



**WPeNewsletter January 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:**

**Releases in December:**

Eastern Gray Squirrel, 14  
Fawn, (white-tailed deer), 2  
Fox, 2  
North American Raccoon, 6  
Virginia Opossum, 1  
  
Barred Owl, 1  
Black Vulture, 1

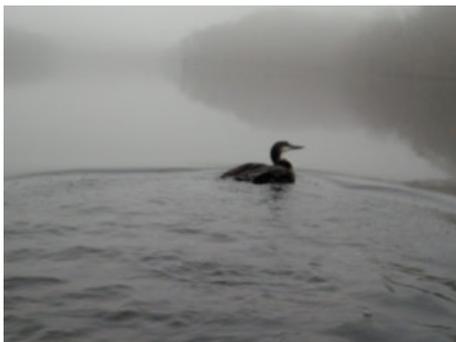
Cooper's Hawk, 1  
Eastern Screech Owl, 2  
Great Horned Owl, 1  
Red Shouldered Hawk, 1  
Red-tailed Hawk, 2

Chickadee, 1  
Common Loon, 1  
Eastern Bluebird, 1  
Mallard, 2

Pigeons, 7  
Woodcock, 1

**Transfers in December:**

**2 American Crow**  
Pella Wildlife Company  
Des Moines, Iowa



# *A very successful rehab and release. . .*

## **All you need is love - and a lot of patience.**

During the summer Steve and Deborah Mauldin of Hendersonville began to notice a strange “creature” eating the food that they put out for their area’s feral cats. They weren’t sure what it was, but they were concerned that it came to their yard around noon every day - not normal behavior for a wild animal.

Steve eventually was able to get some video of the animal to show to Dr Dixon, at Volunteer Vet Clinic, who identified the animal as a fox with what looked like a very severe infestation of mange (canine scabies). [http://www.petmd.com/dog/conditions/skin/c\\_dg\\_sarcoptic\\_mange#.TvtE\\_5hKqME](http://www.petmd.com/dog/conditions/skin/c_dg_sarcoptic_mange#.TvtE_5hKqME) Dr Dixon offered to treat the animal at no cost if Steve could capture it.

It would be four weeks before the very ill - but very wily - animal was caught.

At first Steve placed food next to a humane trap. After about two weeks, when the fox became accustomed to the presence of the trap, he began placing the food inside it. Even though the trap was not set to spring shut, the fox would cleverly grab the food and carry it away.

When Steve felt sure that the fox would enter all the way into the trap to retrieve the food, he set it. As he watched from the house, the fox entered the trap stepping gingerly around without tripping it. Finally, she turned to the food, the trap was sprung, and the fox was captured - four weeks after the trap was first set out, two months after the Mauldins first noticed the “creature” in their yard.

Steve took the captured fox to Dr Dixon who examined it and began treatment for severe mange, telling Steve the fox needed to be admitted to Walden’s Puddle. It was a Friday afternoon and since Dr Dixon still had patients to see Steve offered to transport the fox. After making an appointment for admission and getting directions to WP Steve and fox were on their way. . . until the radiator in his truck decided to “blow up.”

Worried, because he knew he needed to arrive before admissions ended for the day at 5:30pm, he called his wife, Deborah, who rescued them and got them to WP in the nick of time. Steve said the staff was very pleasant to them and he was relieved that the fox was in good hands.



**The photos at left show that upon admission the fox had virtually no fur and was so thin her right pelvic bone had broken through the skin. The animal care staff planned an aggressive treatment strategy that addressed the fox’s health problems externally, internally, and nutritionally.**



**Photos above taken 3 weeks after admission.**

From September 2 through October 31 she was given a series of anti-parasite injections to kill the mites causing the mange, antibiotics to prevent infection, supplements to boost her immune system, and two rounds of de-worming. Medication had to be placed on or in her food since her skin was too fragile for staff to risk grabbing her.

She was fed a never-ending buffet of food and supplements. Staff notes from 9/24 state: “very bright-eyed today, is consistently eating everything TID (3 times daily)” And on 10/1 - one month after admission - “look at all that cute fuzz!”

At the beginning of November the now-healthy fox was placed in an outdoor enclosure to become properly acclimated and lose her dependence upon human company. She eventually completed “mouse school” and was released in a safe place on December 2 with another fox that had come in with a less severe case of mange.

Bettina Bowers-Schwan, animal care director states, “. . . although these animals (infected with mange) look horrible when they get here, this is a treatable condition and it really doesn’t take that long. People (animal controls included) often think they are too far gone and just put them down, when there is no need for it. This is something that we can usually fix fairly easily.”

This fox made a speedy recovery due to the efforts of the Mauldins, Dr Dixon, and everyone associated with Walden’s Puddle. Mr Mauldin was so impressed with the staff at WP that he has instructed his web designer to add a link to the WVP website. [www.stevemauldin.com](http://www.stevemauldin.com)

**Looking at the before, during, and after photos it is very satisfying to realize that this is the same animal, now with a huge bushy tail, slipping back into the wild where she belongs.**



# Caring for wildlife 24/7

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



**Allison Creekmore and Bettina Bowers-Schwan** examine the broken wing of a Merlin.



**Tiffany Woody** really gets into her work in the squirrel cage in the lobby... "bravely going where no tech has gone before . . . to replace their destroyed hammock with a clean, pretty one."



