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GIVINGMATTERS.COM
at The Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee



WPNewsletter February 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:

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| Releases in January: | American Robin, 1 Common Grackle, 1 Eastern Bluebird, 1 Mourning Dove, 3 Northern Cardinal, 2 Pigeons, 2 Ring-billed Gull, 1 Sparrows, 2 | Transfers in January: |
| North American Raccoon, 7 Virginia Opossum, 1 | | 2 Black Vultures Wildlife Rescue and Rehab Kendalia, Texas |
| Barred Owl, 1 Cooper's Hawk, 1 Eastern Screech Owl, 1 Red Shouldered Hawk, 1 | | Airfare donated by Tennessee Trappers |

Happy endings. . . email about a Barred Owl that WP transferred to Alaska:

Hi Bettina,
I just wanted to send you an email about the barred that you placed with us. We are all in love with her! She is so sweet and does great on the glove. We don't do many programs in the winter here, but she has done a few of them and is perfect on the glove.

We had a contest to name her and the winner chose the name Glaucus...which means glaring eyes and in Greek is from glaux which means owl. We weren't too fond of it at first, but it is growing on us! She is pretty cute.

Thanks so much for placing her with us!

Jen



Dimitri visits Dr Amy

One of Walden's educational Eastern Screech Owls recently visited **Amy Treadwell DVM**, who specializes in Comparative Ophthalmology.

Dr Treadwell is associated with Veterinary Ophthalmology Services in Nashville. Veterinary Ophthalmology is a specialization of veterinary medicine that addresses eye health, eye disease, and vision in animals. A veterinary ophthalmologist is involved in all phases of animal eye care, working with general practice veterinarians and other veterinary specialists to help diagnose and treat animal eye problems such as cataracts, glaucoma, vision loss, eye infections, eye cancers, corneal ulcers, dry eye problems, eyelid abnormalities, diseases of the retina, and genetic eye problems.

A very successful rehab and release. . . .



On December 5, 2011, **Erica Hudak**, an animal control officer with the Columbia TN Police Department, received a call about a hawk that was on the side of a road - in the pouring rain - in Maury County.

The caller, **Anthony Gray**, was driving his company's tow truck between Columbia and Mt Pleasant when his headlights spotted the bird sitting on the white line next to the shoulder of the road. It did not move as Mr Gray passed it so he turned his truck around to get another look. When the bird still had not moved he parked his truck and got out to see if it would fly away as he approached it. When it did not he returned to his truck to phone for help.

In the recent past Officer Hudak has rescued an injured opossum and a lost loon, both of which spent time rehabbing at Walden's Puddle. But this was her first bird of prey call and she was a little concerned about how she would handle it. It was late afternoon, dark, and raining heavily. But Mr Gray kept his truck lights on the hawk to make it easier for Officer Hudak to find and to keep it from being hit by another vehicle.

Although birds of prey usually require cautious handling with thick gloves, towels, and nets, this bird was so badly injured that Officer Hudak was able to pick it up easily. A quick call to Walden's Puddle got her the information she needed to care for the bird overnight. In the morning she made arrangements to meet WVP volunteer, **Mel Pinel**, who then transported the bird to the Puddle.

Once at WP staff discovered that the bird's crop (the muscular food storage pouch below the throat but before the stomach) was packed with six mice - [squeamish alert!] and that mice bodies were actually hanging out of a hole in the neck! Although injured, the hawk had continued to hunt, but she was starving to death because the tear of the crop was preventing normal digestion from taking place.

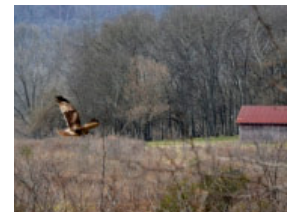
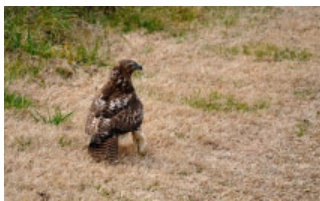
Animal care director, Bettina Bowers-Schwan, immediately took the injured hawk to Airport Animal Clinic where **Dr Mike Corwin** began treatment. Examination revealed that the bird had been hit by a car; X-ray revealed that the bird had been shot. The wound was cleaned, the tear sewn up, fluids and antibiotics administered.

