

P.O. Box 641  
Joelton, TN 37080  
615.299.9938  
waldenspuddle@aol.com



WPeNEWS

NOVEMBER 2011

## We thank you for your support!

Because of **YOU** Baby Season 2011 was a huge success.

Please enjoy this inaugural edition of our new monthly "Good News" eNewsletter.

### Releases since June:

Coyote, 9  
Eastern Cottontail, 46  
Eastern Gray Squirrel, 46  
Fawn, (white-tailed deer) 15  
Groundhog, 1  
Mole, 1  
North American Raccoon, 21  
Virginia Opossum, 55

Blue-tailed Skink, 1  
Eastern Box Turtle, 9

American Kestrel, 14  
Barn Owl, 1  
Barred Owl, 2  
Cooper's Hawk, 8



Eastern Screech Owl, 5  
Great Horned Owl, 9  
Red-tailed Hawk, 5  
Turkey Vulture, 2

American Robin, 16  
Blue Jay, 4  
Canada Goose, 1  
Cedar Waxwing, 1  
Eastern Bluebird, 1  
Goldfinch, 1  
House Finch, 2  
Mourning Dove, 6  
Muscovy Duck, 1  
Northern Cardinal, 1  
Northern Mockingbird, 4  
Pigeon, 5  
Purple Finch, 1  
Sparrow, 1  
Yellow-throated Warbler, 1

## 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.**

### **Foundations who have given us grants this year:**

T&T Family Foundation  
Phillips Family Foundation  
Emily Magid Philanthropy Fund  
Landis B Gullett Charitable Lead Annuity Trust  
Clarice Ann DeQuasie Designated Fund  
Victoria Heil & Erick Raefsky Fund  
Whitlow Charitable Fund  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert and Ann Zelle Charitable Fund  
Community 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



And yet more thanks. . . . .



**Lexus of Nashville**, located at 1514 North Gallatin Pike in Madison TN 37115, 615.868.4400, is making Walden's Puddle their charity until the end of the year! They will be taking donations and wish-list items at their location. If you bring in 2 items from our wish list you get 5% off service and parts. If you bring in 4 wish-list items you get 15% off service and parts. An SUV on the showroom floor will display the items donated.  
THANK YOU LEXUS OF NASHVILLE NORTH! [www.lexusofnashvillenorth.com](http://www.lexusofnashvillenorth.com)



Wonderful landscaping courtesy of Catholic Heart Work Camp



Our new small raptor flight barn, courtesy of Barbara J Mapp Foundation



Our new septic system being installed courtesy of AWC Foundation Grant

## Upcoming Event ~ ~ ~



[www.waldenspuddle.org](http://www.waldenspuddle.org)

*Please join us for an elegant evening of drinks, cigar bar, music, silent auction and food provided by Amerigo's, for Middle Tennessee's only professionally staffed wildlife rehabilitation & education center. There will be a wildlife presentation by our educators and you can meet Walden's Puddle animal Ambassadors.*

### YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED!

To the Fall Fundraiser Celebration for Walden's Puddle  
"Fall Call of the Wild".  
A great gathering for our supporters.

I cannot attend but I will respond to the Call of the Wild with a special donation to feed animals

**November 10, 2011**

6:30 to 9:30 p.m.

At The Sound Kitchen Recording Studios

112 Seaboard Lane  
Franklin, TN 37067

For Directions: [www.soundkitchen.com](http://www.soundkitchen.com)

**\$25.00/each or \$45.00/couple**

Please call for reservations:

Lane Brody 615-714-4002 or CERRITO 615-646-8815

Reserve your tickets with credit card, or check

Please mail checks to:

Walden's Puddle P. O. Box 641 Joelton, TN 37080-0641

Walden's Puddle looks forward to seeing you!  
**Festive Attire!**

Walden's Puddle is a non-profit organization (501 c3), your donation is tax deductible.

