



WPeNewsletter June 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 May:

American Robin, 10
Canada Goose, 1
Cedar Waxwing, 1
Eastern Screech Owl, 2
European Starling, 34
House Sparrow, 1
Mallard, 12
Northern Cardinal, 2
Pigeon, 5
Red-tailed Hawk, 1
Red-winged Blackbird, 1
Tufted Titmouse, 1

Eastern Chipmunk, 3
Eastern Cottontail, 20
Eastern Gray Squirrel, 12
Northern Raccoon, 5
Virginia Opossum, 6

Re-nestings in May:

Barred Owl, 1
Black Vulture, 1



Transfers in May:

Merlin
permitted educator in Delaware

Virginia Opossum
Nashville Zoo

2 Eastern Box Turtles
**Wesselman Nature Society
Evansville, Indiana**

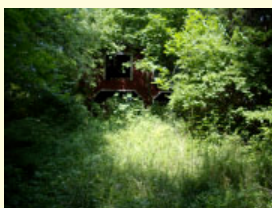
Successful re-nesting. . .



This **baby Black Vulture** was brought to Walden's Puddle by a woman who took it away from some kids who had it stuffed in a backpack at a skatepark. They said they "found it." The baby had a swollen wrist from mishandling, but X-rays showed that it was soft tissue damage - not a fracture. WP staff wrapped the wing and kept it under observation over the weekend. By Monday the bird's condition was much improved.

Last year, WP animal care director, Bettina Bowers-Schwan, had success fostering another orphan in a barn loft regularly used by breeding vultures. She contacted the family who owns the barn to see if the site was being used for nesting this year and got permission to look at the barn. WP staff member **Rebecca Duke-Powers** checked the site and found 2 chicks about the same age as our unfortunate "backpack" vulture.

On Friday May 25 Bettina took the baby vulture to the barn site. Our baby was very glad to see the 2 chicks and they all huddled up together with much contented hissing and grunting.



The barn with its resident chicks.



The "backpack" baby meets his foster-siblings.

CARING FOR WILDLIFE 24/7

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

“Woodman, spare that tree! Touch not a single bough!” -George Pope Morris

In nearly every tree baby songbirds, squirrels, owls, and hawks are being cared for and nurtured by their parents.

It's an exhausting job, but wild moms and dads are dedicated to raising their tiny helpless babies.

But what happens if mom or dad comes home to find the nest cut down and all the little ones gone?

This happens so often in the spring— tree trimming and other yard work makes orphans of hundreds of babies. And although those babies can be cared for by licensed wildlife rehabilitators, many won't survive the trauma of nest removal and orphaning.

You can help these babies by waiting to trim trees if nests are present!

Disturbing an active nest is against Federal law, but even many experienced tree companies don't know legal guidelines for wildlife.

It's usually only a few weeks from the time babies are born until the time they leave the nest, so your project won't be delayed long.

Please consider your wild neighbors in this sensitive time, and plan to prune and trim during the months when the babies are grown!

[Click for resources for local arborists that have experience determining the presence of nests and babies.](#)

[Click to read more about tree trimming and find out what to do if you find a baby or babies alone.](#)

Thanks to WildCare for this information: <http://www.wildcarebayarea.org/>



**TRIM YOUR TREES
IN AUTUMN**

To further illustrate the problem of rashly trimming or cutting down trees, WP animal care director, **Bettina Bowers-Schwan** states,

“ This fledgling Red-shouldered Hawk had to have surgery to repair a wound on its wing, which was sustained when its nest tree was clear cut by a timber company in Hohenwald. It was the only bird found--no idea what happened to it's siblings.

We have gotten about 9 nestling/fledgling RSHs this year. We have not been able to re-nest them since most have come from areas being clear cut. The few intact nest sites that I did find had been abandoned, and at some we found dead siblings.”



