In keeping with my promise to look back, in the midst of celebrating Wildlife Rescue’s 40th Anniversary, I have been giving much thought to some of the more memorable rescues from those early days of the organization. There were relatively few occasions when I felt vulnerable while carrying out my late night/early morning paper route and rescue adventures. But there was the one time when I did question my wisdom in completing the rescue of an injured fox.

The call came in late one Friday evening—a stunned grey fox had been found near where the caller lived and was now in the caller’s home. If all went as planned there was plenty of time to reach my destination, secure the grey fox, bring him back to the house (I still worked out of my home at this time in the late ‘70s), and arrive in time to fetch the newspapers and begin my early morning route. He would join two bobcats, who had a room to themselves, one skunk who preferred a lower kitchen cabinet for her sleeping quarters, and several young raccoons, all residing in my living room and frequently needing to be fed. Needless to say, I was a young woman at the time and comfortable with rather unorthodox living conditions.

Upon checking my map I could see that the house was located in a remote part of Bexar County. I was not familiar with the area but being born and raised in San Antonio, I knew, more or less, how to get there. This was well before the days of cell phones and I failed to let anyone know where I was going, but that was mostly par for the course. The drive took longer than expected and by time I arrived it was well after 11:00. There were only spare street lights and gathered beneath one were several young men. I needed clarification of my directions so I stopped the car, grabbed my note pad, and traipsed over to ask for help.

Looking back, as I often have on this rescue, I now understand why the young fellows were dumbstruck at my arrival. They were simply not accustomed to a young woman walking up in the middle of the night, smiling sincerely, and inquiring about an address where I could find an injured fox. Though I can never know for certain, I doubt they accepted my approach as genuine. What they did think, I can only guess but as I stood there, doing my best to appear as if this were an everyday occurrence, which for me it was, I remembered my sweet mother’s words: Lynn Marie, if ever you find yourself in an awkward situation, smile and tell the truth. So there I stood, smiling, telling the absolute truth and wanting only to find the fox and get on to my paper route. After several uncomfortable minutes and a few off color comments from the boys, they pointed me in the right direction.

So back in the car and back on track, I made my way into the dark night never thinking I might have been given bogus information. And perhaps I had not; perhaps it was simply that all the narrow, dark roads led frequently into
The words “thank you” roll off the lips with great ease but before these two words are uttered something of importance must take place. For WRR that something has been the immense kindness shown to us and the animals for the past 40 years. The people who deepened their meaningful gifts by including Wildlife Rescue in their estate planning have made profound differences in the lives of thousands of animals. The native wildlife who need healing and to be returned to the wild, the animals in sanctuary who now have larger, more interesting housing, they now all have brighter futures because of the foresight of our donors. Their generosity of spirit looked to the future of WRR and took meaningful steps to help safeguard and enhance that future.

Please, consider looking to yourself to garner this same spirit of generosity that will ensure the lives of more wild animals for years to come by ensuring the longevity of Wildlife Rescue. We invite you to raise your commitment to animal care, rehabilitation and protection to this new level and we give you our personal commitment that your support will be invested with the utmost integrity. Over 250,000 animals have been rescued from the most severe situations of neglect and abuse since WRR’s inception; help us save the lives of another 250,000.

For more information on how to leave your legacy with WRR, contact us via phone at 830-336-2725, ext. 315 and we can answer your questions regarding your estate.
THROUGH THE YEARS...

1977
Wildlife Rescue & Rehabilitation was founded by Lynn Cuny in the backyard of her home in San Antonio, TX. The first rescue was a skunk found in a San Antonio neighborhood and WRR’s first kill was of a cat on her head. The first permanent resident at WRR was a female bobcat kitten found slowly bleeding to death in a pet store.

1978
Wildlife Rescue & Rehabilitation is incorporated as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization which allows it to apply for foundation grants and other forms of donor funding.