# Caring for wildlife 24/7

## Baby Season

At Walden's Puddle nothing is more important than feeding babies. In Middle Tennessee Baby Season can begin as early as February, ending as late as November! Just as with human babies, feeding wildlife babies requires a delicate balance of science and art.

Take baby squirrels, for example: babies must be weighed upon admission and then again weekly - more often if they are puny or not doing well. Because animal care staff can only work a 12-hour day baby squirrels can be safely fed formula only 5 times. Their little tummies must empty completely between feedings. If babies are so tiny that they need to be fed more than 5 times daily then arrangements are made with other licensed rehabbers who can feed around the clock. Once the baby squirrels start self-feeding, formula feedings are gradually reduced based upon twice weekly weighings and staff's observations that they are actually eating enough and gaining weight on schedule.



In order to properly feed the cute little guy in the above photo staff must chart his weight, determine how much formula he needs for the day, determine how many feedings he should get in 12 hours, write this information on his care chart and on the feeding board, prepare the formula, draw it up in the syringe, heat it properly, help him "go potty," feed him while observing his overall state of health, then return him to his warm incubator to rest and digest until the next feeding. This process seems simple until you realize that we can have as many as 100 baby squirrels at any one time - of different ages, all needing to be fed on their particular schedule!

Realize, also, that we've only been discussing baby squirrels. In addition, staff must juggle the weighing and feeding of many other wildlife babies - opossums, flying squirrels, raccoons, fawn, coyote pups, bobcat kittens, fox kits, baby birds of prey, baby waterfowl. And then there are the baby songbirds who must be fed hourly or more often. Whew!

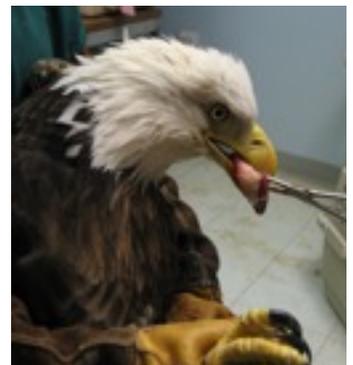
## Does Walden's Puddle only care for baby wildlife during Baby Season?

Absolutely not! While feeding babies takes priority over everything else, "everything else" still has to be done.

But while daily work of staff teems with life and death responsibilities, they also enjoy moments of satisfaction, grace, and pure fun. Add to all that the joy of creative problem solving. In the photo below animal care supervisor **Rebecca Duke-Powers** meditates upon the best way to feed an adult Bald Eagle. . .



**The answer - obviously - is  
VERY, VERY CAREFULLY!**



## What do we do when an animal cannot be released or returned to the wild?

Although our goal is to release all animals back to the wild, sometimes this isn't an option. If an animal is unable to fly correctly, to escape predators, to hunt for food, or - most importantly - to stay away from people, it cannot be released.

We observe carefully to decide if a non-releasable animal would enjoy a good quality of life in captivity and, if so, we try to find an appropriate home for it. Since 2001, Walden's Puddle has placed 241 animals at 68 licensed nature centers and AZA-accredited zoos and aquariums in 26 states.

During the rehabilitation process we handle wildlife only as much as is absolutely necessary. An animal in captivity is going to have to be around humans on a regular basis. We want it to have a good experience and not live a life of fear. So once we determine an animal isn't releasable we begin the socialization process. The more calm and socialized we can make non-releasable wildlife here with us, the easier their transition to a permanent life of captivity will be.

## Transfers since June:

### **Bobcat**

Zooville USA, Plant City, Florida

### **Barred Owl**

Alaska Raptor Center, Sitka, Alaska

### **Red-tailed Hawk**

Cedars of Lebanon State Park

### **American Kestrel and Great Horned Owl**

Ijams Nature Center, Knoxville, Tennessee

### **Southern Leopard Frog**

Froghaven Farm, Bon Aqua Tennessee

### **Eastern Screech Owl**

Chattanooga Nature Center

### **3-Toed Turtle**

Wesselman Nature Center, Evansville, Indiana

### **Smooth Softshell Turtle**

Great Lakes Aquarium, Duluth, Minnesota

Animal care director, **Bettina Bowers-Schwan**, habituates a young fox scheduled for educational placement. “This



juvenile red fox came to us as a tiny kit. She had been attacked by dogs and had to have her left eye removed. Here I am working on her social skills.”

