

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Posted: October 9, 2015



Foul play at BRWC

I, along with many others, am also aware and concerned with the unbelievable treatment of the founder of the Blue Ridge Wildlife Center, Dr. Belinda Burwell. It is unjust and unfair that Dr. Burwell has been forced out as the BRWC vet after she has worked tirelessly for years to help make this organization the success it is today.

I met Dr. Burwell a few years ago while volunteering at the center. I cannot say enough about her. She is an amazing person with endless devotion and compassion for our area's native wildlife.

I know she has repaired a hummingbird's wing. I have seen her rehab eagles and other raptors from certain death due to lead poisoning. She can successfully re-introduce animals back into the wild after they were inadvertently being kept as pets. She has never turned away any of the rescues I have brought to her. The advocacy and education programs developed by Dr. Burwell are invaluable. I could go on for a while about this lady's astounding talents.

Although I have only been involved in wildlife rescue a short time, it is because of Dr. Burwell and her BRWC organization that I have a greater respect for wildlife and am more aware of the importance of their role in our environment as well as my own role, no matter how small that part may seem, in helping wildlife.

It is unfair and an injustice that Dr. Burwell has been forced from BRWC, the very thing she founded and expanded to what it is today.

Although my donations are small, as a supporter and donor to the BRWC, I also think it only fair that an open, public meeting among the board of directors, the new executive director, and Dr. Burwell be held so all those interested may hear what is really happening at the center.

Please join the effort to support Dr. Burwell by contacting the board of directors at info@blueridgewildlife.org or P.O. Box 326 Millwood, 22646. There is also a petition on change.org (search for Blue Ridge Wildlife Center) that you may sign.

Shelia Harden

Winchester