



**WPeNewsletter April 2012**

edited by Carmen Klapperich

Walden's Puddle is a 501c3 non-profit. We receive no State or Federal funding.  
We are able to do this important work only because of the generosity of our community of donors.

## Thank you for making the following releases and transfers possible:

All Walden's Puddle releases are in loving memory of Dugan Coughlan Davis, may her memory be eternal.

The Davis family has requested donations in her memory be made to Walden's Puddle because of her love for animals.

### Releases in March:

Eastern Cottontail, 8  
Roof Rat, 1

Blue-tailed Skink, 1  
Eastern Box Turtle, 1

American Coot, 1  
Barred Owl, 2  
Cooper's Hawk, 2  
Crested Duck, 1  
Great Horned Owl, 1  
House Finch, 1  
Mourning Dove, 1  
Northern Cardinal, 1  
Northern Mockingbird, 1

Purple Finch, 1  
Red-tailed Hawk, 7  
Ring-necked Duck, 1

### Transfers in March:

Eastern Screech Owl  
**Brookfield Zoo, Chicago**



## POP QUIZ . . .



**What is the first thing you should do when you find a partially-feathered baby bird on the ground?** Look up! See if you can find the nest from which the bird may have fallen.

**What is the first thing you should do when you find a fully-feathered baby bird on the ground?** Again, the answer is "Look up!" The parents are most likely nearby waiting for you to get out of the way so they can tend to their toddler.

For more info go to:

<http://waldenspuddle.org/HELPMEBabybird.html>



**Opossum Foster Mom** will get quite a workout during baby season as many opossum mothers will be hit by cars. Some little opos are lucky enough to have their mom live long enough to wean them. Others will have to depend upon WP's staff and volunteers to keep their tummies full until they are big enough to forage on their own.

**Walden's Puddle has the best animal care staff bar none.** They are hard working, creative, selfless, and brave.



Most of us would head for shelter if we saw a weather map like this on our TV, computer, or smartphone. But the staff at WP makes sure the lanterns have fresh batteries, sets up candles to heat water, and simply carries on.

WP staff deals with power losses from storms in all seasons. Once, a falling tree took out the roof and the junction box on the back side of the building blocking that door for a few days. Power outages affect not just the lights and appliances in the building, but also, the distribution of WP's well water. So sometimes dishes get washed in the creek and dirty bedding gets taken home or to a nearby laundromat.

**Walden's Puddle Animal Care. . . it's not just a job, it's an ADVENTURE!**

# CARING FOR WILDLIFE 24/7

Walden's Puddle is the only professionally staffed wildlife rehabilitation and education center in middle Tennessee.

**WP staff, Bettina, Rebecca, and Tiffany, examine and treat a newly admitted owl with a compound fracture.**



**A story told in pictures:** The injury site is examined and disinfected then covered with Tegaderm, a transparent self-adhesive dressing, to protect bone and skin. Vetwrap is placed around the wing in a figure-8 pattern (quite an art form!) then the wing is securely wrapped to the body for stability of bone and joints. Sub-cutaneous (injected just under the skin) fluids are administered to rehydrate the stressed bird. The wrap job is given a last inspection before the bird is placed in the peace and safety of its crate. The next step will be for the owl to have the fracture surgically repaired. Then once it is healed and healthy it will be moved to an outdoor enclosure, go through Mouse School, and then be released.

Regular cleaning and feeding tasks are "interrupted" for similar emergency procedures hundreds of times every year on creatures large and small.  
**Hats off to our staff!**

## *Mother Knows Best. . . and Foster-Moms, too!*

**WP's staff works very hard to educate the public about reuniting young birds and animals with their parents whenever possible.** In early spring we start getting calls about baby birds of prey being found on the ground. We make every effort to re-nest these birds as quickly as possible. The following re-nesting story has a very happy ending.

WP received a call on March 11 about a grounded owlet. The caller reported that there was food on the ground and a parent in the tree above. The preferred next step would be to place the owlet in a temporary nest on the lowest limb of the tree to make it easier and safer for the parents to care for it. This could not be done, however, so the caller was instructed to bring the owlet indoors for the night because it was going to rain.

Bright and very early the next morning **Bettina Bowers-Schwan and Mike Wilson** arrived at a Brentwood home to re-nest the owlet, confirming that it was the young of a Great Horned Owl, which are the earliest nesting owls in our area. Mike, of Expert Tree Care, has been helping Bettina re-nest birds for the past 10 years. As he set up his tree-climbing gear, Bettina built a new nest from a laundry basket. Mike climbed, then secured the "nest" in the tree. Bettina placed the owlet in a pillowcase, Mike hauled the "owlet elevator" up a long rope, then placed the baby in its new nest. The homeowners agreed to keep a close eye on the nest tree and to call WP if they didn't see the parents.

All was well for the next couple of weeks, then on March 21, WP received a call from rangers at Stones River National Battlefield in Murfreesboro. The day before they had found an owlet on the ground at the cemetery. They placed it in what they thought was the nest tree, but had not observed any parents. So they were instructed to bring the baby to WP where it was assessed, given fluids, weighed and fed.