**Merlin, *Falco columbarius*,** is a small falcon of northern forests and prairies, the Merlin is the least well-marked of the American falcons. It is becoming a regular breeder in urban areas.

Animal Care Director, **Bettina Bowers-Schwan** spoke at the Concurrent Annual Meeting of The American College of Veterinary Pathologists and The American Society for Veterinary Clinical Pathology on December 6th at the Renaissance Nashville Hotel. She spoke about WP and the wildlife issues staff deals with the most such as motor vehicle accidents and domestic cat/dog attacks. She also talked about the devastating effects of distemper, gunshot wounds, and barbed wire injuries, and answered questions.



*Wildlife miscellany. . . . .*



Join us for Tennessee's premier wildlife extravaganza! The Tennessee Sandhill Crane Festival is a celebration of the thousands of Sandhill Cranes that migrate through or spend the winter at the confluence of the Hiwassee and Tennessee Rivers near Birchwood, TN.

<http://www.tncranefestival.org/>

# 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:

The Bradford Foundation  
Barbara Pierce

## Recently contributed in-kind donations:

Debbie McConnell, Philanthropy T-shirt campaign

## 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

## *Upcoming Donor Event. . .*

### **RAWR! a wildlife benefit show at The Exit/In**

**Saturday January 7, 2012  
8:00pm - 2:00am  
2208 Elliston Place, Nashville**

**\$5+ donation at the door  
\$2 to participate in raffle**

Come out to this wildlife-themed event for a RAWRRrrring good time! Wear animal ears, an animal tail, or an entire animal suit! (or have an animal face painted on at the show)

There is going to be hula hooping, belly dancing, face painting, a raffle for an edible arrangement valued at \$80, live painting, and several amazing bands!

for details:

[www.facebook.com/events/235814149816056/](http://www.facebook.com/events/235814149816056/)



## *Wildlife miscellany. . . . .*



**Think outside the Cage**

Each year millions of exotic birds are captured from the wild or produced in captivity for commercial profit at human amusement, only to languish in conditions that fail to meet these animals' restrictive behavioral and physical needs. As a result, many birds lead miserable lives.

National Bird Day (January 5) is a day to appreciate our own native wild birds flying free outside our windows, and a day to reflect on how we treat the native birds of other countries. National Bird Day is also a time to commit to improving the lives of birds in captivity and supporting efforts aimed at protecting birds in the wild.



**Celebrate National Bird Day: January 5, 2012**  
[www.NationalBirdDay.com](http://www.NationalBirdDay.com)

# eNature.com

Bringing nature to life

Nature.com is the web's premier destination for information about the wild animals and plants of the United States.

<http://www.enature.com/home/indexNew.asp>

# Walden's Puddle's Christmas Party



**Rebecca, Lina, Laurie**



**Joyce, Jim, Cerrito,  
Lane, Jane**



**Bettina,  
Emma, Lelan**



**Lelan**



**Tammy**



**Trish**



**William, Cerrito, Chad**



**Becky, Joane, Paul**



**Jennifer and James**



**Lane**

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*On behalf of everyone at Walden's Puddle, the Executive committee would like to extend our best wishes to all of you for a blessed, safe and prosperous 2012.*

*We do not forget for one moment that your generosity allows us to continue to serve this wonderful mission.*

*Because of your belief and support through 2011, we are facing the new year with great hope and expectation for greater advancement of our cause!*

*With deepest gratitude!*

*God Bless You All,*

*Lane Brody, Andy Eaton, Brian Hock, Jane Eaton and Eddie Bayers*

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**WP Chairman CEO**

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**Executive Committee**

Lane Brody  
Andy Eaton  
Jane Eaton  
Brian Hock PhD  
Eddie Bayers

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Andy Eaton, Treasurer  
Jane Eaton, Secretary  
Brian Hock, Grant Coordinator  
Eddie Bayers, Computer Committee  
Joyce Peck, Volunteer Coordinator  
Lyn Aurelius, Events  
William Cerrito, Events  
Mary Ellen Aurelius  
Jocelyn Allen  
Jim Africano  
Larry Parks, Maintenance

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Emily Magid  
Currey T. Thornton, T & T Family Foundation  
Bill Burleigh, ED OSD  
Jon Seaborg, Attorney  
Ed Clark, Wildlife Center of Virginia  
Julie Stein

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



[Int'l. Wildlife  
Rehabilitation Council](http://www.iwrc.org)



[National Wildlife  
Rehabilitator's Association](http://www.nwra.org)



[Tennessee Wildlife  
Resources Agency](http://www.twra.gov)



[U.S. Fish & Wildlife  
Service](http://www.fws.gov)