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## Wildlife Care Network

Full speed ahead for Wildlife! And so, about 80 folks climbed aboard the luxurious Channel Cat for a sunset cruise on behalf of the animals and birds. The Wildlife Care Network (WCN) has already received more than 2,440 animals so far this year.

Baby season started early, and it takes \$3,600 just for mealworms each baby season. A newly hatched songbird requires virtually constant feeding and cleaning during daylight hours and lots of laundry. For a short period, there is syringe-feeding of baby bird formula then fledglings move to a regular diet of live mealworms, seeds, chopped vegetables and fruits, moistened pet chow, and scrambled eggs. This season WCN has cared for 1,294 songbirds.

A baby raccoon takes four to six months of care before it can be released. That means bottle-fed on demand around the clock. WCN currently has 21 residents. Once weaned, they live together at the center in large outdoor enclosures where they learn to live in the wild.

The Refugio Oil Spill on May 19



Artist Meredith Brooks Abbott with raffle winner Roland Bryan and Wildlife vice president Joanne St. John aboard the Channel Cat



Wildlife Care Network emcee Mindy Denson with cruise chair Tina Handerhan

added to the workload. The professional animal care staff had received extensive spill-reponse training from the Oiled Wildlife Care Network (OWCN). One of their local WCN staff became the on-site coordinator. She handled spill-related calls for help, directed pickup and transport of affected animals, and assisted the OWCN specialists who had a space in their seabird treatment/washing room. Then the birds were transport-

ed to the Los Angeles Oiled Bird Care and Education Center in San Pedro. Our center is still full of regular critters needing care or being readied for release.

Meantime, we were sailing along having tapas and wine, enjoying the scenery. Mindy Denson pulled the raffle tickets for the lucky winners. Turned out that Roland Bryan won them both – one being a painting by the local favorite artist Meredith Brooks Abbott. Tina Handerhan was event chair and vice president Joanne St. John stood in for the president, who gets seasick. Me, too, except there weren't any waves this evening.

Some of those enjoying were Duncan Abbott, Joyce Bryan, Anne and William Dewey, Ellen and Robert Lilley, board member Judy McGrath, and past president Lessie Schontzler and husband, Gordon.

How can you help? There's hands-on animal care, food prep and laundry, gardening to feed the animals, transporting animals, answering telephones, making presentations, and helping with events. If you don't have time, your treasure will save animals.