

THE MARYLAND WILDLIFE ADVISORY COMMISSION
MINUTES – APRIL 20, 2016

Chairman Compton called the meeting to order at 9:40 a.m.

Approval for the April 20, 2016 Meeting Agenda

- Motion:
 1. Commissioner Weinberg moved to approve the April 20th Wildlife Advisory Commission Meeting Agenda.
 2. Commissioner Michael seconded.
 3. All in favor. Motion passed.

Approval for Minutes from March 16, 2016 Meeting

- Motion:
 1. Commissioner Gregor moved to approve the March 16th meeting minutes as presented.
 2. Commissioner Schroyer seconded.
 3. All in favor. Motion passed.

Maryland Wildlife Rehabilitators Association (MWRA) Update – Presentation given by Suzanne Shoemaker and Kathy Woods.

- Ms. Shoemaker thanked the Commission for inviting them to the Wildlife Advisory Commission meeting.
- The MWRA is an organization of wildlife rehabilitators who are licensed in Maryland by the Wildlife and Heritage Service of DNR
- The mission of the MWRA is to support and advance wildlife rehabilitation in the State. There are about 80 members of the MWRA.
- Ms. Suzanne Shoemaker provided an overview of the MWRA to the Commission in a Power Point Presentation. [ATTACHMENT A]
 1. Rehabbers may be licensed to handle birds, mammals including bats, reptiles, and amphibians. Ms. Shoemaker handles only birds of prey. To handle birds, the rehabber must have a federal wildlife rehabilitation permit.
 2. The acronyms in slide six “Birds” mean: TotalR – Total Received, T – Transferred, P – Pending, E – Euthanized, D – Died, DOA – Dead on Arrival. Survival Rate is the number released in 2014 from the five wildlife centers. Transferred means transfer to another rehabilitator center or sent to educational facility or nature center.
 3. With the total amount of animals taken to rehabbers around 50-percent can be returned to the wild.
 4. Funding sources come from donations and maybe some grant money. MWRA is working on getting some better funding sources. There are no Maryland funding sources going to rehabilitators.
 - a. The Wildlife and Heritage Service (WHS) does not have an authorized funding source for rehabilitators.
 - b. WHS provides funds to USDA’s Wildlife Services to manage the “Wildlife Hotline” number, which is 1-877-463-6497. The funding source is listed as providing technical advice.
 - c. USFWS does not provide the Department funding sources to rehabilitate wildlife species in Maryland.
 - d. The Wildlife and Heritage Service uses hunting license dollars to handle injured, sick, and

orphaned wildlife. The Wildlife and Heritage Service could use general funds for this activity but WHS does not get enough general funds to support this type of work.

5. There are not enough rehabbers to provide this service to the public. There is a need for more rehabbers. There are no rehabbers on the Eastern Shore and in the western part of the State.
 6. There is good dialogue with DNR and the rehabbers. Rehabbers do not have conflicts with DNR. It would help if NRP officers would transport wildlife to rehabbers.
 7. The Department provided approval for an individual in Wicomico County to be an apprentice rehabber and work under an approved rehabber in Delaware, which is a good thing because that person does not have to travel to the western side of the Bay to be an apprentice rehabber.
 8. Discussion ensued about funding recommendations along with having the legislature allocate general funds for this public service that is funded by hunters' dollars and getting assistance from the local animal control entities.
- The Commission thanked Ms. Shoemaker and Ms. Woods for the presentation.

Break 10:55 AM to 11:05 AM

2016 Legislative Session Outcome - Presentation given by Associate Director Glenn Therres and Director Paul Peditto

- Associate Director Therres provided the Commission with a list of bills that the Wildlife and Heritage Service (WHS) was tracking. **[ATTACHMENT B]** The summary is set-up with the bill number in the first column, second column is the general topic of the bill, third column is the delegate or senator or delegation that introduced the bill and the fourth column is the status of the bill.
- There were 10 different WHS related bills passed through the 2016 Legislative Session.
- Director Peditto pointed out that the rifles for deer management permit provisions really started two sessions ago with the different drafts for Charles and St. Mary's Counties. It was drafted again this year; it is probably correct now for the people that wanted to use rifles under a deer management permit. Due to these changes, the Office of the Attorney General counseled WHS that the Department now has a new subtitle for deer management permits. In the past, staff would use § 10-206 for deer management permits, which has broad language so the Department could do what it needed to do to help manage deer management permits (DMP).
 1. This new subtitle describes the new DMP in law. Issues are listed below:
 - a. WHS can no longer cite to the broad section of the law related to controlling wildlife. WHS will have to adopt new regulations to be in compliance with this very specific DMP law.
 - b. DMP will require hunting licenses
 - c. There are only three counties that can take deer on Sundays under DMP.
 - d. DMP holders are going to feel this impact and the Department authority is limited now due to the new law.
 - e. The Commission and the Maryland Farm Bureau should be aware that this is coming and the DMP holders are not going to be pleased with the recent changes borne by these different drafted changes to the DMP instead of working with the Department to resolve DMP related issues.
 - f. The regulation changes will not impact this year's DMP holders. However, the changes will impact next year's DMP holders.

