Calliope is a self-described Renaissance band whose members have devoted their careers to playing music of the 15th and 16th centuries on ancient musical instruments including the shawm, the sackbut, the viol, and the hurdy-gurdy.

Based in New York City, the group has four members all of whom specialize in playing many obscure and antiquated musical instruments. The musicians are: Lucy Bardo (viola, vielle, and rebec), Lawrence Benz (sackbut, lute, recorders and krummhorn), Allen Dean (cornetto, sackbut, recorders and krummhorn), and Ren Harms (percussion, viol, recorders, krummhorn, pipe and tabor).

Calliope performed at the 1977 presidential inaugural and also recorded the soundtrack for Simple Gifts, a 1978 holiday special on PBS. Their albums include Calliope Dances: A Renaissance Revel (recorded in 1982), Calliope Festival (recorded in 1984), and Diversions (recorded in 1990).

And why, you may be wondering, would a group of hedgehog owners, breeders and enthusiasts find any of this information useful or interesting? Because Calliope’s repertoire includes Beastiary, a contemporary piece of musical theatre by Peter Schickele which requires the musicians to recite silly verses, sing and play while simultaneously mimicking the behavior of frogs, elephants, unicorns and...wait for it...hedgehogs! Beastiary’s brief fifth movement, which lasts only seconds, uses shrill recorder music to replicate the action of a hedgehog as it quickly rolls itself into a huffing, vibrating ball of quills.

You can actually experience the intensity of this musical description of hedgehog resistance by going to Amazon.com and listening to the music sampler for Bestiary, musical theater piece for renaissance ensemble, Nos 1-10.


Marylou Zarboc from www.smallanimalchannel.com contacted me for some information about our calendar and its fundraising efforts. I answered a series of questions for her. You can see what she wrote about our calendar and several other groups' calendars by going here...


We still have calendars left! Order yours now by sending a check or money order, for $20 made out to the HWS, c/o Sheila Dempsey, 12245 Wendy Lane, Waldorf, MD 20601 or you can paypal $20 to donations@hedgehogwelfare.org. Remember to note that the money is for the 2010 HWS calendar.
Jim Hedgehog and the Lonesome Tower

Russell Hoban is a well-known author of children’s books most of which were illustrated by his former wife, Lillian Hoban. You may have fond memories of *Emmet Otter’s Jug-Band Christmas*, *The Mouse and His Child*, or the wonderful stories of Frances, the young badger featured in *Bread and Jam for Frances*, *Best Friends for Frances*, and four other stories.

This unusual book is written by the same Russell Hoban but it is quite a departure from the classic children’s stories that preceded it. For one thing, it appears to be set in England where Hoban now lives with his second wife, Gundula Ahl. For another, the lead character, Jim, is a young hedgehog, who is a die-hard, heavy metal music fan.

One day Jim accompanies his mother to an outdoor market where people are selling fruit, vegetables, clothing, phonograph records, cassettes and other items. While his mother is purchasing vegetables, Jim wanders over to a music stand run by a stoat in dark glasses. There he purchases a cassette tape bearing the hand-written label: “Lonesome Tower.”

When he listens to the tape, Jim describes a sound similar to “a hundred tomcats and a thousand bees in the middle of a hurricane.” “That’s not bad,” he says.

After a very interesting session in which Jim’s mother attempts to teach him to read music and play the recorder, Jim heads outdoors for a walk. He is walking beside a stream, tooting on his recorder when his instrument suddenly jumps out of his hands and throws itself into the water.

Jim chases the recorder downstream, eventually finding himself at a lonesome tower occupied by a strange blonde-haired woman wearing chains, tight knee-high boots, and black clothing--probably one of the most unusual characters in children’s fiction! As it turns out, the blonde is the singer who recorded Jim’s cassette tape. Jim immediately invites her to visit his school for the Summer Festival. She agrees to appear and puts on a smashing performance, shattering windows for miles around.

Clearly, this is not your every day children’s book. Still it is an entertaining story. The color illustrations by Betsy Lewin successfully capture the essence of roly-poly hedgehog cuteness. A sequel to this unusual story, *Jim Hedgehog’s Supernatural Christmas*, was published in 1992. New and used copies of both books are available through Amazon, Alibris and Advanced Book Exchange.
A couple of years ago someone posted to the Yahoo! Hedgehog Welfare chat group that their hedgie had almost choked on something. The owner “fished” the item out with her finger. That got me to thinking.

A few weeks later I had Molly in to the vet for a checkup. Some of you may remember my Molly - - Miss Molly Dolly Snickerdoodles Sassy Pants Show Queen Weaver. When my vet said, “Any other questions?” my response was, “Yes, can you give a hedgehog the Heimlich maneuver?” My vet said, “Actually yes, and I’ll demonstrate with Molly.”

