Dear Members,

As you well know over Wildlife Rescue’s many years of serving animals, both human and non-human, we have been asked to aid animals of all species and "backgrounds." It was my intention from the first day I put the dream of WRR into action to save as many animals as we could and always to find other means to help those who WRR could not take into our care.

In our very early days, long before we had a sanctuary to call our own, we had to seek the help of our members who had land and who very much wanted to help by providing homes for domesticated animals. There are two of these animals whom I shall never forget and who are often in my thoughts when I look out at our 212 acres that so many animals now call home.

The two animals I write about today were both in need of friends and a home as they had lost all who were dear to them. The elderly ram was called Sheffield; the tabby whose person had recently passed away was Seymour. Sheffield had lived his life as the only sheep in a small pasture behind a house. His people had always intended to find friends for him but somehow they never got around to it and now that they were moving, the sheep had to find another home. Seymour too had been a lone resident in his household; now the two would temporarily reside at WRR. Perhaps it was their history of solitude that drew them to one another for after only a few days, wherever we found Sheffield, Seymour was trailing behind.

We had set up a small shelter under a large oak tree for the ram. He had a bed of soft hay, a food bowl and fresh grass underfoot; the space was warm and dry and quickly became his favorite spot. Interestingly, every time he would lie down for a nap, his soft woolen body became a favorite spot for Seymour. Each morning when breakfast was served the two would rise, first Seymour leaping off his wooly bed, then Sheffield stretching out his legs and lumbering over to enjoy his first meal of the day. There the two friends would stand and leisurely consume their breakfasts.

(Story continued on page 3)
Welcome!

On behalf of the WRR Board of Directors and staff, I want to welcome Cynthia Nelson to Wildlife Rescue as our new Executive Director. She began work on June 2. The Board chose Cyndi out of a large field of candidates because she brings with her a wealth of senior management experience. She worked for over thirty years in various administrative leadership roles at the Baylor College of Medicine, including managing resources and staff, facility operation, grant and funding acquisition, and strategic planning, all with a focus on excellence and innovation. Already, in her short time at WRR, she has shown that the transition from the medical field to animal protection will be a smooth one. We all feel privileged and excited to have her join us in the important work that Wildlife Rescue does for animals.

Cyndi and her husband, Alan Weiner, have relocated from Houston to Spring Branch along with their two rescued dogs, Louie and Sophie.

Sandra Arias Longoria
Board Chairperson

A Note from the Director

I am honored to have the opportunity to lead WRR in engaging the community, our membership, critical partners and the next generation of individuals who care about the welfare of native and nonnative wildlife along with farmed and companion animals. I look forward to working closely with the Board and our Founder/President in carrying out our vision and mission. Wildlife Rescue and Rehabilitation is at the forefront of animal care and protection efforts and I am excited by the important work ahead to garner resources to ensure continuity of our work.

After spending the majority of my career in academic healthcare and research, my aspiration is to work in a non-profit organization that focuses all its attention in one mission area without being mired in bureaucracy. I sought out an organization that asks 'how can we do this' rather than being stopped by why something cannot be done. Because of my lifelong beliefs about access to care and basic benefits for all and my history of volunteer service for frail and disadvantaged people, I chose my degree in Public Administration. Every position I have had has focused on vulnerable populations.

Combined with a love of animals and deep distress at animal exploitation in all its forms, I believe the leap from serving vulnerable human groups to animal protection is a logical move. Protecting an animal's welfare means providing for their physical and mental needs. I am pleased to have the responsibility for overseeing the resources needed to support the staff in providing an enriched home for animals in need. While I understand the importance and mission of WRR, coming from another arena with similar altruistic goals, I can bring a fresh perspective.

Cyndi Nelson
Executive Director
If the day was warm and sunny the big, yellow tabby would roll about in the hay before choosing the perfect space for his nap and there beside him was his elderly friend.

It didn’t take long for us to find the ideal setting for the sheep, a small farm owned by a couple who were WRR members and were happy to have Sheffield join the few goats, geese, ducks and dogs who made up their family. They also agreed to foster the tabby while WRR continued to search for a home for him.

Sheffield and Seymour were doing their best to settle into their new abode but Seymour was not fond of the two small dogs and Sheffield was not quite sure if he approved of goats, but the two had one another and clearly preferred each other’s company, so for the time being all was well.

But sadly this was not to last. A young lady who wanted to adopt a cat came one day to meet Seymour and fell in love with him. His caretakers agreed that she could provide the perfect home for a kitty and Seymour went to live with her. Now Sheffield was alone and would have to learn to accept the company of goats and geese. But this was not something that the venerable ram was willing to do and he made his distaste for the situation very clear. He refused his breakfast; he would not lie about in the sun and all he would do was mope about sad and lost and once again alone.

Seymour was not faring any better; he too refused to eat and now that there was no warm, woody friend to sleep on he sprawled out under a window in his new home and would not move. It was plain to see that these two friends should never have been separated and both new families agreed that they must be reunited. As usual the animals in this situation had already figured this out and late one moonlit night a large, yellow tabby was making his own plans.