- g. The counties that will be authorized to use rifles due to the new law are Charles, St. Mary's, Caroline, and Frederick but the only two counties that will be allowed to take deer on Sundays are Charles and St. Mary's under DMPs.
2. Director Peditto explained the law to the Commission and to Maryland Farm Bureau Government Relations Director Colby Ferguson.
3. Maryland Farm Bureau (MFB) Government Relations Director Ferguson expressed his frustrations about this process and the fact that another bill has to be introduced to correct the error that the writers of the bill created.
4. Commissioner Michael reiterated that local legislation is not the way to go.
5. Director Peditto pointed out the law enforcement issue related to the new law for those counties where rifles are legal under DMP but not legal for hunters. NRP will have to respond to each one of those complaints to verify who is using the rifle and to check if that person or individuals are legal. Caroline County is not going to be an issue related to rifles because rifles are legal for farmers and hunters so NRP would not need to respond to a "rifle" complaint in Caroline County.
6. MFB Government Relations Director Ferguson outlined issues that MFB needs to work on within the farming community related to managing deer.
7. Several members of the Commission indicated that the modern shotgun can be just as effective as a rifle.
- DNR Legislative Director Allison Cordell mentioned that Delegate Mautz wants to change the waterfowl season to end later in the season. Director Peditto explained that the federal government controls season lengths for waterfowl hunting. Director Cordell will report this response to Delegate Mautz.

Maryland Farm Bureau (MFB) Update – Presentation given by MFB Government Relations Director Colby Ferguson.

- The MFB will be reaching out to farmers again to help them understand how to get the best use of the DMPs along with helping farmers understand the wildlife regulations.
- MFB will be working with the Department to promote more statewide laws and regulations instead of doing these in 'bits and pieces'.
- MFB claims that everyone complains that there is too many deer. Montgomery County wants to do a pilot program for the sale of venison.
- For anything to get done, the MFB needs information by end of October because the MFB Annual Convention is December and that is too late to bring information to the MFB for support.
- MFB participated in the nominations for the Farmer of the Year and the Conservationist of the Year nomination.
- Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) decided to eliminate the noxious weed officers but the Maryland Farm Bureau was able to obtain the funding back. The noxious weed officers were able to train county staff on controlling noxious weed. MDA was covering the counties that did not have staff to dedicate to the managing of noxious weed.

Natural Resources Police (NRP) Update – Presentation given by Captain Edward Johnson

- A new academy has been established with 30 recruits. Hopefully, NRP will continue to see classes of that size for recruitment.
- Lieutenant Colonel Ernest Leatherbury was hired recently and will serve as Deputy Superintendent to the NRP.

- NRP has four canines for wildlife enforcement and search and rescue along with article recovery. NRP has an in-house canine trainer now.
- Major Lloyd Ingerson discussed the idea of retiring the “Catch a Poacher Program” and replacing it with “Operation Game Thief”, which is being done in other states. NRP will be looking at obtaining members for this independent board. This board will be assigned to evaluate the investigations, results, and make the rewards. NRP is in the beginning stages of this concept.
 1. Chairman Compton indicated that he is willing to help and get the word out related to this new potential independent board.

Old Business

- Chairman Compton reminded the Commission that the Conservationist, Employee, and Farmer of Year voting results are due on May 6th to Ms. Spencer.

New Business

- Chairman Compton summarized the Maryland Hunting Coalition, Inc letter about Wildlife Poaching Prevention Act of 2012 and Poaching Restitution Act of 2016. [ATTACHMENT C]
- Chairman Compton indicated that the Department has not adopted regulations from the Wildlife Poaching Prevention Act of 2012 nor the drafted regulations for the Poaching Restitution Act of 2016 as the Department is still awaiting the adoption of an electronic system to track individuals who are charged by NRP and adjudicated through the various District Court systems. Lacking an electronic system to manage this process requires staff to manually scan each ticket issued by NRP then WHS to review each ticket, enter it into a database and track it against the public court records system. This system is prone to error and likely will lead to incorrect individuals being suspended or failing to suspend eligible violators.
- Discussion:
 1. There have been hunting license suspensions through the courts but not administratively.
 2. The use of the DNRID to track offenders – the courts do not use the DNRID number. The citation has the name, date of birth, and track number. NRP will be going to e-ticket and that eliminates paper copy. It is a lot easier for tracking purpose to use e-ticket. Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA) has been using e-ticket for suspended licenses and points.
 3. The Office of the Attorney General has been involved in this topic from day one. DNR must have everything in place for us to do this right. It would be irresponsible for DNR to proceed at this point.
 4. NRP indicated they have the money in the budget to purchase the necessary equipment for e-ticket.

Public Comment

- No public comment.

Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned at 12:26 P.M.
The next meeting will be held at 9:30 A.M. on Wednesday, June 15, 2016 in the Tawes State Office Building, C-1 Conference Room; Annapolis, Maryland.

