

NEW RESIDENT PROMOTES WILDLIFE REHAB CENTER HERE

Stephanie Goetzinger, newly in Westport with husband, Ted, was telling about her background and her big interest in getting a wildlife rehabilitation program started here. "I'm really qualified", she said. "I was, for some time, a stock broker, and that is certainly wildlife!"

Well, and that is certainly Stephanie. She's plunged into this project with a bounce that will, without a doubt, carry her straight to its completion.

The Goetzingers came to us from Milwaukee, Wisconsin, where Ted was an executive with Aetna Life Casualty. They are now in Westport.

Anyway, when Stephanie found out that the closest wildlife center is in Charlotte, [she recently arranged a complimentary flight there on Piedmont for an osprey that had been shot in Salter Path] she knew what she had to do: start a center here, where every year hundreds of wild animals are injured, sick, or orphaned. The awful thing is that 95% of the problems of these animals are man's fault. Stephanie began her dedication to this cause in Milwaukee when she found a helpless faun and got it to the wildlife park there. This led to her becoming a volunteer and eventually a licensed wildlife rehabilitator. No one, without a license from both state and federal governments, is allowed to have any wild animal in his possession. Since Stephanie and Ted have been in PKS they have taken under their care a varied assortment of creatures, including gulls and a squirrel with a broken wrist. Stephanie is busy inspiring the local vets to help her with this whole thing, and she hopes that, before too long, the wildlife center will be constructed on some of the land deeded to the North Carolina Aquarium.

Much help is needed from the community before the center can become real. For example, that osprey had to be transported in a "kennel kab" or carrying case similar to those used by most people to take their pets on journeys. Stephanie says they also make good temporary cages. Anybody have one to donate? She'll need heating pads to warm the toes of injured animals, as well as non-tip food dishes, a baby scale, blankets, a blender to prepare formula for baby birds, etc., and any Purina pet foods. "Don't throw anything away!" says Stephanie. "Pick up acorns in the fall for the wood ducks and coots who love to eat them in the spring!"

Volunteers will be needed to build cages and aviaries. ["Remember," says Stephanie, "Aviaries are for birds, apiaries for bees, and agiaries for old people."] Well.

Stephanie is willing to do educational programs, not only at the Aquarium, but for schools and clubs. She encourages calls relating to wildlife; her number is 247-5767. She hopes many residents will be eager to help.

Meanwhile, the Goetzingers continue to be pleased with their new life here. Ted plays tennis, they are using their boat a lot, and they want to know if there's "anybody for curling?" [And this does not refer to what ladies do to their hair. After all, in Milwaukee some of the best people say, "Have you just had them bent?"]

So - there it is, in print, folks. And there are the Goetzingers, full of energy and good humor.

MARY DOLL

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OUR NEW NEIGHBORS

Suzy, the 16 year old fluffy cat of Urlene and Alan Williamson, has settled in cozily at 242 Salter Parth Road. She is still surrounded by the people who love her and, best of all, in a pretty cabinet near where she curls up for her naps, are the