Arlie was sent to Zooville USA in Plant City, Florida on November 4.

## Helping Hands

### **On-site volunteers**

Any interested person over the age of 16 can be trained to work alongside staff performing various support and animal care tasks.



Of course, handling wildlife is a privilege which must be earned through hard work and reliable attendance.

In this photo 2 volunteers are helping an owl with his daily ROM - range of motion exercises. This physical therapy will help restore withered muscle and improve joint flexibility so the owl will be able to once again fly and hunt. **Note** that the wrangler is wearing Kevlar gloves!

### **Off-site volunteers**

Many people choose to help Walden’s wildlife by presenting educational programs or representing Walden’s Puddle at various community activities and functions. Other people help by picking up and delivering donated produce, supplies, appliances, and equipment. Still others are “on call” to transport wildlife to and from cooperating licensed rehabbers or to transport non-releasable wildlife to their new permanent homes.



In the photo Volunteer Educator, **Stephanie White**, introduces Mr. Biggs, one of our educational kestrels, to students at Cumberland Heights Elementary School in Clarksville, Tennessee.

### **Board members**

Walden’s Puddle is fortunate to have a board of directors, chaired by **Lane Brody**, who use their business skills and community relationships to provide the resources needed to care for 2,000 animals yearly.



**Brian Hock**, an associate professor at Austin Peay, was an active on-site volunteer until he

became a daddy. After that he continued to help Walden’s Puddle by telling his students about our volunteer and internship opportunities. He has also come to the rescue of staff during blizzards, and routinely donate his lab rodents to our birds of prey at semester’s end.

Now he serves on the grant writing committee of Walden’s newly re-organized board.

“I just wanted to share what I have been doing, together with Lane Brody and Andy Eaton.

We have submitted 3 grants:

The Bernice Barbour Foundation \$5,000 (July 31)

The Community Foundation \$10,000 (August 1)

The Memorial Foundation \$15,000 (September 30)

We will also be working to submit grants to the following:

Build-A-Bear Workshop (Due October 28)

Pepsi Refresh Project (Due November 1)

HCA Foundation (Due November 28)

Sea World Conservation Fund (Due December 1)

Nashville Predators (Due January 2012)”

**Debbie McConnell**, board member on the fundraising committee, has been busy, as well, planning events to inform the public about Walden's Puddle's mission and to generate much needed revenues:



November 5 - Belk Charity Day  
November 10 - Fall Call of the Wild, At The Sound Kitchen Recording Studios, 6:30pm - 9:30pm  
December 4 - 10 - Holiday Wrapping Booth at Governor's Square Mall in Clarksville

Philanthropy in Franklin is selling these t-shirts. All proceeds go to WP.  
<http://www.philanthropyfashion.com/shop/100-donation-items/speak-up-wearable-compassion-t-shirt>

Check your eMailbox for details about these and other Walden's Puddle events.

Board member, **Cerrito**, a successful singer and entertainer, does not hesitate to don latex gloves and a face mask to help reorganize closets and storerooms at Walden's Puddle.



"I would like to say as a working board member that Walden's Puddle has made wonderful progress since **Lane Brody** (COB) has taken office. The working conditions, handling of all injured and mis-placed wildlife and grant writing has certainly taken a step forward. I am very proud to be a board member and in my everyday conversations it will amaze you how many people know about Walden's Puddle. Tu amigo, CERRITO"

## OWL-O-WEEN Party Saturday October 29th 2011



photos by Rick Malkin

Yogi Bear's Jellystone Park Camp/Resort