Attendance

Members:	L. Compton, T. Gregor, S. Boyles Griffin, J. Michael, J. Schroyer, and R. Weinberg
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Absent:	G. Fratz and E. Gulbrandsen
Guest:	C. Ferguson, E. Hovermale, S. Shoemaker, and K. Woods
Staff:	L. Ingerson, E. Johnson, P. Peditto, T. Spencer, and G. Therres

Maryland Wildlife Rehabilitators Association Presentation to Wildlife Advisory Commission

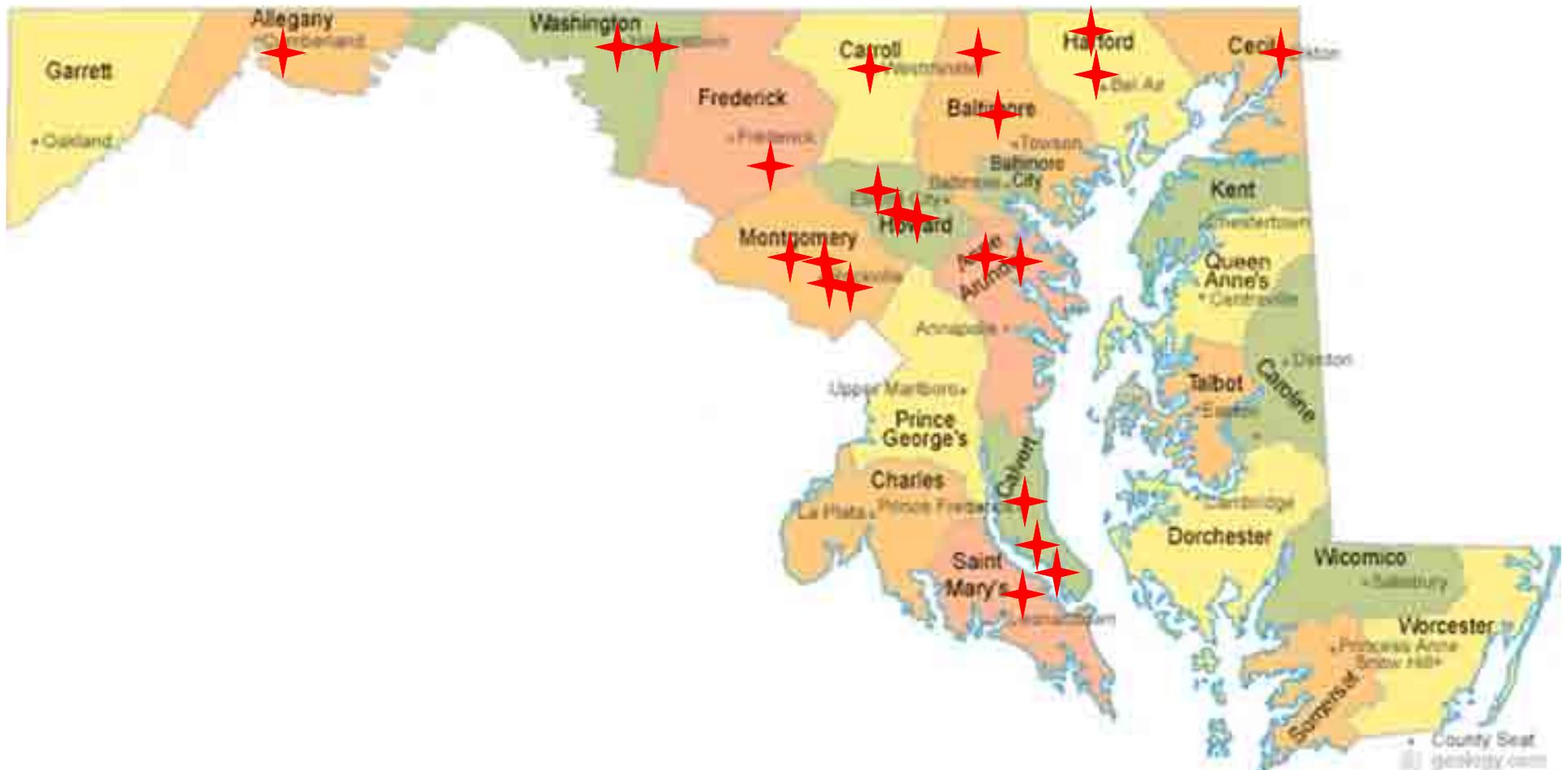
- 1) Wildlife Rehabilitation in Maryland Today
 - a) Number and geographic distribution of rehabilitators (statewide presence)
 - b) Professionals, biologists, veterinarians
 - i) State, national and international professional organizations
 - c) Numbers of animals cared for
 - i) Including threatened and endangered
 - d) Numbers of calls received (including DNR hotline)
 - e) Licenses and training requirements
 - i) Licenses
 - (1) DNR
 - (2) USF&WS
 - (3) Specialty
 - (a) Rabies vector species (bats, skunks, raccoons, fox)
 - (b) Fawns
 - ii) Training
 - (1) 2 year apprenticeship - minimum
 - (2) Continuing education requirements
 - f) Sources of funding

<http://mwrawildlife.org/>



Our mission is to support and advance wildlife rehabilitation in the State of Maryland.