Bettina drove to the cemetery to see where the rangers had found the owlet and found the actual nest tree, but it didn't look active. By March 23 the rangers reported seeing no parent owls in the tree. Since this second owlet was also a baby GHO, Bettina decided to foster this owlet into the nest in Brentwood. She called Mike and the homeowners to let them know the plan. Of course, this was going to be a complete surprise for the Brentwood mama owl.

Next morning, back in Brentwood, the mother owl flew off the nest as Mike started climbing up the tree, but she stayed close during the whole process, coming back to the nest tree several times to check up on Mike. Mama owl continued to fly about and hoot while Bettina prepared the Stones River owlet for his new home. Finally, Stones River owlet was sent up the tree in a pillowcase where Mike placed it in the nest basket next to his new foster-sibling. Some thawed mice were added to the basket as a peace offering for mom.

The re-nesting was a resounding success! Before Mike was out of the tree the mama owl flew back to the nest to begin caring for her 2 babies.



**Brentwood owlet re-nested on 3/12/12.**



**Stones River owlet being prepared for re-nesting in Brentwood on 3/24/12.**



**Good luck to Mama Owl and her newly blended family.**

# Many hands make light work.

A small army of humans use their talents, skills, experiences, and imaginations to insure that the injured and orphaned wildlife that come to Walden's Puddle receive the care they need to return to their rightful place in the world.

**We, the staff, volunteers, and board members, wish to offer special thanks to the many donors and supporters who make our work possible and even a little easier.**

## Grants recently awarded by:

-Barbara J Mapp Foundation  
-AWC Foundation

## Grants applied for:

-Frist Foundation Technology Grant for new computers and cameras to watch birds during flight and mouse school

## We would also like to acknowledge the following for their nearly daily contribution of services and supplies:

Airport Animal Clinic  
Volunteer Veterinary Hospital  
Inglewood Kroger  
Green Hills Whole Foods  
Centerplate @ LP Field  
Nashville Humane Association  
Harris Demolition  
Veterinary Ophthalmology Services

## Volunteers are needed seven days a week, 365 days a year.

Our volunteers come from all walks of life with one thing in common: concern for our wild neighbors. As a Walden's Puddle volunteer, you will learn something new with each visit. You can experience saving the life of an injured or orphaned animal and returning it to where it belongs - the wild. While many people want to work directly with the wildlife it is possible to help without getting "down and dirty."

At present, **Walden's Board of Directors** needs volunteers to help in the following areas:

- Transportation, pickup & deliveries
- Marketing & PR
- Administrative duties
- Graphic design
- Event planning
- Fundraising

For more information contact [waldenspuddlevolunteers@yahoo.com](mailto:waldenspuddlevolunteers@yahoo.com)

**Carolyn Pendarvis**, volunteer director of WP's Education Department, reports that she has booked 26 programs over the next 11 weeks, with 7 pending final dates.

Carolyn comments, "WOW, it's gonna be a busy year! We are booking programs fast and furiously. If you or someone you know wishes to book a program, we offer a great many different programs for schools - both public and private - community centers, clubs such as Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Family Community Educators, garden clubs, etc., churches, vacation Bible school programs, teen groups, outdoor events, and conservationists!"

## We have several Wildlife Ambassadors that can help teach many different topics:

- Wildlife Injury & Illness - impact from humans!
- "Special like me" - programs to talk about how animals are special like humans. Great program for 3 years old and up!
- "Feathered, Furry & Shelled" - programs talking about the Biology of our animal friends and what we can do to protect their habitat.

Our mission is not only to educate the public, first and foremost, about the services that Walden's Puddle offers, but to also talk about the natural habitats and food chain of Tennessee's Treasured Wildlife in hopes that more people will become active in the role of animal rehabilitation to insure the survival of these species.

Please keep us in mind when you are working with the public and sharing the mission of Walden's Puddle!"

For more information or to book a program contact Carolyn at **615-299-9938 x 30** or email [waldenspuddleeducation@gmail.com](mailto:waldenspuddleeducation@gmail.com)



## WP staff and volunteers daily collect, deliver, sort, prepare, and distribute enough produce to feed a small army!

Animal director, Bettina Bowers-Schwann says, "**Produce is donated by the Inglewood Kroger, LP Field, and Green Hills Whole Foods.** We rarely have to buy anything anymore - maybe a case of sweet potatoes during baby season. In the past I've easily spent \$500 weekly when we've been slammed and before these donations became a dependable contribution."

# Ongoing Fundraising to benefit Walden's Puddle . . . .

## We want to be in partnership with you, as Your Choice for your charitable giving!

Walden's Puddle is a 501c3 non-profit. We receive NO state or federal funding. We can only do this important work because of the generosity of our community of donors like you.

Did you know we receive grants for being an ENVIRONMENTAL AND CONSERVATION ORGANIZATION as well as for being an ANIMAL ORGANIZATION?

Please feel free to contact our CEO Lane Brody at 615-714-4002 or [Lane@lanebrody.com](mailto:Lane@lanebrody.com) if you are interested in talking over the possibility of how to make "The Puddle" your charity for a special day, week, month or year when you plan for your company's charitable giving.

