



WPeNewsletter May 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 April:

Eastern Chipmunk, 3
Eastern Cottontail, 29
Eastern Gray Squirrel, 23
Northern Raccoon, 16

Eastern Box Turtle, 5
Red-eared Slider, 1

American Coot, 1
Mourning Dove, 5
Purple Martin, 1

Transfers in April:

2 Virginia Opossum
John Knox Nature Center, Ten Mile TN

2 Eastern Screech Owls
South Carolina Aquarium, Charleston

1 Goldfinch
Tennessee Aquarium, Chattanooga

1 Virginia Opossum
Chattanooga Arboretum and Nature Center



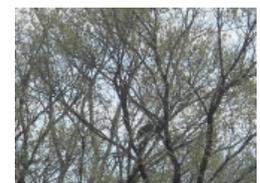
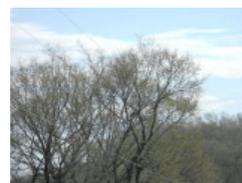
A very successful rehab and release . . .

One day in November, **Ms Bettye Brown** of Columbia TN noticed people down the hillside by her barn. She went to investigate and found them standing by a stunned Red-tailed Hawk. They had seen it hit by a car and pulled over to remove it from the road. Ms Brown was content to let the bird remain near her barn to recover. Over the next two days she checked on the hawk to find that it remained on the ground, alert but obviously unable to fly. She brought it a dead mouse, some cat food, and finally a piece of meatloaf. She was told about WP and arrangements were made to have the bird picked up and transported. She said the bird had been frequently visited by another hawk.

Upon admission staff noted that the bird was not moving its left leg, its left eye was swollen shut, and there was blood on the face from a cracked beak. Plans were made to take it to clinic as soon as possible to determine if the leg was fractured. However, by January 3, the leg was improved and the bird was self-feeding so the clinic visit was postponed. Over the next few weeks, the hawk healed by leaps and bounds. On January 21 the hawk joined several others in an outdoor enclosure to acclimate and restore flight muscle strength. On February 17 staff observed that this bird had developed a condition known as "bumblefoot" and began immediate treatment with antibiotics and foot wraps.

Bumblefoot is the common name for an infected pressure sore that develops on the bottom of an animal's foot. [This is similar to "bed sores" that can develop in immobile hospitalized humans.] It is a fairly common occurrence in captive birds - whether pet canaries, poultry, or rehabbing birds of prey - due to the bird's foot muscles not getting appropriate exercise. Even though WP's staff is careful to provide perches in a variety of sizes and textures, bumblefoot can develop in rehabbing birds simply because they are non-flighted and stand on their feet more than normal due to confinement. However, staff's vigilance detected the problem early, the hawk recovered, completed Mouse School, and was deemed ready for release on March 11.

Since there had been no illegal activity involved we were able to return the hawk to Maury County to give it a chance to reunite with its mate. For more information about bumblefoot in pet birds and captive birds of prey go to: <http://www.avianweb.com/bumblefoot.html> and <http://falconers.com/bumblefoot>



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



CARING FOR WILDLIFE 24/7

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



Many of the baby birds, mammals, and reptiles that Walden's Puddle's staff care for every spring have been injured by people's pet cats and dogs.

Every cat should be an indoor cat, for its own health and safety, and for the health and safety of our native wildlife.

Most of the wildlife injuries caused by dogs happen when a dog is let out into his yard and finds a nest of Cottontails or other young animals.



To minimize the chance of your dog injuring wildlife, patrol your yard often to look for bunny nests or other vulnerable wild animals, especially in the spring and summer when baby animals are more likely to be around. Also, turn your yard light on and make a little noise when letting your pooch out into the yard at night. This will alert wildlife to you and your dog's presence.

Cat and dog predation of wildlife is especially frustrating to wildlife rehabilitators. Our pets carry bacteria and viruses in their mouths, some of which can be transmitted to their victims. Even if treatment is administered immediately, only about 20% of victims survive the ordeal.

According to WP animal care director, Bettina Bowers-Schwan: **"We now administer a course of antibiotics to anything brought in that has had contact with a cat or dog. We most often see broken backs from dog attacks. We have been lucky enough to have admitted very few (relatively) 'storm babies' this spring. But we are loaded with babies that have been orphaned by human or human-related action - momma opossums hit by cars or killed by dogs, bunnies whose nests have been dug up by dogs and cats or demolished by lawnmowers, tree cutters yanking bird nests out instead of waiting 2-3 weeks for the babies to fledge, or cutting trees down without even first checking for nests - these are the majority of the animals we have admitted this baby season."**



Wildlife injuries and losses from our pets are totally unnecessary because, unlike other predators, pet cats and dogs do not need to kill to survive.

Please educate your family, friends, and neighbors about this preventable problem.

DOMESTIC CAT PREDATION ON BIRDS AND OTHER WILDLIFE

<http://www.abcbirds.org/abcprograms/policy/cats/materials/predation.pdf> go to this site for greater detail on the following:

There is no question that birds are better off when cats stay indoors.

Exact numbers are unknown, but scientists estimate that every year **in the United States alone, cats kill hundreds of millions of birds, and more than a billion small mammals**, including rabbits, squirrels, and chipmunks. Feline predators include both domestic cats that spend time outdoors and stray cats that live in the wild, sometimes as part of a colony. Cats kill common species such as Cardinal, Blue Jay, and House Wren, as well as rare and endangered species such as Piping Plover, Florida Scrub-Jay, and California Least Tern.

