



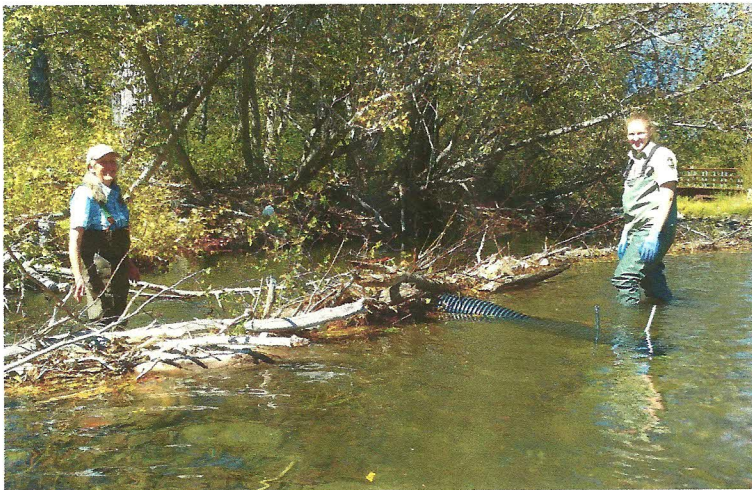
Sierra Wildlife Coalition

Promoting Humane & Practical Solutions for Living
With Beavers, Coyotes and all our local Wildlife
Late Fall Newsletter - 2018

Summer and fall went all too quickly, and we were busy! As most of you know we spend a great deal of time working in partnership with the US Forest Service at Taylor Creek on the South Shore of Lake Tahoe. Well this fall has been no exception!

We've started to get to a point where many of the first trees we sand painted at Taylor Creek 5 years ago have continued to grow and flake the paint off, and are now susceptible to being chewed by beavers again. From late summer through fall we have had multiple sand painting "parties" repainting some trees, as well as painting a number more that hadn't been sand painted already. This brings our total number of trees protected at Taylor Creek to roughly 100!

At right new volunteer George Valentic sand-paints aspens →



Along with the ongoing tree painting projects, the USFS requested us to put in a temporary device to mitigate possible trail flooding and to aid the Kokane Salmon in their trip upstream to spawn. Along with some very enthusiastic Taylor Creek USFS employees we installed two 8" pipes in two beaver dams as a temporary flow device/fish ladder. These devices worked quite well but needed regular maintenance from being plugged with grass by the beavers. Sierra Wildlife Coalition feels is that a little bit of time and elbow grease is a small price to pay to coexist with wildlife.

← Sherry and USFS' Maggie installing temporary pipes

As we are the Sierra *Wildlife* Coalition, we reach out to help all wildlife when the opportunity arises. We again partnered with the US Forest Service to install vent screens for campground and parking area vault toilets around Lake Tahoe. (Vault toilets are those self-contained units at areas without water/sewer service.)

Each year thousands of cavity-nesters (like owls, other birds, and small mammals) get trapped in vertical open pipes. The 12" vent pipes on vault toilets look like the natural cavities preferred by many birds for nesting, but once inside they are trapped and die from starvation or disease. The Teton Raptor Center in Jackson Hole Wyoming, a non-profit raptor education, research, and rehab organization, developed easy to install "Poo-Poo Screens" that protect wildlife without compromising ventilation. Sherry's sister, Sally Stevens, lives near the Teton Raptor Center and donated 12 of these, and SWC added 6 more, in memory of co-founder Ted Guzzi.

The Forest Service installed all 18 late this summer on vault toilets around Tahoe (at Bayview Campground, Angora Lakes Parking, Ski Beach, Echo Summit Snow Park, Luther Pass Overflow Parking, McKinney Rubicon Parking, and Sawmill Pond). The black powder-coated steel screens match the vent pipes, are very durable, and designed to allow ventilation even in snow country. We know these will save many birds and animals from horrible deaths for years to come.



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As we do every year, the Sierra Wildlife Coalition attends a number of wildlife festivals with our booth to help educate folks in some simple ways to coexist with wildlife. This form of public outreach is extremely important to the SWC because we feel strongly that nothing can replace this eye to eye, one on one personal contact. We're very proud to say that younger folks LOVE our booth as we have a number of educational coloring pages, but our biggest hit with them is always our color your own beaver tails!

We started the booth season in late April 2018 with the Squaw Valley Earth Day Celebration. In June we attended the Taylor Creek Native Species Festival, Taylor Creek Bird Festival, and the Martinez Beaver Festival. In July we participated in the Sugar Pine Point Trails and Trails Festival. We always finish out the season with the early October two day Taylor Creek Fall Fish Festival.

The Sierra Wildlife Coalition is a small but mighty organization that doesn't know the meaning of can't, and we are grateful to have the few but dedicated volunteer/friends that pitch in to help us manage year in and year out. Specifically we would like to thank Dana Spencer, Sheri Hartstein, Janet Baldrige, Dwayne Crenshaw, new recruit George Valentic, Miss Lily, and Mr. Wheeler.



While the Sierra Wildlife Coalition was participating in the Martinez Beaver Festival in Martinez, CA in June (← Sheri, Sherry & Toogee, photo by Janet), we met and became fast friends with wildlife documentary filmmaker Sarah Koenigsberg. Sarah had recently finished her feature length documentary "Beaver Believers" and was scheduled to show it at multiple nature film festivals.



Unbeknownst to us Sarah had started following the SWC's Facebook page after that meeting. In the second week of October the SWC posted our wildlife cam video of a beaver actually starting the new construction of a small dam. The day after posting this video Sarah got in touch with us to excitedly ask us if she could use that video and possibly some more footage, if we had it, to add to her film "Beaver Believers". We were able to provide her with multiple clips, even a bear walking across the spot the beaver was about to build on. She edited that footage into her film and a few weeks later it not only was featured at the Banff Mountain Film Festival on Nov 3rd and 4th, but the 12 minute segment with the SWC footage, with full credit to the SWC, was picked to be part of the Banff Mountain Film Festival World Tour! This is what Sarah had to say about the addition of our clips, "Your clips just make the moment! Thank you so much!"

Sierra Wildlife Coalition is honored to be a part of "Beaver Believers" and want to congratulate Sarah on such an amazing achievement and having her work go international!

Wishing you a peaceful holiday season - Co-Directors Toogee Sielsch and Sherry Guzzi www.sierrawildlife.org