

# Wildlife

LINDSAY WILDLIFE EXPERIENCE | SUMMER 2018

# Wonders



Lindsay  
Wildlife  
Experience

**Inside:**

Lindsay favorite Lord Richard  
celebrates 44 noble years



“There is, indeed, a fire burning over the earth, taking with it plants and animals, cultures, languages, ancient skills, and visionary wisdom. Quelling this flame and reinventing the poetry of diversity is perhaps the most important challenge of our times.”

—Dr. Wade Davis



Lindsay  
Wildlife  
Experience

Connecting people with wildlife to inspire responsibility and respect for the world we share.



**Heroes ...**

We need them. Whether parents and friends or leaders and professional innovators, heroes tap into our basic human needs for safety and survival, health, comfort, happiness, hope, justice, wisdom, and self-actualization.

Heroes give us the courage to dream big, despite (or perhaps because of) seemingly insurmountable odds. They give us hope when confronting personal challenges and inspire us to persevere and overcome suffering, despair and frustration.

Heroes make it OK to dream impossible things and live a life that defies conventional, popular and safe societal norms; often, that’s a lonely and isolating path. We rely on trailblazers to model singularly passionate focus, commitment and unrelenting belief in improbable dreams—despite naysayers and obstacles—and to bring light and justice into an otherwise dark and unjust world.

My heroes have been so vital in shaping the person I am today—ecologist, conservationist and defender of imperiled wildlife and habitats—that I felt compelled to create a speaker series, *Conservation Icons*, to serve as a platform from which others who share my passion for preserving the diversity of the biosphere and ethnosphere can draw inspiration, rejuvenation and hope.

I know you will be delighted and awestruck by the all-star lineup of internationally renowned leaders, visionaries and impassioned voices that are changing our world and motivating each of us to rise to our best selves. Join us for the second annual *Conservation Icons* speaker series, beginning in August, and expect to be transformed.

Heroes change the world. And in doing so, they change us. Who are your heroes?

**Cheryl McCormick, Ph.D.**

Executive Director | Lindsay Wildlife Experience

**Exhibit Hall and Wildlife Hotline**

(925) 935-1978  
Hours: Hall open  
Tues.-Sun.,  
10 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Hospital open 9 a.m. to  
7 p.m. daily  
—  
lindsaywildlife.org  
General email: social  
media@lindsaywildlife.org  
—  
1931 First Avenue  
Walnut Creek, CA 94597

**Executive Director**

Cheryl McCormick, Ph.D.

**Creative Staff**

Editor: Elisabeth Nardi  
Contributors: Julie Clemens,  
Heather Haas and  
Cheryl McCormick, Ph.D.

**Produced by DCP**

dcpubs.com  
Photography by Paul Hara  
and Margaret Kowalick-Hara

**Board of Directors**

Rosanne Siino, Ph.D.,  
President  
Marilyn Fowler,  
Vice President  
David Shunick, Treasurer  
Julie Ross, Secretary  
Lou Eber, Esq.  
Laura Johnson  
Marc Kaplan  
Matt Lawson  
Elizabeth McWhorter, Ph.D.  
Ryan Misasi  
James A. Pezzaglia, Esq.  
Jeremy Seymour, Esq.  
Heather Stead  
Gabe Togneri

**Emeritus Board Members**

(Honorary nonvoting  
board members)  
Gary Bogue  
Barney Howard  
Nan Hudson  
Michael Stead

**On the cover:** Lindsay turkey vulture Lord Richard celebrates her 44th birthday.



### Bee Bop!

Join us Aug. 18 as we celebrate National Honey Bee Day with our annual Bee Bop! Come honor amazing creatures like bees, birds and butterflies that pollinate our world.

The festivities include honey tasting, a chance to meet a real beekeeper, "Honey Bee Waggle" dancing, and interactive activities and crafts. All FREE for members or with admission to Lindsay!

*For more information, go to [lindsaywildlife.org/bee-bop](http://lindsaywildlife.org/bee-bop).*

NINTH ANNUAL  
An Evening  
at the Bistro

**SAVE THE DATE:**  
An event to benefit  
Lindsay Wildlife Experience  
September 23, 2018 at  
Va de Vi Bistro & Wine Bar



### MEET OUR NEW ANIMAL AMBASSADORS: BANANA SLUGS

For the first time ever, Lindsay has some slimy and popular new invertebrates: banana slugs! Banana slugs are bright yellow, shell-less mollusks commonly found on the redwood forest floor. Banana slugs are detritivores, or decomposers. They process leaves, animal droppings, moss and dead plant material and then recycle them into soil. While they may be slimy, slugs contribute to decomposition by consuming detritus, which is why they are a vital part of our ecosystem. And did you know the banana slug is the mascot of the University of California at Santa Cruz? Ours were named at a recent Lindsay Wild@Night event; we invite you to come meet Slick and Cruz!



