The LSU School of Veterinary Medicine’s Wildlife Hospital currently accepts more than 1,700 wild mammals, birds, and reptiles annually, with a 15 percent increase in caseload anticipated each year. We do not charge a fee to the Good Samaritans who bring in these sick and injured animals. Your gift to the Wildlife Hospital of Louisiana makes it possible for our board-certified veterinarians to continue treating wildlife. We promote conservation of our native species by providing veterinary care to a wide range of wild animals with the ultimate goal of releasing them back to the wild. Notable species include bald eagles and gopher tortoises, both very important species in Louisiana. We also work closely with the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) to assess ill or injured whooping cranes.

EDUCATION

Our educational mission allows us to bring a message of conservation to people of all ages and backgrounds. From pre-school to university students and community groups, our resident birds are ambassadors for conservation that allow people to make a connection with our native wildlife and learn to respect and appreciate these amazing creatures.

All three aspects of our mission are interconnected and ensure that we maximize our resources towards the benefit of our wildlife species and the community we serve. I hope you continue to be part of this mission and wish you the very best in the remainder of the year. Thank you!

Sincerely,

Dr. Javier G. Nevarez

To learn more about the WHL and its staff, visit www.wildlife.lsu.edu
MEET OUR NEW INTERN

The WHL would like to welcome Dr. Peter Midgley-DiGeronimo, our 2015-16 intern. Dr. DiGeronimo is a 2010 graduate from the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine. He has worked in private practice and has been active in veterinary medicine internationally. Dr. DiGeronimo also speaks Italian, Portuguese, Spanish and some Arabic. We are very fortunate to have Dr. DiGeronimo in our program.

WE ASKED AND YOU ANSWERED.

We would like to thank Mr. Vance Gordon for donating a golf cart to the WHL. Mr. Gordon has been a long-time friend of the WHL and he answered our call from the last newsletter. Our student co-chairs have already put the cart to good use, and it has made a significant impact on our daily operations. On behalf of the students, our birds, and myself, thank you Mr. Gordon!

THE END OF AN ERA, A NEW BEGINNING

The end of an era is near for one of the most important infrastructure components of the WHL, our flight cages. Our flight cages serve to rehabilitate birds admitted to the hospital and also house our resident birds of prey. At over 34 years old, the cages have surpassed their life expectancy. There have been additions and renovations but the main supports of the cages are starting to fail apart. The cost for new flight cages and homes for our resident birds will be approximately $100,000. This will also ensure that we meet current federal requirements for the spaces used to house and rehabilitate birds of prey.

Our advancement team at the LSU School of Veterinary Medicine has been active in identifying potential sources of funding from grant proposals and private donations for new flight cages. The LDWF has also expressed their support and intent to provide some assistance with this project, but we also need your help. The vast majority of the birds that are admitted to the WHL are rehabilitated in our flight cages; therefore, they are an essential part of our program. Without them, we would have to shut down some of our services. Once again, we hope that you will keep the WHL in mind when deciding where to make your charitable donations.

RESEARCH NEWS

In September, we had the opportunity to work with the Louisiana Alligator Snapping Turtle Restoration program run by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries. This program aims to release alligator snapping turtles back to their natural environment in the state to help replenish their populations. The WHL is working with the LDWF to assess the health of the animals and ensure they are healthy before release. We would like to thank the LDWF personnel for all their hard work on this program.

WILDLIFE HOSPITAL OF LOUISIANA FACTS

- We do not charge the public a fee when they bring wildlife in; however, without the support of people like you, we could not provide critical care to Louisiana’s wildlife.
- The cost for care for each wildlife case varies, but ranges from $50 for basic care of an orphaned squirrel to $3,000 for an orthopedic surgery on a bald eagle.
- The Wildlife Hospital of Louisiana treats and rehabilitates over 1,700 cases each year, with the ultimate goal of releasing the animals back into the wild.
- Your gift will ensure that every animal admitted to the Wildlife Hospital receives the best veterinary care possible.

Ways to Support the Wildlife Hospital of Louisiana

ONLINE: www.lsufoundation.org/wildlifesupport
PHONE: 225-578-9948
MAIL: See form on back page of this newsletter
Facebook.com/LSUSVM
Facebook.com/lsuwildlife
twitter.com/LSUVetMed
instagram.com/lsuvetmed