



WPeNewsletter July 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 June:

American Kestrel, 4
American Robin, 11
Barn Swallow, 1
Blue Jay, 1
Eastern Bluebird, 2
European Starling, 16
House Finch, 1
Mallard, 9
Mourning Dove, 1
Northern Cardinal, 1
Pigeon, 2
Red-shouldered Hawk, 1

Eastern Cottontail, 18
Eastern Gray Squirrel, 8
Flying Squirrel, 1
Northern Raccoon, 3
**Virginia Opossum,
67**

Eastern Box Turtle, 1
Red-eared Slider, 1

Reunions in June:

1 Canada Goose reunited
with its family



Transfers in June:

American Crow
**Wild for Life
Asheville, North Carolina**

Eastern Screech Owl
**Hiawasee/Ocoee River State Park
Delano, Tennessee**

A very successful rescue, rehab, and release. . .



Walden's Puddle people can not go anywhere without noticing animals that need help. Recently, staffer Allison Creekmore, had a little birdy adventure while walking her dog.

"I was walking my dog, Riley, early on Saturday May 5th when I saw a fledgling robin hanging by one leg about 10 feet up in a tree. His poor parents freaked out when I climbed the tree to try and get it down! He was too far out on a thin branch so I couldn't reach him.

I went back to my apartment and got a chair - still couldn't reach him. Took the chair back, brought out a rickety bar stool. Somehow it didn't fall over and I was finally able to reach the branch, break it, and then free the robin. Turns out he was tangled in a wad of garbage and the leg was dead from the knee down but he was alert and feisty. Brought him the Puddle, got him started on antibiotics. Thankfully, he was self-feeding. Went to Airport Animal Clinic 3 or 4 days later to have the leg amputated. He continued antibiotics for total of 2 weeks. . . moving to progressively larger cages/housing until he finally went to The Porch (which serves as a songbird pre-release area) the first week of June. He was released on (or around) 15 June! I'm extra excited about this little robin because it's the first animal I've ever personally found that made it back out again!"

Babies, babies, babies. and more babies. . . !!!



Staffer **Laurie Campbell** says, "We've gotten so many raccoons already, we've pulled out the old bottle racks to save time with feedings. Some raccoons take to it immediately, others we have to "train" to use it. . . . and yet others never want to use it and always demand to be held for that personal touch. Pretty sure we have close to 50 baby raccoons already. [6/22/2012] (!!!)"



A Tale of Two Coyotes. . . .



Last month we published this photo of 3 Coyote pups whose mom had been shot. The runt was being bullied by his bigger siblings and staff was weighing the pros and cons of separating the pups when animal care director, **Bettina Bowers-Schwan**, received a phone call from **John Pollpeter**, from the **Woodlands Nature Station at Land Between the Lakes** in Kentucky.

John said that the last of their educational coyotes had died in the past year and wondered if WP happened to have any non-releasable coyotes available. Bettina said, "If there had been no sibling issues, we wouldn't have done it [pull one out], but things were only going to get worse the older they got. Since this little guy wasn't really fitting in well in his pack, we separated him from the others on June 4 and started socializing him for the transfer to LBL"

Mr Pollpeter was contacted for more information about the program for which "our" coyote pup was drafted.

"Woodlands Nature Station has given a home to educational coyotes for over 20 years. Our last pair were a brother and sister that came from the **Indiana Coyote Rescue Center**. They had been found as pups at the edge of an airport runway. These two were the cornerstone of our wildlife exhibits as they were pure showboats. Everyday they would delight crowds of families as they howled together with the kids. Each year 35-40,000 people learned about their species and helped to dispel the rumors and myths developing around these social critters. They were featured on several TV shows such as **Kentucky Life**, and graced the cover of several magazines and newspapers.

The sister passed away after 16 years of a stroke. The brother, who was never the same without her passed away this December 31 of kidney/ liver failure. He was 19. It was a day we never wanted to happen given all the happy memories they brought to me as their curator and to the public. They will never be replaced.

That is why we have to open a whole new chapter with the male coyote [from WP] we named **Campbell**, for the place he came from, and a female from Western Kentucky, who has been nicknamed **Snippy** because of her tendency to grab bits of paper towel as we clean her cage. Pretty cute.

Snippy was found in a lady's dog kennel one morning. She did not know how it got there. She thought it was a domestic dog puppy for several weeks until someone told her it was a coyote and illegal to keep. The pup was given to a local wildlife rehabber and due to her socialized nature she was not a good candidate for release.