### FUN FACT

**11lbs**

That's the weight of each of our eagles, which is the same as our desert tortoise.





**Top to bottom:**  
Lord Richard spreads her wings; a young Lindsay visitor observes Lord Richard eating her birthday cake at last year's celebration.

# A Lordly Gathering

Longtime animal ambassador Lord Richard celebrates her 44th birthday this June!

**F**or more than four decades, Lord Richard has welcomed guests to Lindsay Wildlife. Perched in her aviary just outside of Lindsay's front doors, the redhead shows no signs of slowing down: She celebrates her 44th birthday on Saturday, June 30. This turkey vulture is one of Lindsay's most iconic (and oldest) animal ambassadors!

Lord Richard came to Lindsay as a juvenile from the Randall Museum in San Francisco. After being raised by people, she had imprinted and would not socialize properly with wild turkey vultures. When she came to Lindsay in 1974, she was assumed to be male, since female and male turkey vultures look identical.

Then in late 1980, Lord Richard laid an egg! Lindsay staff decided against changing her name, keeping her as a female lord.

Because she has imprinted on humans, she displays courting or mating behaviors to certain animal keepers in the spring and has done this for years.

"She completely ignores our male turkey vulture, Diablo—she knows what she likes!" says Lindsay Animal Keeper Rachael Cross.

Her favorite part of the day is definitely sunning on the front stairs of Lindsay as she's on the way to her aviary.

"Most days she'll barely wait until she's out the door before she spreads her wings," says Cross.

Turkey vultures have a good sense of smell. Other vultures, condors and raptors will follow turkey vultures to carcasses. Their

incredible scenting ability is due to the size of their olfactory lobe as well as the immense opening of their nostrils.

Turkey vultures are social birds, and Lord Richard will give "kisses" (beak in the hand) if she really likes someone but may also nip your ankles if you aren't paying attention—she is a wild animal, after all.

## Celebrate Lord Richard!

Join Lindsay to commemorate this major milestone for Lord Richard! On Saturday, June 30, the daylong party will include birthday cake fit for a lord or lady—think rabbit entrails topped with watermelon! And delicious (and human appropriate) cupcakes will be available for visitors at Richard's aviary at 1 p.m. Guests can watch Lord Richard take to the Raptor Redwood Grove and fly as part of Lindsay's Flight School at 2:15 p.m.





A bobcat being tended to at the Lindsay Wildlife Rehabilitation Hospital.



An X-ray of a bobcat brought in suffering from a gunshot wound.

## WHAT CAN YOU DO?

**1.** If you see a wild animal that has been shot, call California Fish and Wildlife's (888) 334-CALTIP. It is a confidential secret witness program.

**2.** Practice proper gun and rifle safety and stress that animals are never target practice.

**3.** If you don't want wildlife in your yard, here are tips to make a backyard inhospitable:

- Don't leave human or pet food out; it will attract animals.
- Keep vegetable gardens enclosed.
- Clean up fallen fruit and acorns.
- Pick up piles of leaves to discourage nesting.
- Don't let food from bird feeders build up on the ground.
- Seal all entrances to your house; mice can squeeze through dime-size spaces!

*For more on living with wildlife, visit [lindsaywildlife.org/living-wildlife](https://lindsaywildlife.org/living-wildlife).*



## A DISTURBING TREND

**L**indsay Wildlife Rehabilitation Hospital is dealing with an unsettling trend. This year, there have already been 13 animals admitted as shooting victims. Compare that to 12 cases during the entirety of 2017.

In January, a river otter was brought to Lindsay Wildlife after numerous people saw him behind a Safeway in Walnut Creek, injured and struggling. Rescued by Contra Costa County Animal Services, the otter was too sick to save and had to be humanely euthanized. Radiographs showed that he had been shot in the head and neck several times. He had likely been living with those injuries for a while.

Other gun shot cases this year include opossums, a raccoon, a crow and hawks, as well as a bobcat found on a trail in Livermore, whose suffering was humanely ended due to his severe trauma. In 2017, animals that were shot included jays, crows, squirrels and even animals that people apparently use as illegal target practice. Injured animals this year may be attributed to legal hunting, not within city limits, and to targeting 'nuisance animals' that people often don't want in their yard, crops or dwellings.

"As an ecologist, I am keenly aware that Lindsay's patient data indicates a larger environmental issue—a steady increase in human-wildlife conflicts, in which wildlife invariably lose. Most suburban residents have

few experiences with wildlife—particularly carnivores—and are uncertain how to respond to perceived risk and potential conflict," says Executive Director Cheryl McCormick.

The problem grows when shot animals die in the wild and are eaten by healthy wild animals. These predators get lead poisoning from the bullets, leading to secondary toxicity.