Here’s what my vet shared:

1. Take your hedgie and place him or her in the palm of your hand with the hedgehog’s belly against your palm and the nose pointing towards your fingertips.
2. Take your other hand and place it on top of your hedgie (the spine should be against your palm). Make sure you have a good grip on the hedgie.
3. Now swing your arms up (like you were staring to make a golf swing) and then swing your arms quickly down.
4. When the hedgie’s head is pointing downward again, give a “good, solid” squeeze - - like you were squeezing a bellows.
5. After the squeeze add an additional downward shake.
6. Repeat if needed.

I’m not sure what Molly thought of this entire ordeal (we spared her the squeeze part) but much to her credit she didn’t raise a quill. I’ve since practiced on stuffed animals from time to time so I won’t forget the sequence. I hope I never have to perform this procedure but I’m glad I know it. And now so do you.

As a follow up to my last column regarding volunteering and doing random acts of kindness (RAKs), I’d like folks to email me privately with what types of volunteer work you’re doing and/or telling me what your most recent RAK was. Email to deborah.weaver@marquette.edu and put RAKS in the subject area. I will include the information (without names) in my next column.
Hedgehog Trivia

Hippocampus Spinosissimus

Margaret Myhre

If you are a regular reader of the Hedgehog Trivia column you are probably aware that the term “hedgehog” has been applied to many different things. One of the most unlikely things to carry the hedgehog descriptor is the seahorse! Yes indeed, ladies and gentlemen, there is a hedgehog seahorse and, thanks to Elaine Becker, the seahorse has made its way to Hedgehog Trivia.

Generally the seahorse is a small fish known for the shape of its head which resembles a horse. There are about 25 species of seahorses most of which live in shallow water in the tropics although some are found in temperate zones as well. The seahorse’s body is covered with bony plates. It has a long snout that functions like a little vacuum cleaner sucking small animals into its mouth. It also has a long, flexible tail which it uses to cling to seaweeds or floating sea vegetation. A large, air-filled swim bladder helps the seahorse maintain a certain depth in the ocean.

The Hedgehog Seahorse (Hippocampus spinosissimus) is a non-migratory seahorse found along reefs from Sri Lanka to Taiwan and Australia. The adults range in size from 5.3 to 17.2 centimeters long. They are usually pale in color varying from light brown to green with a dark “saddle” across the back and sides. The tail is sometimes marked with dark cross-hatches. As you might guess, this variety of seahorse is characterized by well-developed spines which may be blunt or quite sharp. The spines are usually longer on the first, fourth, seventh and eleventh rings of the trunk and on the tail. Single or double spines are also found on the cheeks.

Like other seahorses, Hippocampus spinosissimus is an ambush predator. It waits patiently in the water for a tiny fish or small crustacean to pass by its mouth, then sucks its prey, along with the water it was swimming in, up into its long snout.

The most interesting general fact about seahorses is the reversal of some sex roles. The female lays eggs and deposits them into a pouch in the male’s tail. Male hedgehog seahorses have well-developed blunt-tipped spines bordering their egg pouches. The eggs are fertilized by the male. The male’s pouch seals shut to enclose the developing embryos in a safe environment. Oxygen is supplied to the developing young through a network of capillaries in the pouch. Depending on the species, the male may carry the eggs for as few as 10 or as many as 45 days. Eventually he enters labor and slowly releases tiny, live offspring into the sea water one at a time. The young seahorses are independent following their birth and are not cared for by
either parent.

Wild-caught Hedgehog seahorses have been successfully maintained in aquariums. They need to have the aquarium to themselves or share it with compatible tank-mates such as shrimp and bottom-feeders. Difficulties arise when they share their space with fast, aggressive feeders. Seahorses move and eat slowly and can be edged out of the competition for food in this scenario. Captive breeding of seahorses is possible although I have not come across any information regarding the breeding of hedgehog seahorses in captivity.


**Special thanks to Quentin Fischer for taking these photos at the Shedd Aquarium, Chicago.**

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**Fire Up for Wheelathon 2010!**

*What the heck is a Wheelathon?* The Wheelathon is an annual fundraising event organized by the Hedgehog Welfare Society. Participants solicit pledges for the event based on their hedgies' wheeling activity.

*When is the Wheelathon 2010?* The event is always held on the night of Hedgehog Day, February 2.

*How much does my hedgie have to wheel to collect pledges?* It doesn’t matter how far or how fast your hedgie wheels. It’s the enthusiasm for wheeling and fundraising for hedgies that counts.

*Who do I collect pledges from?* You can collect pledges from coworkers, friends, family, your veterinarian’s office, or even from other members in the hedgehog community.

*Are the pledges tax-deductable?* YES! The HWS is a federally recognized 501(c)3 organization, and as such all donations are tax deductible. Just request a receipt on the pledge form and one will be sent.

*How much do people pledge?* Anywhere from one cent to a million dollars! And, anywhere in between. Every penny adds up to help hedgehogs in need.

*What is our incentive to wheel?* Besides raising money for a good cause, the top wheelers receive nifty prizes. Last year, so many prizes were donated that everyone got a prize, and some folks got several prizes. In addition, anyone raising over $100 gets a cool T-shirt with the Wheelathon 2010 logo.