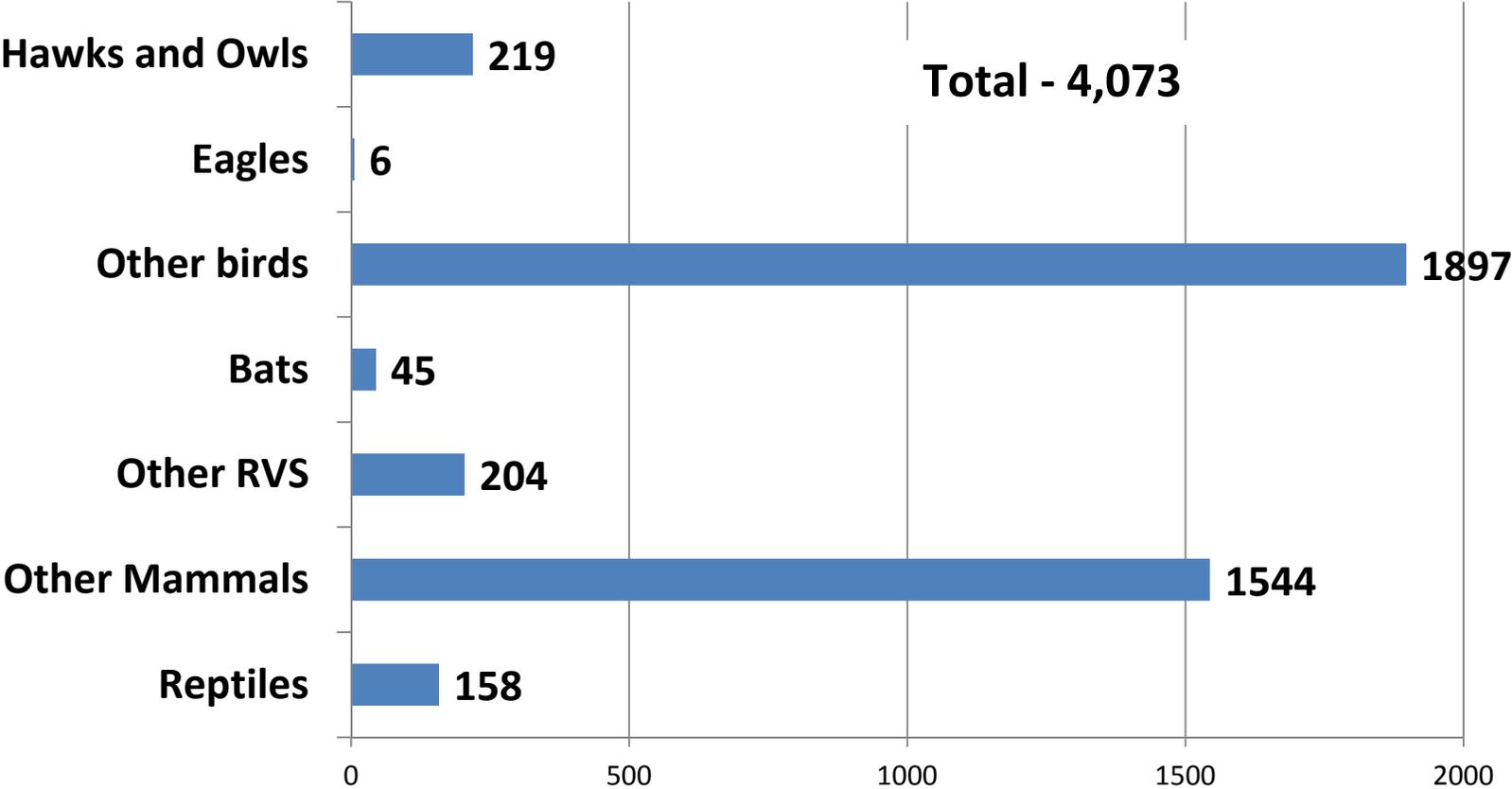
Approximately 25 Active Maryland Wildlife Rehabilitation Centers



2014 numbers for 5 Wildlife Centers

	<u>All Animals</u>	<u>PWC</u>	<u>Second Chance</u>	<u>Owl Moon</u>	<u>All Creatures</u>	<u>Back to Wild</u>
Reptiles	158	28	130			
Other						
Mammals	1544	298	1119		127	
Other RVS	204	100	18			86
Bats	45	14	31			
Other birds	1897	521	1158	6	212	
Eagles	6	6				
Hawks and Owls	219	30	65	121	3	
Totals	4073	997	2521	127	342	86

Animals Received by 5 MD Wildlife Rehabilitators 2014



Birds

Common Name	TotalR	T	P	E	D	DOA	Survival Rate	
Hawk, Cooper's	10	2	3	0	3	2	0	50%
Hawk, Red-shouldered	21	9	0	0	8	2	2	47.37%
Hawk, Red-tailed	26	10	2	0	8	6	0	46.15%
Hawk, Sharp-shinned	4	2	1	0	0	0	1	100%
Heron, Great Blue	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0%
Kestrel, American	6	6	0	0	0	0	0	100%
Night-heron, Blackcrow	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	100%
Osprey	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0%
Owl, Barn	2	0	0	0	1	1	0	0%
Owl, Barred	24	17	2	0	3	1	1	82.61%
Owl, Great Horned	11	3	2	0	4	2	0	45.45%
Owl, Snowy	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	100%
Screech-owl, Eastern	15	8	3	0	4	0	0	73.33%
Vulture, Black	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	100%
Vulture, Turkey	2	0	1	0	0	1	0	50%
Totals	127	59	16	0	33	15	4	60.98%

MD Species of Greatest Concerns sometimes need rehabilitation

Horned Grebe with beak fracture



Nestling Chimney Swift



**Maryland Species of Concern
treated at Phoenix Wildlife
Center**

From the A list:

American Bittern
Laughing Gull
Northern Sawwhet
Swainson's warbler
Yellow bellied sapsucker

Big Brown Bat
Silver-haired Bat
Eastern Red Bat

From the B list:

Peregrine
Barn owl
Northern Waterthrush
Pied billed grebe
Pine Siskin
Sharp-shinned hawk
Winter wren



Maryland Species of Concern treated at Owl Moon Raptor Center

Raptors:

American Bald Eagle- C

American Kestrel- C

American Peregrine Falcon- B

Broad-winged Hawk- C

Common Barn Owl- B

Long-eared Owl- A

Northern Harrier- B

Northern Saw-whet Owl- A

Rough-legged Hawk

Sharp-shinned Hawk- B

Non-Raptors:

Black-crowned Night Heron- C

Least Bittern- B



Eastern Box Turtles: MD SGCN in steep decline

Many wind up in rehabilitation Hazards include cars, dogs, mowers, and disease



Maryland Species of Concern treated at Second Chance Wildlife Center

Reptiles:

Eastern Box Turtle- C

Mammals:

Big Brown Bat

Eastern Red Bat

Silver-haired Bat

Eastern Pipistrelle Bat

Birds:

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker- A

Northern Water thrush- B

Sharp-shinned Hawk- B



Maryland Species of Concern treated at Second Chance Wildlife Center

Woodcock

Black-crowned Night heron

Chimney Swift

Common Loon

Dark-eyed Junco

Golden-crowned Kinglet

Great Blue Heron

Horned Grebe

Least Flycatcher

Magnolia Warbler

Northern Parula

Ovenbird

Scarlet Tanager



As an **apprentice wildlife rehabilitator**, and before I can be upgraded to a **master level rehabilitator**, I hereby agree to the following terms:

- 1) Meet the educational requirements as stipulated in regulation, namely, taking a **1AB or other entry level course** offered by either **the International Wildlife Rehabilitation Council** or the **National Wildlife Rehabilitation Association**; and completing **12 hours of approved continuing education classes during each two year period**.
- 2) Provide **200 documented hours**, over **all 4 seasons of the year**, of physical care for sick, injured, or orphaned wildlife under the direct supervision of a master rehabilitator during a 2-year period.
- 3) **Be a member in good standing of a nationally recognized rehabilitation association and agree to maintain the membership.**
- 4) Am 18 years old or older.

5) **Identify a licensed veterinarian who has agreed to assist and consult** with me for the treatment and care of animals being rehabilitated.

6) **Meet the facilities standards** as stated in COMAR 08.03.12. Although not required in regulation, we recommend that your facilities meet the “**Minimum Standards for Wildlife Rehabilitators**” published in 2000 by the International Wildlife Rehabilitation Council and the National Wildlife Rehabilitation Association.

7) **Agree to uphold and abide by all federal laws and regulations, all laws and regulations of the State of Maryland**, and all regulations promulgated by the Wildlife & Heritage Division pertaining to the possession of wildlife.

Maryland Wildlife Rehabilitators Association Presentation to Wildlife Advisory Commission (cont.)

g) Service to the community

i) Public resource

- (1) Place to bring animals they find
- (2) Education about wildlife and living with wildlife
- (3) Human/wildlife conflict resolution
- (4) Outreach education
- (5) Public safety

ii) Service to state and local government

- (1) DNR / DNR biologists
- (2) Animal Control
- (3) Natural Resources Police
- (4) State and local police

2) Moving Forward

a) MWRA and the Wildlife Advisory Commission

- i) Advocacy
- ii) Advisement
- iii) Communication

b) Vision for Wildlife Rehabilitation in Maryland

Baby Season at Second Chance

Often discovered in cavities during tree removal



Often discovered, injured, or killed while mowing lawns



Baby Season

Raising orphaned and injured wild birds



Renesting, reuniting, and fostering baby birds



The Langston Trio

- Nestling stage
- Stick nest disintegrated
- Nest tree accessible with 40 foot ladder
- Parents present
- Assistance and monitors available
- Renested on April 6



Weave a nest and wire it high in the
nest tree





Three weeks later

All three owlets were fledged by April 30

The rest of the year

- Animal attacks
- Wild animals enter fenced yards or encounter unleashed or feral cats and dogs
- Most vulnerable are young birds (fledglings)
- Wounds can be severe and become infected
- Disease transmission both ways possible



The rest of the year

- Entanglement injuries
- Most commonly caught on fishing line and hooks, netting, barb wire
- Near water: Barred Owls, Osprey, Bald Eagle, Great Blue Heron, Gulls
- Injuries can be minor if found early, but often severe or fatal



The rest of the year

Ring-necked Snake in glue trap



Pigeon with cooking oil feather contamination being bathed



The rest of the year

- Impact injuries: vehicles, windows, buildings, other
- Often involve Cooper's Hawks (often juveniles), because of their speed and hunting habits, but all species effected
- Vultures and Red-tailed Hawks susceptible due to roadside carrion



The Rest of the Year: Hit by Car

Opossum in surgery to pin a leg fracture



Snapping Turtle being prepared for laser therapy on wounds



The rest of the year

- Gunshot wounds



Illegally shot Bald Eagle at Second Chance Wildlife Center



The rest of the year

- Trapped in warehouses and superstores
- Cooper's Hawks susceptible due to bird hunting habits
- Requires trapping and removal
- Often require treatment for dehydration, emaciation



The rest of the year

- West Nile Virus (Mosquito season, August-Sept.)
- Effects brain and central nervous system
- Neurologic symptoms:
 - Inability to stand
 - Lack of coordination and balance
 - Tremors and/or seizures
 - Periods of “zoning out”
- Few can be saved and possible residual effects include eye and brain damage