Once back at WP the hawk was placed in an incubator for warmth, receiving oral antibiotics and several small tube-feedings daily. Staff disagreed among themselves about whether the bird was a Red-shouldered Hawk or a Red-tailed Hawk. It is sometimes difficult to distinguish between these two species when they are juveniles. Apparently she had characteristics of both; and hybrids have been observed in the wild. <http://ctaclubon.blogspot.com/2011/01/hybrid-red-tailed-by-red-shouldered.html>

On the 4th day of admission the hawk was fed "pinkies" (new-born baby mice) TID (3 times daily). There was some concern about a leg injury but on a return visit to the clinic X-ray showed no obvious fracture.

Our girl continued to improve and 9 days after admission was moved from the incubator to a crate in the Exam Room. Five days later she progressed to a crate in the Bird Room, while staff waited for the stitches to resorb and the scab to fall off. On December 30 the now-healed hawk was moved to the Flight Barn to acclimate, regain muscle strength, improve flying skills, and start "mouse school." On January 10, 2012 she was released. Staff was very pleased with this particular hawk's rehab and release, not only because of her speedy recovery from the "double whammy" of being shot and then hit by a car, but because she was a well-liked bird with a "super attitude."

While we try to return birds of prey to their home range - where they might have a mate waiting - illegal activity such as shooting, trapping, abuse, or domestic animal attacks, make it necessary to find the rehabbed bird a new home in what we hope will be a safer area.



Shooting birds of prey - or any bird protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act - is a federal offense. Walden's Puddle is required to report such incidents to the Nashville office of the US Fish & Wildlife Service.

According to **Brandon Ennis**, special agent with the USFWS Office of Law Enforcement, "The Red-shouldered Hawk [and Red-tailed Hawk] is protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA). A listing of the protected species covered in this act can be found in Title 50 Code of Federal Regulations §10.13. In short, it is unlawful to kill, capture or possess a Red-shouldered Hawk from the wild in violation of the MBTA, as described in Title 16 United States Code (USC) § 703. The penalties for violation of the MBTA are found in Title 16 USC § 707. **Killing, capturing or possessing a Hawk is considered a Class B misdemeanor within the Federal system and is punishable, upon conviction by a fine of no more than \$15,000 or imprisonment of no more than six months or both.**"

For more information about the MBTA go to <http://www.fws.gov/migratorybirds/mbpermits/ActSummaries.html>

For a complete list of the birds protected go to <http://www.fws.gov/migratorybirds/RegulationsPolicies/mbta/mbtintro.html>



Caring for wildlife 24/7

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

In addition to staff and volunteers, Walden's Puddle is fortunate to attract many students seeking internships as part of their university education. These students are seeking degrees in pre-veterinary, biological sciences, agriculture, forestry, geosciences, environmental science, conservation biology, urban ecology, wildlife management, and many other wildlife-related courses of study.

Walden's Puddle offers several types of internships, from full time positions to one day a week semester positions. People who are not currently in school can also apply for internships - in which case we call them "Externs."



We have an on-going contract with the veterinary technological programs at Columbia State Community College and Volunteer State Community College and work with the biology and Pre-Vet departments at Belmont, Vanderbilt and Austin Peay universities to provide their students with internship opportunities.

All interns and externs of Walden's Puddle work under the direction of staff performing various activities to further their education, as well as the mission of the organization.

Each intern or extern also brings a wealth of life experience that they share with the staff and volunteers which helps to benefit the wildlife in our care.

When interns and externs finish their time at WP they take what they've learned and share that knowledge with fellow students, employers, co-workers, and the general public.

Many interns have written to thank Walden's Puddle for the experience they received and frequently credit that experience with being the thing that helped them land their first job out of school.

At left, extern **Savanah Yokley**, who graduated from Middle Tennessee State University in August 2011 with a Bachelor's degree in Animal Science, will soon start working for the Ohio Department of Agriculture as an Asian Longhorned Beetle surveyor. This will be important work as the beetle is a serious threat to North American trees. <http://www.asian-longhorned-beetle.com/>

We thank Savanah for helping to care for our wildlife and wish her nothing but the best in her future work.

Tennessee Wildlife news.

TWRA: Watch for bald eagle nests

By The Associated Press

The Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency is conducting a comprehensive bald eagle nest count for 2012 and would like help from the public.