Please visit our profile on [www.givingmatters.com](http://www.givingmatters.com) or our website at [www.waldenspuddle.org](http://www.waldenspuddle.org)



## Whole Foods donates percentage of sales to Walden's Puddle

<http://www.wkrn.com/story/17105157/whole-foods-donates-proceeds-to-waldens-puddle>

Lane Brody reports: "Brian Hock picked up all the materials from the Puddle and brought them to Whole Foods. We had a beautiful display and enjoyed talking with the customers. But Brian is our hero. He dedicated his entire day to this event and stayed at the table all day as our ambassador. Thank you Brian for your hard work and for following through. Special thanks to **Debbie McConnell** for working with Brian to make this happen." Brian responds, "Thanks. It was a great experience and we may get a couple of volunteers out of it as well!"

Please Join Us For The 2012  
**Cinco de Mayo Fiesta**  
A Festive Celebration to Benefit  
**Walden's Puddle Wildlife Rehabilitation & Education Center**

When: May 3, 2012 @ 6:30pm—9:30pm      Where: Limelight 201 Woodland Street  
Nashville, TN 37213

Come prepared to bid at the Silent Auction!

Sponsorship Reservations: \$250, includes VIP seating, 8 tickets,  
Meet & Greet with the Artists, Sponsorship Display and Goody Bags.  
General Admission: \$20

Call for Information and Reservations:  
1-800-345-9688 Ext 0333

Surprise Artists!! Mexican Food!! Cash Bar!!



### The Walden's Puddle Ebay account is in action!

100% of the money raised from the items sold through this account will be sent straight to WP.

In addition, this account is listed with Mission Fish <http://www.missionfish.org/index.html>

Anyone selling items on Ebay can opt to donate a percentage of their sales to Walden's Puddle.

Please view the current items at [http://www.ebay.com/sch/waldenspuddle/m.html?\\_nkw=&\\_armrs=1&\\_from=&\\_ipg=50&\\_trksid=p3686](http://www.ebay.com/sch/waldenspuddle/m.html?_nkw=&_armrs=1&_from=&_ipg=50&_trksid=p3686)

Happy Bidding!

### Please remember to use the following when shopping online:

Goodshop <http://www.goodsearch.com/>

I Give <http://www.igive.com/>

Sharing Spree <http://www.sharingspree.com/deals/nashville>

Artful Vision <https://www.artfulvision.com/>

# Wildlife miscellany. . . . .



The FrogLog is a swimming pool escape ramp for frogs, toads, lizards, mice, chipmunks, squirrels, ducklings, turtles, bugs or insects, and other small animals up to one pound. The FrogLog saves native wildlife, keeps pool water clean, and reduces time spent on pool maintenance. The FrogLog can also be used in other water features including hot tubs or spas, backyard ponds, and fountains. <http://www.froglog.us/>

The first Chimney Swifts of 2012 have been spotted on the Gulf Coast. Once again this year we will be plotting the swifts' movements northward over the next few months. Please let us know when you see the first ones in your area. The results will be posted on our web site at: [www.ChimneySwifts.org](http://www.ChimneySwifts.org)



You can help us get the word out by passing this message along to any groups or organizations who might want to contribute.

## Live Wildlife Cams to monitor on your home computer:



Watch a nesting Red-tailed Hawk from a webcam provided by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. <http://www.allaboutbirds.org/page.aspx?pid=2422&ac=ac>  
Big Red laid her third egg on March 22; hatch should be around the week of April 13.



Also from Cornell a Great Blue Heron nest. <http://www.allaboutbirds.org/page.aspx?pid=2433>  
Eggs laid March 28, 30, and April 1, expecting fourth egg on April 3.



The Outdoor Channel, in partnership with the National Conservation Training Center, provides this live EagleCam <http://www.outdoorchannel.com/Conservation/EagleCam.aspx>  
First eaglet hatched March 14, second on March 15.

### WP Chairman CEO

Lane Brody, 615-714-4002 or [Lane@lanebrody.com](mailto:Lane@lanebrody.com)

### Executive Committee

Lane Brody  
Andy Eaton  
Jane Eaton  
Brian Hock PhD  
Eddie Bayers

### Board Members

Lane Brody  
Andy Eaton, Treasurer  
Jane Eaton, Secretary  
Brian Hock, Grant Coordinator  
Eddie Bayers, Computer Committee  
Joyce Peck, Volunteer Coordinator  
William Cerrito, Events  
Jim Africano  
Larry Parks, Maintenance  
Kathie Parks  
Carolyn Pendarvis, Education Outreach

### Advisers

Louie Buntin, Phillips Family Foundation  
Currey T. Thornton, T & T Family Foundation  
Emily Magid, Philanthropist  
Bill Burleigh, Operation Stand Down  
Jon Seaborg, Attorney  
Valerie Blonder, Blonder Group  
Ed Clark, Wildlife Center of Virginia  
Julie Stein, Scentmark Consulting

for more information go to [www.waldenspuddle.org](http://www.waldenspuddle.org)

The **American Crow** (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*) is a large passerine bird species of the family Corvidae. It is a common bird found throughout much of North America.