1980
WRR receives a $10,000 gift enabling us to purchase a four-acre site in Leon Springs, TX just outside of San Antonio. Demand for WRR’s services required more space than Cuny’s home could accommodate.

1987
After the Devastating Flood, donations poured into WRR from around the country enabling us to secure a 21-acre site in Boerne, TX.

‘87 - Early 90’s
Wildlife Rescue & Rehabilitation raises funds and creates a new sanctuary in Boerne, TX after the devastating flood.

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

grassy pastures. But lo and behold, at the end of the eighth or ninth road I saw a small, well-lit house trailer. As I drew near the front door, I was relieved to see a man sitting on a couch inside. Even if this was not the house, I felt certain he would know the area. When I reached the glass door I was even more relieved to see a grey fox—finally I had found him!

But here is where things turned even odder. I knocked on the door and raised my carrier and blanket so he would know why I was there, and all he did was to stare at me. I spoke up, gave my name and said I was with Wildlife Rescue and was there to fetch the fox. Another moment of silence and he, with a crooked finger, wordlessly beckoned me to enter. I have to admit to a moment’s pause but there sat the fox, and clearly he was not well and needed help, so enter I did.

Remembering to smile I began regaling the strange, quiet man with tales of how I was sorry to be so late but I had trouble finding his house and how glad I was to see the fox. I bent down over the little patient; he seemed to have been hit by a car and was dazed, in shock, and cold. The blanket near at hand, I placed it over him, all the while explaining to the gentleman what I was doing and why. And throughout, he sat there eyeing me in silence as I went about my task.

It was time to complete my mission so I placed the animal in the carrier and stood to leave. As I did so, my mystery man also stood, still not uttering so much as one syllable. I thanked him for his help and headed for the door, but so did he. My mother’s words still sounding in my ears, I smiled in my best warm and friendly manner, took a WRR business card from my pocket, reached out my hand to give it to him and shake his hand, and said I hoped he would have a pleasant evening. It was necessary to walk around him to reach the door and, when he didn’t move, though it seemed a bit rude, it was necessary to give him the gentlest of shoves to make my exit, fox in hand.

As I walked to my car, I turned back to see if he was still standing there and as I waved my good-bye, I could see that he had gone back to his place on the couch. Had I not heard him speak when he called to ask my help for the fox, I would have thought that perhaps he was mute, but that was not the case. Perhaps he was painfully shy or never had someone come into his home to rescue an animal. I feel certain I was never in any real danger. But I do believe that there were at least a few men that evening who had what they considered an unusual encounter with a strange, young lady.

More important though are the details concerning the little grey fox. After a full examination from a veterinarian, we agreed that cage rest and a natural diet for the next week or so should bring about his full recovery. As I joined the other animals living in the humble digs of early WRR, I gave him a secluded, quiet enclosed area in my back yard. He spent the next several days, under the shade of a peach tree, resting on the soft grass and taking refuge in his sleeping box. No doubt he could sense that other wild animals were also in residence in that little house and I like to imagine that gave him some emotional comfort. Each day he became less jittery and more aware of his odd surroundings. In no time he was eating and appropriately restless; he was ready to go home.

With everyone fed and cleaned and other rescues completed for the day, I returned him to the area where he had been found and set him free. His time in captivity had been brief and that ordeal was over. Now came the day when he would reclaim his place in the wild. After positioning his carrier under a stand of willows in the heart of a green pasture I opened the door and out stepped the small male fox. He stood, statue-still as his sharp ears were comforted by familiar sounds and his bright eyes once again beheld his well-known landscape. There was a flash of fur as he darted away from the carrier, stopped to get his bearings and his bright eyes once again beheld his well-known landscape. There was a flash of fur as he darted away from the carrier, stopped to get his bearings and gracefully made his way to the crooked creek bed. We had had but a brief encounter but for me it was a memorable one, for many reasons.

Lynn Cuny
A LOOK BACK...