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



Baby Season 2012 is the Year of the Opo.
Each year's baby season is a little different. Depending upon weather, predators, and food availability we might be brimming with baby birds, swamped with squirrels, or replete with raccoons. This year we are overflowing with opossums!

Fortunately, this year Mother Nature spared us from Spring baby squirrel orphans so we would have more time to care for all the opos.

North American tree squirrels typically have 2 litters of babies each year, the first between February and April and the second in August or September. They are weaned about 10-12 weeks but can leave their nest to explore at about 7-8 weeks.



The first **White-tailed Deer fawn** of the year was brought to WP by a woman from Clarksville. She was picking her kids up from school when she noticed some boys leading a fawn by a string around its neck.



The woman pulled over to ask the boys where they got the fawn and they said they "found it." [same thing the kids in the vulture story said!] She asked if they were taking it to animal control. When they hesitated she said, "I'll do it for you," hopped out of the car and grabbed the fawn. She called around, found Walden's Puddle, and brought the fawn to us that same evening. The fawn still had her umbilical cord, staff guessing she was about 2-3 days old.

Fawn and baby cottontails are the most "kidnapped" animals we see at WP. Raising fawn takes up a lot of space, time, and money, and bunnies don't do well in captivity.

WP has excellent information on our website about what to do when you find baby wildlife.

Please share this info with your co-workers, friends, and family.

<http://waldenspuddle.org/HELPMEturtle.html>

<http://waldenspuddle.org/HELPMEbabycottontailrabbit.html>

<http://waldenspuddle.org/HELPMEbabybird.html>

<http://waldenspuddle.org/HELPMEbabysquirrel.html>

<http://waldenspuddle.org/HELPMEfawn.html>

<http://waldenspuddle.org/HELPMEBat.html>

<http://waldenspuddle.org/HELPMEbabyvirginiaopossum.html>



Last month's mallards have GROWN!



Baby Barn Owl



Coyote pups

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.

Thanks to CLAWS, Inc. for these timely reminders. <http://nc-claws.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 awarded:

Frist Foundation Technology Grant

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
J & E Automotive

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** is looking for "committed" committee members for the following teams:

- Event planning
- Fundraising
- Maintenance
- Volunteer Training Coordination

For more information contact waldenspuddevolunteers@yahoo.com

A Quick Status Report from WP's Education Department:

- Completed 21 programs
- Traveled over 1,000 miles
- Collected cash donations over \$500
- Shared our mission with over 2,200 people
- Collected over 5 car loads of wish list donations: Including over 200 rolls of paper towels!
- Spent over 100 hours in volunteer time
- Over 16 hours training in new curriculum and program development

If that doesn't sound impressive, consider that the above happened over the course of only 2 months and with only 2 education volunteers!



Request from Walden's Puddle's 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 could start coming in any day. Once they get larger, they will be going through A LOT of browse. [tender shoots or twigs of shrubs and trees]

Come June we could use all the vine honeysuckle, virginia creeper and wild grapevine we can get.

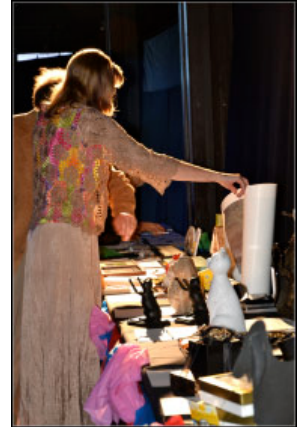
Again, it all has to be chemical-free. THANKS!



Cinco de Mayo Fiesta 2012. . .



Friends of Walden's Puddle



FIESTA!

Music. . . . Food. . . . Prizes. . . . Friends. . . . Worthy Cause. . . .

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!

Walden's Puddle Wildlife Rehabilitation center has an addition to our special Wish List of needed items. 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:

- (1) Commercial Copy Machine
 - Good Quality
 - Color
 - Must be able to print/copy large quantities
 - Prefer low cost on ink replacement/toner



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

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!

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/>

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

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