Loss of wildlife habitat and fragmentation due to human development are the leading causes of declining bird populations. However, **scientists now list invasive species, including cats, as the second most serious threat to bird populations worldwide.** Habitat fragmentation provides cats and other predators easier access to wildlife forced to live on smaller tracts of land. Rather than havens for wildlife, these areas can be death traps. Rural cats take more prey than suburban or urban cats. Birds that nest or feed on the ground are the most susceptible to cat predation, as are nestlings and fledglings of other bird species.

Cats Are Not a Natural Part of American Ecosystems - The domestic cat, *Felis catus*, is a descendant of the European and African wild cats, domesticated in Egypt more than 4,000 years ago. In the U.S., cats were not abundant until the late 1800s when they were brought to help control burgeoning rodent populations associated with agriculture. But native small mammals are important to maintaining biologically diverse ecosystems. Field mice and shrews are also prey for birds such as Great Horned Owl and Red-tailed Hawk.

Cats Compete With Native Predators - Owned cats have huge advantages over native predators. They receive protection from disease, predation, competition, and starvation—factors which control native predators such as owls, bobcats, and foxes.

Cats Transmit Disease to Wildlife - Unvaccinated cats can transmit diseases to other cats, native wildlife, and humans. Cats are the domestic animal most frequently reported to be rabid to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. See "The Great Outdoors Is No Place For Cats" at www.abcbirds.org/cats.

Cat Predation of Federally-Protected Wildlife - The Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) prohibits the hunting, taking, capturing, or killing of any migratory bird. In seeming violation of this landmark law, **owners of free-roaming cats permit their pets to kill birds protected by the MBTA.**

Well-fed Cats DO Kill Birds. - Well-fed cats kill birds and other wildlife because the hunting instinct is independent of the urge to eat.

Cats With Bells on Their Collars DO Kill Birds. - Birds and other wildlife do not necessarily associate the sound of a bell with danger. Cats with bells can learn to silently stalk their prey. Even if the bell on the collar rings, it may ring too late, and bells offer no protection for helpless nestlings and fledglings.

Most Birds That Seem to Escape Don't Survive - A large percentage of patients at wildlife rehabilitation centers are cat attack victims and animals orphaned by cats and dogs. **Wildlife rehabilitation centers report that most small animals injured by cats and dogs die.**

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 applied for:

-AWC Foundation
-Phillips Family Foundation

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 very 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
- Training Coordination
- Graphic design
- Event planning
- Fundraising

For more information contact waldenspuddevolunteers@yahoo.com



WP Volunteer, **Kelsey May**, has been accepted in the 2012 UT Veterinary Summer Experience Program which will run June 4 - July 27.

The program has been designed to provide valuable educational experiences and acquaint students with all facets of veterinary medicine. Students will work in a veterinary practice in their hometown for seven weeks and then spend one week in Knoxville as guests of the veterinary college. While in Knoxville, students will be involved in various educational programs including lectures, laboratories, and clinical rotations.

This program is very competitive with over 150 applications received for 12 available positions. **Well done, Kelsey!**



The latest Eagle Scout project is finished.

We now have a small garage to house our Gator and lawn mower thanks to Scout **Jack Ebbert**.

Walden's Puddle Board of Directors sponsored a **Volunteer Appreciation Dinner** at Nashville Jellystone Park on Thursday April 19.

For the first time ever the top three volunteers - based on numbers of hours worked in the previous year - were awarded to all men. Volunteers were treated with food from Buco di Beppo and presented with well deserved gifts of appreciation.

Total volunteer hours logged for 2011 were 7,304 or the equivalent of 3.5 full-time employees. Outstanding job, everyone!



Lelan Fielder, 288.5 hours



Jay Rittenberry, 345 hours



William Bollinger, 432.25 hours

Walden's Puddle's top volunteers of 2011 with Lane Brody and Bettina Bowers-Schwan.



Upcoming Events.

The "World Premier" of a Walden's Puddle promotional DVD, created by Lane Brody and Thom Bresh, and in conjunction with a **"donor appreciation event"** will be held in September at The Franklin Theater.



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



WP's 2012 **Fall Call of the Wild** event will be held at Sound Kitchen recording studio Oct 18.

Wildlife miscellany.



Garden Patrol: Ten Birds That Help Control Garden Pests

www.nwf.org/News-and-Magazines/National-Wildlife/Birds/Archives/2002/Backyard-Habitat.aspx

STOP THE NRA'S LEAD-POISONING LEGISLATION
http://action.biologicaldiversity.org/p/dia/action/public/?action_KEY=10065



Want to know what animals and plants share your backyard?

<http://www.enature.com/zipguides/>

How making food safe can harm wildlife and water.

<http://www.npr.org/blogs/thesalt/2012/04/23/151047957/how-making-food-safe-can-harm-wildlife-and-water>



The Great Blue Heron and Red-tailed Hawk eggs have hatched! You can follow their progress on the Cornell Lab of Ornithology website or on their Facebook page.

<http://www.allaboutbirds.org/page.aspx?pid=2422&ac=ac>

<http://www.facebook.com/cornellbirds>



Ongoing Fundraising to benefit Walden's Puddle



You are cordially invited to celebrate the birth of this season's wild animal babies with Walden's Puddle.

Every spring through fall, Walden's Puddle is showered with sick, injured and orphaned young wild animals. Last year, we stepped in as a "wild mom" for 2,501 orphaned animals of over 100 different species!

As Mother's Day approaches and you prepare to celebrate your mom, we hope that you will remember Walden's Puddle and the work we strive to do everyday.

Give the gift of a second chance to an orphaned wild animal by making a donation to the Baby Shower.



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

Happy Bidding!

WP Chairman CEO

Lane Brody, 615-714-4002 or 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



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.

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/>

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

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

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

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