"Even if done legally, the shooting of wildlife can cause a lot of suffering," says Lindsay veterinarian Dr. Allison Daugherty. "If an animal survives the initial trauma, it can take a long time for them to die or become debilitated enough to be captured and brought to a facility like Lindsay Wildlife. Often by then, they are too far gone for us to save."

Lindsay hospital data also shows a spike in admitted animals injured by sticky traps.

The Hospital Wildlife Hotline teaches members of the public how to live in harmony with wildlife. Volunteers share how to make backyards inhospitable for wild critters and make clear to the public that wild animals are not target practice. A key part of the hospital's role is to help educate the public on how to live with wildlife.

"There's a long history of 'people vs. wildlife' because we're living in the same territories and habitats. We need to find a balance so that we can live as 'people and wildlife.' Educating the public on ways to do this is a big part of what we do," says Daugherty.

# CONSERVATION ICONS

With nearly all *Conservation Icons* presentations selling out during its inaugural year, Lindsay Wildlife is proud of the success of this unique speaker series. By popular demand, we are continuing the series into a second year and are thrilled to announce the preliminary speaker schedule.

These highly anticipated presentations at Lindsay bring internationally recognized scholars, researchers and conservation biologists to stimulate discussion, expand Lindsay's impact and inspire connection to the natural world. We are thrilled to announce our 2018-19 season, which includes famed anthropologist and best-selling author Dr. Wade Davis on Jan. 5!

*To purchase tickets and learn more about these amazing speakers, go to [lindsaywildlife.org/conservationicons](http://lindsaywildlife.org/conservationicons).*

- **Aug. 11:**  
Dr. Ari Friedlaender, UC Santa Cruz, Oregon State University and National Geographic Explorer, orcas and humpback whales
- **Sept. 15:**  
Dr. Emily Taylor, Cal Poly, rattlesnakes
- **Oct. 13:**  
Raabia Hawa, Unbound Project, Kenyan wildlife
- **Nov. 10:**  
Dr. Dan Simberloff, Harvard and



University of Tennessee Knoxville, invasive species

- **Jan. 5:**  
Dr. Wade Davis, University of British Columbia, life's diversity\*

- **March 23:**  
Joel Reynolds, Natural Resources

Defense Council, defending the Earth\*  
*Check out our website soon for additional speakers coming to Lindsay as part of the 2018-19 season!*

*\*Presentations held at the Leshner Center for the Arts in Walnut Creek. All others will be held at Lindsay Wildlife Experience.*

## Philanthropic Partnership: Thank You, Shell and Andeavor!



For generations, Lindsay has been changing behavior to protect our environment by creating memorable experiences for each visitor, young or old. We believe when children have meaningful contact with the natural world, they will grow up to cherish and preserve it.

Through generous funding from corporate philanthropists, this spring all four Martinez elementary schools and the local Boys & Girls Club were able to participate in the transformational programs of Lindsay Wildlife Experience.

Shell Oil Company funded Lindsay's education program to provide outreach to the schools and the Boys & Girls Club. Andeavor provided funds for these Martinez schools to bring a grade of students on field trips to Lindsay. This grant included stipends to defray the cost of transportation, which has become an economic barrier for many schools.

Both of these corporations have a strong ethos of philan-

thropy focusing on community, education and the environment. In addition to funding vital educational opportunities for youth, they also funded Lindsay's wildlife rehabilitation work. Since our goal is not just rehabilitating wildlife but also working to change the human behaviors that result in wild patients coming through our hospital doors, even volunteers leave the wildlife hospital with a new perspective on the impact of their interactions with wildlife and empowered with the knowledge to act responsibly.



## Faces of Wildlife

*Faces of Wildlife* 2018 was a huge hit with our 415 guests! Moving our signature fundraising event home to Lindsay attracted new patrons (58 percent of our guests) for animal encounters rarely experienced in life. From getting a close-up photograph inside an alligator's mouth to touching an armadillo, guests learned about creatures from near and far. Over \$67,000 was raised in an evening filled with truly memorable wildlife experiences.



**a:** A kangaroo with his handler, Gabe, from Conservation Ambassadors. **b:** Donna Covert touches an armadillo. **c:** Meet and greet with George the anteater from Wildlife Associates. **d:** Lindsay Volunteer Engagement Coordinator Carmen DeLeon and animal ambassador peregrine falcon Flash welcome

visitors. **e:** Melissa Hoesser bids in the live auction during the sponsors event at *Faces of Wildlife*. **f:** Raully Butler, with sponsor Mechanics Bank, pours wine as he bids. **g:** Director of Education James Madden introduces the crowd to Shadow, Lindsay's great gray owl. **h:** Wendy Sparks checks out an animal from Wildlife Associates. **i:** Lindsay's eagles Atsá and Topaz take the stage with handlers Rachael Cross and Lauren Amy during the sponsors event.