*How do I get more information and pledge forms?* Just keep your eyes open on the hedgehogwelfare yahoo group for more information. You can also write to donnasue.graesser@aya.yale.edu to find out more about Wheelathon 2010.

Get ready to Wheeeeeeeeeeel! Only a few months to train for Wheelathon 2010!
Do you have an idea for Lucy Laughs? You can e-mail the editor with your ideas.
~Editor

In October 2009 the HWS held a poetry contest.

The theme this month was hedgehog shows.
The winning poem was submitted by Debra Yeung.

Perhaps you would like to try your hand at writing pog poetry.

Watch for the next contest to be announced!

Are we there yet?

Mom, is everything packs, I needs to know, can we get in the car, I'm rarin' to go.

Kitty kibbles are in my snacks.
Mom put the mealies in my back pack.

She's filled goody bags for all of my pals, some for the guys and some for the gals.

Is there enough for the hedgie crowd?
Mom check just ONCE MORE, I muse out loud.

Mom, stealz my nails.
she bathed me, and brushed my quill.
all she mutter was
be still little pog, BE STILL!

This is a special day I know,
....Are we there yet?

Every month, Maisey travels the world to find the latest and greatest in fashions for hedgies and is showcasing her finds here in Maisey's Costume Corner.

Send your pictures to hedgiemom@comcast.net

Princess Chloe Bennett

Harrison Bennett & Friends

Nestle Rose Bennett

Snuggles Hannah Bennett

Bucky Woodring

Cocoa Marie & Daisy Mae Bennett
Are you looking for an elegant, delicious, rich dessert to make as a very special Valentine, birthday or anniversary surprise? We have just the thing!

Igels, are elegant chocolate and rum butter-cream “baked” hedgehog-shaped desserts that were popular in European pastry shops during the 1960s. The hedgehogs are made from cocoa-flavored dough, rum silk butter-cream filling, a dark chocolate satin glaze, and royal icing. The recipe comes from the book *Sweet miniatures: the art of making bite-size desserts* by Flo Braker who, along with David Leite, has kindly granted us permission to link to her recipe on Leite's Culinaria which won the James Beard Award for Best Food Web Site in 2006 and 2007.

Follow the link below to see the recipe for these little chocolate hedgehogs as well as Michael Lamotte’s photograph of the finished product.


If you would like to have Quill visit you, contact the editors at newsletter@hedgehogwelfare.org
Technically echidnas are not closely related to hedgehogs but their physical resemblance to them is remarkable particularly in the long-beaked variety of the species. Echidnas belong to the family Tachyglossidae which is divided into two genera. *Tachyglossus*, the short-beaked echidna, has one species, *T. Aculeatus*, as well as five subspecies. The long-beaked echidna, *Zaglossus*, has three species as well as four subspecies of *Z. Bartoni*. Echidnas are egg-laying mammals or monotremes. The only other egg-laying mammal is the platypus.

Echidna fossils are extremely rare. In 1895, a fossil of a long-beaked echidna was discovered in a Golgong, New South Wales gold mine. It was thought to be about 15 million years old. Other fossils have been found in caves in South Australia and Western Australia. Today echidnas are found in the wild in Australia, Tasmania and New Guinea. They can be found in wet mountainous forests and also in semi-arid regions.

The size of these animals has a wide range. They can weigh between five and twenty-two pounds and range from one to three feet long. They have barrel-shaped bodies covered with brownish black or gray fur and sharp yellowish spines. The echidna has a bare, hairless snout. Its close-set eyes are located at the base of the snout. Like hedgehogs, their sharp spines protect them from attack and they can curl into spiky balls of quills. When threatened on a hard surface they curl up but, unlike hedgehogs, they can dig straight down when attacked on a soft dirt surface. They have flat, broad feet and very sharp, long, curved claws which make them capable of digging very rapidly, leaving only their quills protruding above the ground. They have been described as looking like sinking ships when they dig. In spite of these lovely defense mechanisms they have no known predators other than dingoes in Australia.

Echidnas do not hibernate. They are nocturnal when the weather is at its hottest but when the weather is cool they tend to be active at mid-day when the temperature is likely to be warmer. They dislike rain and may stay sheltered for days during the rainy season.

The echidna diet consists of worms, termites, ants and other insects. They have a well-developed sense of smell and long, sticky tongues which enable them to pick up insects quickly and easily. They are said to walk with a rolling gait as they search for food. Their hearing is excellent and they can hide very quickly when they sense danger.

Another characteristic echidnas share with hedgehogs is their appreciation of solitude. They prefer to live alone, coming together to mate from June through August. The female attracts males by releasing a scent. Gestation lasts about two weeks. The female lays a single egg in her pouch where it remains for ten days before hatching. Baby echidnas live in the mother’s pouch for six to eight weeks while they wait for their spines to come to the surface. The mother nurses her baby for six months and it reaches maturity in a year. Although the lifespan of echidnas in the wild is unknown, they have been known to live for 30 to 49 years in captivity!