We cannot know if Seymour realized what he had taken on when he decided to go back to his friend, for separating the two were over 25 miles of busy roads, high bridges, open fields and houses… all unfamiliar to this brave and determined feline. The morning he was discovered missing, we all decided to post a vigil and to hope that he would succeed for we all knew that Seymour was on his way to find Sheffield.

(Continued on page 7)
During the middle days of May baby egrets began showing up at the WRR Sherman Animal Care Complex in San Antonio. Employees of the San Antonio Zoo brought them a few at a time until there were approximately 65 being cared for. They were said to be nestlings and fledglings who had fallen from their nests, and some were injured.

Then, on the morning of June 3rd, a Zoo staff member arrived with nine cardboard boxes containing 254 baby egrets who had not fallen from nests but had been removed by human hands. Some of the tiny birds had died. We now had close to 300 young egrets requiring intensive care by our dedicated animal care staff, veterinarians, interns, and volunteers.

Ever since their rookery south of San Antonio was destroyed by humans several years ago, countless egrets have reestablished themselves and their families in the natural setting of San Antonio’s Brackenridge Park. Unfortunately for these striking and graceful birds their home is now just outside the San Antonio Zoo property. We say “unfortunately” because Zoo officials have never welcomed these beautiful birds.

The Zoo has brought hundreds of these helpless youngsters to Wildlife Rescue & Rehabilitation. We then assume the responsibility, labor, and expense of doing all in our power to save these egrets and one day release them into friendlier habitats. In instances where the birds need rescue due to injuries, WRR is where they need to be, but ripping baby egrets from their nests and the loving care of their parents is another matter—one that is cruel and unnecessary.

Fortunately for the baby birds, regardless of what circumstances bring them in, we always stand ready to help. In their case, help means around seven hand-feedings per day using a small syringe containing a liquefied combination of fish and meal. As they grow older they begin feeding themselves pieces of fish and are moved to aviaries where they gain strength and ability to fly. By early July we had begun releasing those who were ready at area lakes.

The question to be asked—Is it right to remove helpless, dependent baby egrets from their nests? Many, of course, died and survivors were deprived of the emotional and practical support of parents during the earliest period of their lives. The removal was legal; U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service granted the Zoo a permit. And it was good of its staff to bring the young birds to WRR. (At other times the Zoo has been known to capture and kill native wildlife who interlope its boundaries. Since wild animals act in response to ecosystem and survival dynamics rather than property lines and human convenience, they often pay the ultimate price for conflict with human desires.)

Was it right? Was it even consistent with the Zoo’s proclaimed values? The San Antonio Zoo Mission Statement says that it aims "...to foster appreciation and concern for all living things." The Association of Zoos & Aquariums, which accredits the Zoo, states that its Vision is "...a world where, as a result of the work of accredited zoos and aquariums, all people respect, value, and conserve wildlife and wild places." Appreciation, concern, respect...these are surely values and attitudes—toward fellow humans as well as other life—that lead toward a more peaceful and compassionate world. We support these values wholeheartedly and will join the Zoo and all others in their promotion at every opportunity. But the seriousness and depth of value commitments are fully revealed only when tested. These snowy, cattle, and great egrets were doing the best they could in what remains of the wild places they require to survive.

The muckery they have created which causes the Zoo such distress is obviously a good one in their eyes else hundreds would not have congregated there. It may also be one of a shrinking few owing to human expansion into other wild places. The birds’ need to reproduce and survive is inconvenient for the Zoo; noise, droppings, distraction... And the common human response when conflict with wildlife arises is to kill or displace, but shouldn’t we expect better of zoos, which, after all, are built around wildlife and that would have us believe that conservation of wildlife is the true reason for being?

Wild animals have suffered from centuries of exploitation by those who captured and exhibited them. While modern zoos rarely take animals from the wild anymore, they nonetheless make their living through exhibits, which means keeping animals in confinement such that it may well be a misnomer to still refer to the immates as “wild.” But the egrets are. And wild, as Thoroe reminded us, means self-sufficiently living as Nature intended.

In a crowded world conflicts are inevitable and adjustments must be made on all sides. A strong commitment to humane values must lead to minimally disruptive, nonlethal responses to the inconvenience that these wild animals created for animals in the zoo as well as zoo staff and patrons. Why weren’t rookery trees pruned during the winter? Failing that, why weren’t eggs pulled early rather than babies removed later? And failing that, why not wait till after this year’s youngsters have flown away to make alterations to the muckery?

Respect for other life is not just inspiring words in a mission statement. It is not simply a feeling or good intention. If it does not take shape and expression in respectful action, it is nothing but empty words.

