that whoever is on the board, (will it be you?) can better help you use the website in the future.

Lastly, please remember that we may experience some problems in the transition. We discussed the changes thoroughly and feel that this will make CCWR a more sustainable and user friendly organization into the future. All of us board members are volunteers and we are doing this on our own time at the end of baby season. Have patience with us as we try to help you and help CCWR function efficiently into the future.

### **INFORMATION OVERLOAD AND NEWSLETTER BURNOUT**

We live in a world where information is continuous. Either through social media, the news or from other aspects of our lives, information floods our brains endlessly and it can become overwhelming. Bertram Gross coined the term information overload in his 1964 work *The Managing of Organizations*. The definition Gross provided was as follows, "Information overload occurs when the amount of input to a system exceeds its processing capacity". This means that when too much information enters our brains it becomes increasingly difficult to digest and fully comprehend the information we are taking in.



In an effort to make our newsletter more accessible and readable, the Board of Directors has discussed creating a newsletter that will present important information but in a way where readers won't become overwhelmed by too many details. We will be focusing on quality over quantity. Our newsletters will

be a little briefer in content but still provide easy access to more information should a reader want to learn more about a topic. We want to present our newsletters in a way that is concise but effective!

### **ADVOCACY NEWS**

Wonderful news for wildlife: AB 273, the bill to ban all commercial and recreational trapping of fur-bearing and nongame mammals is up for a vote in the State Senate. Passage in the Senate is the last step to ban this cruel and senseless practice in California before it goes to the governor's desk for signature. CCWR is proud to have sent out letters of support throughout this bill's process.

In early July, Advocacy Committee member, Kelle Kacmarcik, spoke on behalf of CCWR as well as Wildcare against the use of rodenticides on the Farallon Islands at the California Coastal Commission's meeting in San Luis Obispo. Thank you, Kelle!



***Thank you to our members for supporting us! We hope to see you at the Symposium in Yosemite this year!***

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**Register for the 2019 Symposium Here!**

**Find Out More About CCWR!**

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**The California Council for Wildlife Rehabilitators is dedicated to advancing wildlife rehabilitation and supporting wildlife in a changing world.**

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**Our mailing address is:**

P.O. Box 7203, Cotati, CA

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