The rest of the year

- Toxicity from poisons:
- Lead fragments from feeding on deer carcasses and waterfowl
- Rodenticides from feeding on poisoned rodents (brodifacoum, difenacoum, bromadiolone)
- Insecticides and other pesticides (carbamates, organophosphates, and organochlorines)
- Bald Eagles, Hawks, Vultures



The rest of the year

- Electrocution burns, and impact injuries result from powerlines



Field Rescues and Conflict Resolution



Wildlife Rehabilitators teach every time we interact with the public

- Phone calls
- Field Rescues
- Conflict Resolutions
- Releases and Renestings
- Web Sites
- Social Media Posts



Outreach Programs and Open Houses

- **Teach about:**
- Wildlife Needs and Habitat Requirements
- Wildlife Hazards
- **How we can prevent:**
- Window Collisions
- Entanglements (Fishing line, Netting, Barb-wire)
- Environmental contaminants & toxins

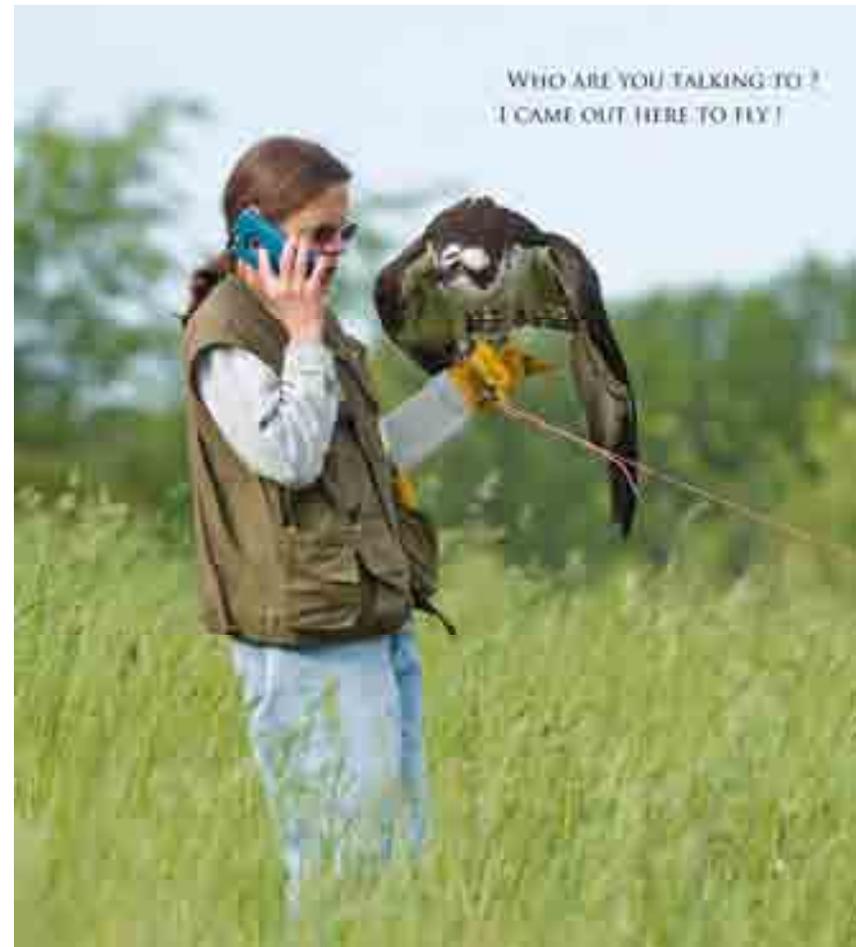


Public Safety: RVS treated at Back to the Wild

Species	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Raccoon	105	57	94	176	158	95	114	48	43	69	65
Grey Fox	2	2	8	6	4	0	0	1	1	0	0
Red Fox	0	9	3	0	3	15	20	0	13	17	7
Skunk	8	4	7	4	0						
Bats	3	1	1	0							
Totals	118	73	113	186	165	110	134	49	57	86	72

Service to State and Local Government

- DNR Biologists
- DNR Natural Resources Police (Hot Line and direct calls)
- State and Local Police and Sheriffs
- County Animal Control Officers
- County Humane Societies
- National Park Service



For moments like these



**Summary of 2016 Proposed Legislation
Wildlife and Heritage Service
FINAL**

<u>Number / Chapter (Cross File / Chapter)</u> ▲	Title	<u>Primary Sponsor</u>	Status	Original House and Hearing Dates	Opposite House and Hearing Dates
HB0020	Calvert County and St. Mary's County - Archery Hunting - Safety Zone	Delegate O'Donnell	In the House - Returned Passed	Environment and Transportation 2/17/2016 - 1:00 p.m.	Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs 3/22/2016 - 1:00 p.m.
HB0062 / CH0085	Natural Resources - Fishing and Hunting Licenses	Chair, Environment and Transportation Committee	Approved by the Governor – Chapter 85	Environment and Transportation 1/27/2016 - 1:00 p.m.	Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs 3/22/2016 - 1:00 p.m.
HB0132	State Government - Pollinator Habitat Plans	Delegate Lafferty	In the House - Returned Passed	Environment and Transportation 2/10/2016 - 1:00 p.m.	Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs 3/22/2016 - 1:00 p.m.
HB0169 (SB0219)	Carroll County - Turkey Hunting on Private Property - Sundays	Carroll County Delegation	In the House - Returned Passed	Environment and Transportation 2/24/2016 - 1:00 p.m.	Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs
HB0203	Caroline County - Sunday Hunting	Caroline County Delegation	In the Senate - Unfavorable Report by Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs	Environment and Transportation 3/4/2016 - 1:00 p.m.	Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs 3/29/2016 - 1:00 p.m.
HB0321 (SB0046)	Anne Arundel County - Archery Hunting - Safety Zone	Anne Arundel County Delegation	In the House - Returned Passed	Environment and Transportation 3/2/2016 - 1:00 p.m.	Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs
HB0410 (SB0266)	Natural Resources - Poaching Restitution Act of 2016	Delegate O'Donnell	In the House - Returned Passed	Environment and Transportation 2/17/2016 - 1:00 p.m.	Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs
HB0513	Harford County - Sunday Hunting - Deer Bow Hunting Season	Delegate Glass	In the House - Unfavorable Report by Environment and Transportation; Withdrawn	Environment and Transportation	