We hope that, like our last pair, they will spend their lives surrounded by the woodlands they are familiar with, given a diverse diet, and a health plan better than mine. Their pen is a large two-part pen with several den boxes, rocks to climb, dirt to dig in, and plenty of shady spots to cool off on a hot July day. We hope Campbell and Snippy will help us dispel those persistent myths about coyotes and get folks more familiar with the natural world around them."

For more info go to: <http://www.lbl.org/NSGate.html>

<http://www.wildlifenorthamerica.com/Mammal/Coyote/Canis/latrans.html>

Campbell, about 12 weeks old, the day before his move to LBL.



“Many hands make light work.” old proverb

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 a little easier.

Grants applied for:

- Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee
- Dan and Margaret Maddox Charitable Fund

Grants awarded:

- Frist Foundation
- Jack Massey Foundation
- Phillips Family Foundation
- Patton Advised Fund

Matching grants from:

- IBM
- Schneider Electric
- Genesco
- Giving Together
- Progressive Insurance Foundation

We also 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 | J & E Automotive |
| Veterinary Ophthalmology Services | |

The **"Flight to Freedom"** pre-release songbird enclosure is almost finished.



Many thanks to the Barbara J Mapp Foundation for this grant.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



During Baby Season the front desk in the lobby at Walden’s Puddle is an extremely busy place. Our wonderful administrative staff, **Joane Gelep and Becky Behrman**, could really use a **Front Desk Assistant Volunteer** every day of the week.

FDA volunteers would help staff by filling out admission forms, taking the animals downstairs to the rehab area, taking down phone messages, filling the bird feeders and hummingbird feeders, making photocopies of handout materials, and many other interesting tasks to help benefit our wildlife.

As an FDA volunteer you would meet and greet the public, an important job, helping to make a great first impression of Walden’s Puddle.

For more information email waldenspuddevolunteers@yahoo.com.

Request from Staff:

This is for all the gardeners out there: We would love to have your **dandelions and plantain**, roots and all--a little dirt on the roots is good, too.

Our buns love them--as long as there have been no chemicals sprayed on or around them.

Also, fawn have arrived. Once they get larger, they will be going through A LOT of browse. [tender shoots or twigs of shrubs and trees] We can use all the **vine honeysuckle, virginia creeper and wild grapevine** we can get.

Again, it all has to be **chemical-free**. THANKS!



CARING FOR WILDLIFE 24/7

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

As usual, WP's Staff is crazy busy this Baby Season so we are grateful to have 4 summer interns assisting the animal care staff and volunteers in daily feeding and care of our orphaned and injured wildlife. Interns work 1 to 4 days a week, often working at other internships or paid jobs on their "break" from school.



Emily Dunay has lived in Franklin TN since she was 5 years old. She has a black lab named Crispy. She graduated from Franklin High School in 2011 and now attends the University of Pennsylvania where she studies Biology.

Emily says, "After college I plan to go to veterinary school. I decided to work at Walden's Puddle for the summer because I wanted to gain experience working with wildlife and wanted to do something I would enjoy."



Megan April grew up in Gaithersburg, MD and moved to Franklin TN in 2004 after her father retired from the Navy. She graduated from Brentwood High School in 2008, and more recently graduated from Furman University in May with a B.S. in biology. Last fall she spent 3 months in New Mexico hiking, camping, and tracking pumas. She also spent a month in South Africa, performing several short studies on mammal diversity and behavior. She is particularly interested in ornithology and entomology.

Megan says, "I decided to intern at Walden's Puddle to gain a different perspective on how to deal with the hands-on care and re-introduction of wildlife, but also because I love taking care of animals." She intends to apply to a US Fish and Wildlife management program.



Hayden Matlock was born in England. His family returned to Tennessee in 2007 when Hayden was 14. He graduated from Dickson County High School and now studies biology at UT Chattanooga. At the moment he has a parrotlet but has had dogs, cats, snakes, and guinea pigs as pets.

He volunteers at the Chattanooga Zoo and said he joined WP "to get some experience working in wildlife rehabilitation and also for something interesting to do over the summer." Hayden is interested in the field of genetics.



Nancy Rust is from Adams TN and this is her second summer as an intern at WP. Despite earning a BFA degree in Interior Design from O'More College in Franklin TN and working several years in retail and design jobs she felt something missing from her life.

After watching the disastrous BP oil spill and witnessing the suffering of the native animals she told her parents that she wanted to go back to school. She is now in an Animal Science /Pre-Vet program at UT Knoxville and plans to apply to their College of Veterinary Medicine.