We thank our guests and particularly our corporate sponsors for supporting our mission.

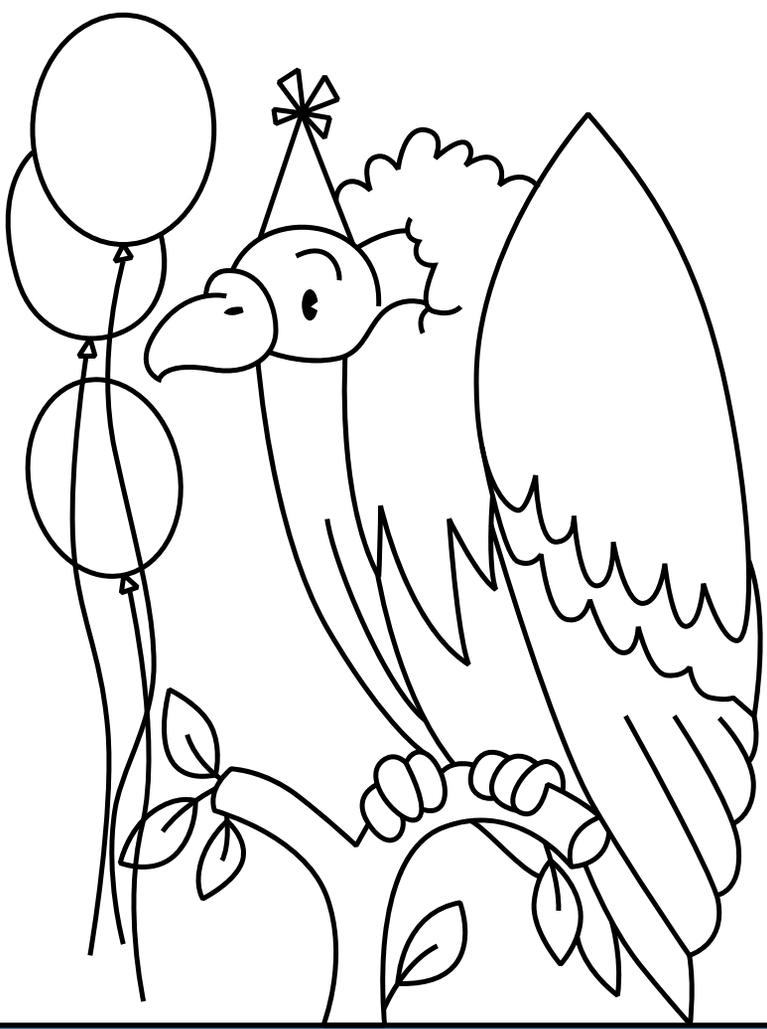




Lindsay  
Wildlife  
Experience

Lindsay Wildlife Museum  
1931 First Avenue  
Walnut Creek, CA 94597-2540

NONPROFIT ORG  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
WALNUT CREEK CA  
PERMIT NO. 525



# Event Calendar

## June

- 11-14: Lindsay Summer Camp: Nature Explorer
- 16: Volunteer Opportunities Class for those interested in becoming a Lindsay volunteer
- 17: Neon Scorpion Hikes
- 18-21: Lindsay Summer Camp: Dinosaur Days
- 23: Live. Wild. Animal Exhibition: Wild Cats!
- 24: Neon Scorpion Hikes
- 25-28: Lindsay Summer Camp: Creepy Crawly
- 30: Lord Richard's Birthday

## July

- 8: Neon Scorpion Hikes
- 9-12: Lindsay Summer Camp: Dinosaur Days
- 15: Neon Scorpion Hikes
- 16-19: Lindsay Summer Camp: Mad Science
- 21: Live. Wild. Animal Exhibition: Parrots on Parade!
- 23-26: Lindsay Summer Camp: Creepy Crawly
- 30-Aug. 2: Lindsay Summer Camp: Mad Science

## August

- 6-9: Lindsay Summer Camp: Nature Explorer
- 11: *Conservation Icons*: Dr. Ari Friedlaender, UCSC, orcas and humpback whales
- 13-16: Lindsay Summer Camp: Dinosaur Days
- 18: Bee Bop!
- 18: Live. Wild. Animal Exhibition: Dry Hot Summer Animals!
- 20-23: Lindsay Summer Camp: Creepy Crawly
- 24: Wild@Night
- 27: Mini Monday

## September

- 15: *Conservation Icons*: Dr. Emily Taylor, Cal Poly, rattlesnakes
- 23: *An Evening at the Bistro*

Color your very own Lord Richard!  
The next time you visit, bring it to  
Lindsay, where it will hang on our  
membership kiosk!

FOR A COMPLETE LIST OF UPCOMING EVENTS,  
VISIT [LINSAYWILDLIFE.ORG](http://LINSAYWILDLIFE.ORG).