For years the agency has monitored bald eagle nests across the state, but there are gaps in the data due to the fact that birds move their nests and many new nests appear annually.

Scott Somershoe, ornithologist for TWRA, said the aim is to document all active eagle nesting locations across the state in 2012 to estimate the size and growth of the population. The data will be sent to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the federal agency that protects bald and golden eagles.

Somershoe said he knows of about 150 active bald eagle nests across the state.

"The numbers have been increasing every year," he said. "It's important for us to know that the eagles are doing well, and that bad things aren't happening around their nests."

Bald eagles typically nest within a quarter mile of a reservoir or large river, but there are exceptions like the recently documented eagle nest within the city limits of Franklin, Tenn., located in the middle of an agricultural field not far from a two-acre pond.

The TWRA currently estimates at least 14 active bald eagle nests in East Tennessee.

The bald eagle was one of the first species to be listed under the Endangered Species Act of 1973. Five years ago they were federally de-listed, and today they're nesting in Tennessee not just migrating here in the winter and flying back north in the spring.

Somershoe said osprey nests are often confused with bald eagle nests because both build large stick nests. The biggest difference, he said, is that ospreys typically build their nests among the topmost tree branches or even atop utility poles, while bald eagles usually construct their nests in the fork of major branches lower down in the tree.



To report a bald eagle nest, contact Somershoe at 615-781-6653, or scott.somershoetn.gov.

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:

Whole Foods Market 5% Day
Bank of America Local Grant Award

Grants recently awarded by:

Emily Magid Philanthropy
Bradford Family Foundation
Jack C Massey for Joe Erwin and David White
AIG Matching Grants Program
Jack Massey
HCA Caring for the Community

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

Ongoing Fundraising to benefit Walden's Puddle:

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/>

Debbie McConnell: "Thank you Phyllis Hobson and Bettina Bowers-Schwan for donating baskets/fillers for the Silent Auction and Keri Smith for picking up the wine donation. Your generosity is greatly appreciated by the events committee and "the critters"!"

In addition to her tireless efforts on the fundraising committee, Debbie McConnell has nominated Lane Brody for the 2011 Tennessee Titans Community Quarterback award.



www.titansonline.com/news/article-1/Titans-To-Award-10000-To-Tennessees-Top-Volunteer-With-2011-Community-Quarterback-Award/beed2d5f-3647-46d7-8c85-94636733554c

The Titans Community Quarterback Award program is a statewide competition which recognizes outstanding volunteers in the state of Tennessee who provide volunteer services for nonprofit 501(c)(3) or 509 organizations. The program honors individuals who exemplify leadership, dedication, and a commitment to improving the communities in which they live. Nominees may serve only in a volunteer capacity and may not receive any compensation – monetary or otherwise – for their efforts. Individuals may nominate themselves or be nominated by others.

Once the winners are selected, Titans Owner K.S. "Bud" Adams, Jr. will distribute \$17,500 in grants from the Tennessee Titans Foundation to the organizations where the winners serve, raising the total of grants distributed in this program to nearly \$200,000 since the program began in 2000. The Titans Community Quarterback Award winner will receive a \$10,000 grant for his or her agency from the Titans Foundation. In addition, the runner-up will receive a \$5,000 grant from the Titans Foundation and the third place winner will earn \$2,500 for their respective charities.

Wildlife miscellany.



TN Bats are Coveted for Research

Scientists want to study disease
3:06 AM, Jan 2, 2012

<http://www.tennessean.com/article/20120102/NEWS/1301020035/TN-bats-coveted-research>

Cranes make history at TN Hiwassee Refuge

Three crane species appear together only in TN, experts say

<http://www.tennessean.com/article/20120105/NEWS/1301040123/Cranes-make-history-TN-Hiwassee-Refuge>



Got Birds? Get Ready to Count!

Bird enthusiasts across the U.S. and Canada are gearing up for the Great Backyard Bird Count. It's not too late to participate in the February 17-20 event. It's free to participate, and everything is available online. The GBBC is open to anyone, including novice bird-watchers and students. Participants don't need to be able to identify every bird, and the online submission process helps check their accuracy and prevent errors.

<http://birds.audubon.org/got-birds-get-ready-count>

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for more information go to
www.waldenspuddle.org



Rare albino Ruby-throated Hummingbird sited in Staunton VA



[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)