Nancy credits WP with teaching her a lot about animal care. She said her goal last summer "was to pull an adult owl out of its cage correctly by myself. This year I really wanted to tackle the squirrels without jumping, but we haven't had any this year. . . so far."

Be careful what you wish for, Nancy!

Walden's Puddle Education News

Did you know that Walden's Puddle not only services our community by caring for its wildlife, but it also brings a great educational program to the public?



Our education department is working overtime this summer bringing programs to summer camps, girl scout and boy scout troops and VBS Students. We are now booking fall programs for preschools, daycares, elementary schools and after school programs. Can we come to visit your club or group?

Contact our education department at waldenspuddeeducation@gmail.com or (615)299-9938 ext 30



So, who gives a hoot!!! We do!!

The Education Team is proud to announce the addition of our latest Animal Ambassador, "**Micah**".



While Micah, a Barred Owl, has been recovering at Walden's for some time, he has recently been moved to our Education Department. During his transition, the Education team will be working diligently to help him settle into his new role. It is our hope that Micah and his owl neighbors, **Carson**, an Eastern Screech Owl and **Sowa**, a Great Horned Owl, will be ready to visit with you in late fall.



Please contact our Education Department if you are interested in having a Nocturnal Program at your school, church or community club!

Please Don't Fawn Over Fawn

Every year hundreds of healthy fawn are taken into captivity by well meaning people that just don't know any better.

A fawn lying alone, such as the one below does not need human intervention! Mother deer "park" their babies out in the open to keep them safe from predators such as foxes. You will rarely see mom with her young.



How do I know if a fawn needs help?

You will know a fawn needs help if one of the following happens:

1. It is lying flat out, head and legs away from its body, unresponsive.
2. It is running around frantically screaming for over an hour.
3. It has been attacked or has obvious life threatening wounds.

Always find a licensed fawn rehabilitator for fawn in true need.

**Yes, you touched me....
NOW PLEASE PUT ME BACK!**

My mom may know I've been touched, but she wants me home anyway.



ONLY TOUCH IF YOU MUST!

One of the most widely circulated MYTHS is that a wild mom will reject her young if you touch them.

Replacing a baby in a timely manner can save its life.

If the baby truly needs rehabilitation or you have questions about your specific situation, contact a licensed wildlife rehabilitator who can legally and properly help the baby.

Please SHARE and help us dispel this myth!

Courtesy of CLAWS, Inc.

**Fledglings jump...
so they can learn to fly.**

Every adult bird did it. I need to do it too.
PLEASE don't 'rescue' me.

I didn't need your help, my mom was helping me



DO NOT 'RESCUE' A FLEDGLING, LET IT FLY!

The process of fledging begins with jumping out of the nest. It then takes 1-3 days for them to learn to fly. During this time the parents care for them ON THE GROUND.

Well meaning people often 'rescue' these birds, however this is the time in their life when they are least likely to eat from humans and many don't survive captivity. Yes, there are dangers living in the wild, but growing up wild is a critical part of the learning process.

Upcoming Events.

2012 Fall Call of the Wild will be an invitation-only Donor Appreciation Event on October 25. We will have our world premier showing of WP's new DVD at the newly renovated Historic **Franklin Theater**. In addition, tickets will be available to the public for a reception party at the world famous **Sound Kitchen** recording studio in Franklin where the DVD will be presented on screens throughout the venue.

WP's **2012 Owl-o-ween Party** will be held at Jellystone Park Campground on Oct 6

Ongoing Fundraising to benefit Walden's Puddle.

Help!

Our normal Wish List is available on our website, but we hope that this will reach that special someone who is able to give this specific item:

Commercial Copy Machine

- Good Quality
- Color
- Must be able to print/copy large quantities
- Prefer low cost on ink replacement/toner



Washers and Dryers



Our laundry room only has space for 2 washers and 2 dryers. However, our machines run 12 hours a day every day of the year so we wear them out very quickly. We need to keep good machines on standby - new or used as long as they work!



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

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Please feel free to contact our CEO Lane Brody at 615-714-4002 or 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 or our website at www.waldenspuddle.org

Please remember to use the following when shopping online:

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

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

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

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

WP Chairman CEO

Lane Brody, 615-714-4002 or Lane@lanebrody.com

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Valerie Blonder, Blonder Group
Ed Clark, Wildlife Center of Virginia
Julie Stein, Scentmark Consulting

For more information go to www.waldenspuddle.org