BY CRAIG BRESTRUP, DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATE

I met Lynn Cuny in 1999, coincidentally not long after she received the gift that allowed WRR to purchase the 187-acre property in Kendalia. We soon began working together to find the funds for turning this beautiful piece of the Hill Country into a state-of-the-art wildlife rehabilitation center perched in the midst of land that would have to be prepared to serve as a sanctuary for native and nonnative wildlife and farmed animals.

I still remember seeing the list Lynn had prepared of the facilities that would have to be built. It nearly filled a page and we soon realized that it would take $2-3m. to build them all. I had doubts but Lynnn never shared them, and as it turned out she was more accurate than I in envisioning the future. Within 4-5 years the key components were finished: the animal hospital and rehab center, nutrition center, apprentice housing, offices, roads and wells, aviaries and ponds, enclosures for native and farmed animals.

With the end of August, we typically begin to see a decrease in the number of animals being brought to WRR for care as baby season is drawing to an end. Mother Nature had a different plan in mind this August. With a strong Category 4 hurricane approaching the Texas coastline, wildlife throughout a large portion of Texas were about to find themselves tested by nature. Whether by strong winds, heavy rain and/or flooding, they would have some challenging and difficult hours and days ahead of them.

While San Antonio was not in the direct line of Hurricane Harvey as it made its landfall in the early morning hours of August 27th, it was no surprise that wildlife living in the San Antonio area would still feel its effects. Strong winds and rains fell over the course of a few days throughout the area caused baby squirrels and baby birds to fall from their nests, some adult mammals and birds became disoriented.

On Friday August 26th the total number of incoming animals at WRR’s Sherman Animal Care Complex reflected the end of baby season: 11 animals. The following day 45 were brought in to the facility and 57 more arrived the next day. Thirty-five of these animals were baby squirrels. Eastern Fox Squirrels are the most prevalent native squirrel species in the San Antonio area. They have two baby seasons in this part of Texas every year with the second generally falling around late July through September. While squirrels prefer to make nests in empty tree cavities, if those are not available they will often choose to build their nests high in trees making them vulnerable to winds. The timing of this storm during their baby season was bad timing for the squirrels, as well as songbirds and doves who often have babies still in their nests late in the summer.

SPECIAL THANKS TO JOE CARUSO
FOR BOOKING, VISIT: WWW.JOESHOW.COM

WRR RESPONDS TO HURRICANE HARVEY

BY KIMBERLY STEPHENS, WRR’S SHERMAN ANIMAL CARE COMPLEX MANAGER

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While San Antonio was not in the direct line of Hurricane Harvey as it made its landfall in the early morning hours of August 27th, it was no surprise that wildlife living in the San Antonio area would still feel its effects. Strong winds and rains fell over the course of a few days throughout the area caused baby squirrels and baby birds to fall from their nests, baby cottontails and skunks were washed out of their nests and dens, and some adult mammals and birds became disoriented.

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Some animals brought to WRR’s Sherman Animal Care Complex in San Antonio as a result of the hurricane traveled a long distance to be seen by our animal care staff. We received a litter of three orphaned Gray Squirrels from Houston brought to us by the family who rescued them and then evacuated to San Antonio. We also received a Laughing Gull who had been rescued from the Corpus Christi area the day before the hurricane made landfall.

WRR Caretakers are now tending more baby squirrels, birds and cottontails than normal and will be releasing them back into the wild over the next several weeks.
Wildlife Rescue Donation Form

PLEASE SEND MORE INFORMATION
I would like to learn more about:

☐ WRR’s Planned Giving and Endowment Fund
☐ Volunteer Opportunities
☐ Co-existing with Wildlife

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: $ __________

You may use the enclosed envelope by itself if only making a donation; if requesting more information, please fill in, clip and send this card.

Name ________________________________
Address __________________________________________________________
City ___________________ State _______ Zip __________
Phone ________________________________
Email __________________________________

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

Card # ________________________________
Expiration Date ____________________ *CW Code __________

Signature ____________________________

*3-4 digit security number on the back of the credit card (4 digit code on front for AMEX)