Craig Brestrap, Ph.D.
Development Associate
Camino2@gvtc.com

WRR is deeply appreciative to the San Antonio Audubon Society (SAAS) for their tireless help with the egrets who the San Antonio Zoo decided to remove from their nests and the care of their parents. The SAAS went the extra mile to speak to Zoo officials in voicing their disapproval of their actions.
Wildlife Rescue & Rehabilitation

Members’ Day

An exclusive event for members only!

October 18, 2014 10am – 3pm

Come and enjoy vegetarian lunch, socializing with other WRR members and staff, and going on guided tours of the sanctuary and animal hospital.

Wish List Needs

As you know the animals are in constant need of many items to make their lives at WRR clean, comfortable and healthy. Please consider bringing some of our Wish List needs (at right) with you. We will have a truck at the gate ready to receive them when you arrive.

- Dry dog food
- Dry cat food
- Cat litter
- Wild bird seed
- Paper towels
- Cotton balls
- Bleach
- Kleenex
- Dish soap (gal.)
- Trash bags (55 gal.)

Reserve Your Place Now

4 convenient ways to register at right.

REGISTRATION:
$35 per person
$60 per couple
$15 each additional person

EMAIL: Debbie at dcrawford@wildlife-rescue.org
PHONE: Debbie at 830-336-2725 x 308
MAIL: Fill in coupon on page B, clip & mail
ONLINE: Go to wildlife-rescue.org, click the Members’ Day ad in right sidebar, fill out form on the following web page
Over a week passed and there was no sign of Seymour. Another week and we knew that our hopes and his plans could easily be met with tragedy. A trek of this distance with so many dangers would be difficult for anyone but for an older cat who had never spent much time out of doors, the reality was that it might prove impossible. The valiant mission was suddenly complicated by the arrival of severe thunderstorms. It was late one night and the winds howled as the heavy rains and lightning approached our area. We all knew that the big, yellow tabby was out there in this storm with no shelter and only his wits to guide him through the danger.

Early the following morning the sun rose on a mud and debris ridden sight; trees had fallen, there were deep ruts where the heavy rains had coursed over the ground, the geese and ducks on the small farm were playing in the puddles and the goats were greeting the day happy to see the sunshine. But Sheffield was not rising; he was sleeping later than usual. Perhaps this was because the storm had kept him up all night or it might have been the large, soaking wet, muddy yellow lump that was sleeping on his back that caused the ram to linger in his shelter that beautiful sunny morning. Without a doubt Seymour was grateful that his friend chose to sleep in and when breakfast was set before the two Sheffield simply looked over at his feline friend and, not wanting to disturb him, quietly went back to sleep.

These two loving and loyal friends would spend the rest of their lives together on the small farm they could now call home.

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**HUNGRY ORPHANED ANIMALS NEED YOUR HELP**

If you were here at WRR, you would see that in our care are over 100 white-tail fawns, more than 200 baby raccoons, hundreds of juvenile egrets, and so many more little babies, each of these an orphan who has lost his or her mother and each of these young and precious animals wanting and needing special care and food every day.

To give you a better idea of their needs, here is what WRR must have on hand for them:

- **Fawns consume** one entire 20 pound container of formula every day; reconstituted into nutritious liquid, it costs $115/container.

- **Raccoons consume** one 20 pound container of their own special formula every other day; reconstituted into over a hundred gallons, it costs $200/container.

- **All the orphaned egrets** must be fed more than 25 pounds of fish each and every day at a cost of $600/month.

Wildlife Rescue and each of these animals, and others too numerous to mention, need your donations today!

**Would you please take a moment to send them your gift to purchase this life-saving food?**

Every time you donate to their care you are standing right here, side by side with WRR staff, feeding and caring for these lives who we all cherish and treasure.

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*Lynn Carey*
WILDLIFE RESCUE DONATION AND MEMBERS’ DAY REGISTRATION FORM

MEMBERS’ DAY REGISTRATION
Saturday, October 19, 2014 10am - 3pm
($35 per person; $60 per couple; $15 each additional person)

☐ I plan to attend #____________ $______________
☐ I cannot attend but would like to make a donation $______________
☐ I would like to volunteer

ONE-TIME GIFT DONATION
☐ $35  ☐ $50  ☐ $100  ☐ $250
☐ $500  ☐ $1,000  ☐ $______________

WRR SUSTAINERS (minimum of $10/month)
☐ I want to be a WRR Sustainer and make a monthly gift of: $______________
Your card will be charged this amount on approximately the 5th of each month.

You may use the enclosed envelope (filled in) by itself if only making a donation; if registering for the Members’ Day event, please fill in, clip and send this coupon.

Name ____________________________
Address ____________________________
City ______________________________
State ______ Zip ______ Phone ____________

Email ____________________________
Payment Enclosed: ☐ Check ☐ Cash ☐ Charge (Check card type below)
☐ Visa  ☐ Mastercard  ☐ American Express

Card# ____________________________
Expiration Date ________________   *CVV Code______________
Signature ________________________

*3-4 digit security number on the back of the credit card