ATTACHMENT B

HB0514	Sunday Hunting - Deer Bow Hunting Season	Delegate Glass	In the House - Unfavorable Report by Environment and Transportation; Withdrawn	Environment and Transportation	
HB0515	Deer Bow Hunting Season - Private Property - Additional Sunday in January	Delegate Glass	In the House - Unfavorable Report by Environment and Transportation; Withdrawn	Environment and Transportation	
HB0516	Harford County - Archery Hunting - Safety Zone	Delegate Glass	In the House - Returned Passed	Environment and Transportation 2/24/2016 - 1:00 p.m.	Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs 4/5/2016 - 1:00 p.m.
HB0517	Natural Resources - Deer Bow Hunting Season - End Date	Delegate Glass	In the House - Unfavorable Report by Environment and Transportation	Environment and Transportation 2/17/2016 - 1:00 p.m.	
HB0542 (SB0991)	Natural Resources - Wildlife Trafficking Prevention	Delegate Luedtke	In the House - Unfavorable Report by Environment and Transportation	Environment and Transportation 2/17/2016 - 1:00 p.m.	
HB0755 (SB0524)	Allegany County and Garrett County - Black Bears - Baiting	Allegany County Delegation	In the House - Unfavorable Report by Environment and Transportation; Withdrawn	Environment and Transportation	
HB0870 (SB0876)	Natural Resources - Black Fly Management and Control - Washington County	Delegate Parrott	In the House - Passed Enrolled	Environment and Transportation 3/2/2016 - 1:00 p.m.	Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs 3/21/2016 - 1:00 p.m.
HB1223	Natural Resources - Apprentice Hunting License - Establishment	Delegate O'Donnell	In the Senate - Unfavorable Report by Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs	Environment and Transportation 3/9/2016 - 1:00 p.m.	Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs 3/29/2016 - 1:00 p.m.
HB1249	Hunting and Fishing - Complimentary Licenses - Purple Heart Recipients	Delegate Carey	In the House - Conference Committee Appointed	Environment and Transportation 3/9/2016 - 1:00 p.m.	Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs 4/5/2016 - 1:00 p.m.
HB1256	Natural Resources - Cecil County - Elk	Delegate Hornberger	In the House - Hearing 3/09 at 1:00 p.m.	Environment and Transportation 3/9/2016 - 1:00 p.m.	

ATTACHMENT B

HB1374	Hunting and Fishing - Complimentary Licenses - Military and Veterans	Delegate Rose	In the House - Unfavorable Report by Environment and Transportation	Environment and Transportation 3/9/2016 - 1:00 p.m.	
HB1417 (SB0401)	Charles County and St. Mary's County - Deer Management Permit – Firearms	Delegate Morgan	In the House - Returned Passed	Environment and Transportation 3/11/2016 - 1:00 p.m.	Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs
HB1506	Natural Resources - Wildlife and Hunting	Chair, Environment and Transportation Committee	In the Senate - First Reading Senate Rules	Environment and Transportation 4/7/2016 - 1:00 p.m.	Rules
HB1511	Caroline County - Deer Management Permit - Firearms	Delegate Ghrist	In the House - Unfavorable Report by House Rules and Executive Nominations; Withdrawn	Rules and Executive Nominations	
HB1531 (SB0225)	Complimentary Hunting and Fishing Licenses - Former Prisoners of War, Recipients of the Purple Heart Award, and Disabled Veterans	Delegate Simonaire	In the House - First Reading House Rules and Executive Nominations	Rules and Executive Nominations	
HB1596 (SB1113)	Talbot County - Deer Management Permit – Firearms	Delegate Mautz	In the House - First Reading House Rules and Executive Nominations	Rules and Executive Nominations	

ATTACHMENT B

SB0046 (HB0321)	Anne Arundel County - Archery Hunting - Safety Zone	Senator Reilly	In the Senate - Passed Enrolled	Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs 2/2/2016 - 1:00 p.m.	Environment and Transportation 3/30/2016 - 1:00 p.m.
SB0219 (HB0169)	Carroll County - Turkey Hunting on Private Property - Sundays	Senator Ready	In the Senate - Returned Passed	Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs 2/9/2016 - 1:00 p.m.	Environment and Transportation 3/30/2016 - 1:00 p.m.
SB0225 (HB1531)	Hunting and Fishing Licenses - Disabled Active Military, Former Prisoners of War, Recipients of the Purple Heart Award, and Disabled Veterans	Senator Simonaire	In the House - Conference Committee Appointed	Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs 2/9/2016 - 1:00 p.m.	Environment and Transportation 3/23/2016 - 1:00 p.m.
SB0266 (HB0410)	Natural Resources - Poaching Restitution Act of 2016	Senator Salling	In the Senate - Passed Enrolled	Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs 2/9/2016 - 1:00 p.m.	Environment and Transportation 3/30/2016 - 1:00 p.m.
SB0284	Natural Resources - Complimentary Hunting and Fishing Licenses	Senator Simonaire	In the House - Unfavorable Report by Environment and Transportation	Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs 2/9/2016 - 1:00 p.m.	Environment and Transportation 3/23/2016 - 1:00 p.m.
SB0401 (HB1417)	Charles County and St. Mary's County - Deer Management Permit - Firearms	Senator Waugh	In the Senate - Returned Passed	Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs 2/16/2016 - 1:00 p.m.	Environment and Transportation 3/30/2016 - 1:00 p.m.
SB0524 (HB0755)	Allegany County and Garrett County - Black Bears - Baiting	Senator Edwards	In the Senate - Unfavorable Report by Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs; Withdrawn	Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs 2/23/2016 - 1:00 p.m.	
SB0775	Natural Resources - Recreational License Donation Program - Establishment	Senator Simonaire	In the Senate - Passed Enrolled	Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs 3/8/2016 - 1:00 p.m.	Environment and Transportation 3/30/2016 - 1:00 p.m.
SB0876 (HB0870)	Natural Resources - Black Fly Management and Control - Washington County	Senator Serafini	In the Senate - Passed Enrolled	Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs 3/8/2016 - 1:00 p.m.	Environment and Transportation 3/30/2016 - 1:00 p.m.

ATTACHMENT B

SB0991 (HB0542)	Natural Resources - Wildlife Trafficking Prevention	Senator Young	In the Senate - Unfavorable Report by Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs; Withdrawn	Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs	
SB1061	Natural Resources - Sunday Hunting - Statewide Authorization	Senator Conway	In the Senate - Unfavorable Report by Senate Rules	Rules	
SB1113 (HB1596)	Talbot County - Deer Management Permit - Firearms	Senator Eckardt	In the House - Hearing 3/30 at 1:00 p.m.	Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs 3/15/2016 - 1:00 p.m.	Environment and Transportation 3/30/2016 - 1:00 p.m.



The Maryland Hunting Coalition, Inc.

INFORMATION • ACTION • ADVOCACY

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April 14, 2016

Lou Compton
Honorable Chairman, DNR's Wildlife Advisory Commission

Re: *Wildlife Poaching Prevention Act of 2012 and Poaching Restitution Act of 2016*

Dear Mr. Chairman

The Maryland General Assembly has sent two statutory warnings to those insular few who have a callous disregard for Maryland's wildlife laws which warrant special consideration by the Wildlife Advisory Commission, in the opinion of the Maryland Hunting Coalition as explained herein.

The first warning was in 2012 with enactment of the *Wildlife Poaching Prevention Act of 2012*, now Chapter 698 of the Acts of 2012. In short, this Act authorizes the Department of Natural Resources ("DNR") to suspend and/or revoke one's hunting privileges for up to 5 years – predicated upon a court conviction – if, in the opinion of DNR, the violation warrants such action. The second warning just came about via action by the 2016 General Assembly with its passage – and, anticipated signature into law by the Governor – of the *Poaching Restitution Act of 2016*. In short, an individual convicted of poaching – as defined in this Act – shall pay restitution to the State Wildlife Management and Protection Fund for certain offenses. Both Acts can be seen via the respective links below.

http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2012rs/chapters_noln/Ch_698_hb1052E.pdf

<http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2016RS/bills/hb/hb0410T.pdf>

On November 5, 2015, the General Assembly's Department of Legislative Services (DLS) – in responding to questions from a State Senator about his inquiry leading to the development of the *Poaching Restitution Act of 2016* – stated the following about Chapter 698: "DNR is currently working on draft regulations to establish the criteria for suspending of hunting licenses and privileges. Since regulations establishing these criteria have not been adopted, no hunting licenses have been suspended under the authority of Chapter 698." In this same response to the Senator from DLS, the following was noted: "Similarly, SECTION 2 of the Act has yet to affect the enforcement of wildlife laws." For the record, SECTION 2 of Chapter 698 reads as follows:

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That it is the intent of the General Assembly to recognize and commend the Maryland landowners and managers who provide and support native wildlife habitat, especially the landowners who embrace the principles of quality deer management and manage their land accordingly. The Department of Natural Resources is encouraged to augment the deer management efforts of these landowners by vigorously enforcing the wildlife laws against poachers who violate the public trust, thus helping ensure that the citizens of Maryland who recognize the value of sustainable native wildlife populations will be able to enjoy these resources now and in the future.

The two-fold response from DLS above does not answer the question: Why has DNR not promulgated the regulations stemming from Chapter 698 – in terms of suspending/revoking hunting privileges – and why has there been no reported effort consistent with and responsive to SECTION 2 of Chapter 698?

With the enactment of the *Poaching Restitution Act of 2016* – which, like the *Wildlife Poaching Prevention Act of 2012*, mandates DNR to promulgate regulations to administer the law – the Maryland Hunting Coalition believes these questions warrant an official response from DNR, a question which has been informally and formally requested. We have no alternative than to request the Wildlife Advisory Commission to seek a response in order for the Coalition to be responsive to the constituency it represents.

Respectfully,

Allan Ellis
Executive Director