



*Season's
Greetings*

from your friends at



*The people and critters at
Walden's Puddle are sending you
heartfelt wishes for a blessed and
joyful holiday season
and a healthy happy New Year!!*

With this year-end newsletter, comes much gratitude for your friendship and loyalty to our healing work. It is you, the great people of middle Tennessee, who allow us to serve our communities, people and wild animals. **It takes a community to care for the creatures of the forest.** It is a partnership. In spite of our challenges, with your support, prayers and lots of dedicated hard work, we believe we can overcome anything. ***We are grateful!***

Your love of wildlife and trust in our mission, has allowed us to care for **over 3,200 injured and orphaned wild animals of over 120 different species this year!** Our monthly operating expenses are between \$26,000 and \$30,000 dollars. **We receive no federal or state funding, so without you, we would be unable to care for the many hungry and orphaned babies we admit, raise and return back to the wild.**

We are a reflection of the goodness and compassion in your hearts, a special place that you can feel very good about supporting because *we continue to maintain over 92% of all donations going directly to animal care!*

It is against the law to keep wild animals in Tennessee, so as the only professionally staffed Wildlife Rehabilitation and Education Center in Middle Tennessee, **we are their only hope.** We all rest a little easier knowing there is a place for our wild ones to grow and heal. We love fulfilling our mission of **"Giving Wildlife a Second Chance"** – it is blessed work. We are united in this vision and feel a part of all of us is in that joyous moment when a healthy exuberant animal is released back to freedom!

Enjoy reading about amazing accomplishments your ongoing support allowed us to achieve over the past year and will help us to accomplish in the year to come!

One of our favorite stories comes from an apartment complex where the residents

worked with the water and fire department to get baby ducklings out of a storm drain. Mama duck had flown away, and never returned. The rescuers had retrieved all but one duckling who had been alone for 6 hours. We had to go and help.

We climbed down the drain and played duck-mom calls on an iPhone – hoping – and the duckling came out waddling and quacking! All were reunited at the Puddle, successfully raised as temporary resident "Puddle Duckies," and released at the end of October!

Debbie, Animal Care Technician



Just prior to release

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of the infected area amputated because there is too much damage. Sadly, he will not be returned to the park.

Please share these pictures and encourage others to pick up trash that is dangerous to our wildlife!

Tiffany, Animal Care Supervisor and Trainer



Goose

Oil-stained heron

This Great Blue Heron from the rehabbers at Chattanooga Zoo was covered in oil and had been receiving Dawn baths. We moved him outside to help rebuild his waterproofing and give him room to spread his wings. Though the oil has been washed off, he is still stained. **Note the color difference** between his picture (above, left) and another Great Blue Heron in our care (above right).



This toad was brought to us after being hit by a lawn mower. He had a few cuts on one leg that he was barely able to move. After a round of medication and resting

period, the leg healed and he is hopping just like he should! **Thank you for helping stories like this happen!**

Our wonderful new laundry room

Our new "Washeteria" is up and rockin and rollin!

Because of the generosity of **Leslie Christodulopoulos, Emily Magid and Marilyn Lehev** we were able to build this new laundry and linen room after the tragic fire of 2014. We do tons of laundry per year and believe

greatly in real, clean, fresh, linens, such as towels, blankets, sheets and pads for our guests. It makes all the difference in their healing and growing, for them to be able to cuddle up and be comfortable. We also provide many stuffed animals that need to



be washed regularly. Our new state-of-the-art washer and dryer can hold **huge amounts of laundry** at one time. It is positioned off the back wall of the building, so it is safer too. Thank you so much ladies! **Now all we need is more volunteers to come and do the daily laundry!**

WE LOVE TO SEE CLEAN, FOLDED AND STACKED LINENS ON THE SHELVES!



"On my way home I noticed an opossum walking across Trinity Lane. I pulled over but in the meantime two cars hit him. He was injured and in shock, so I put him in my car, took him home and housed him in a plastic container with a towel, water and a can of tuna. I posted on Instagram and someone wrote I should reach out to Walden's Puddle. I called right away and they said they would take him. I drove him out there and that's it!"

Thanks! Joel

NOTE: This opossum was released in early November.

"Just wanted to say thank you for having such an amazing organization. I found twelve baby opossums, which I just brought to you. When you came to my school, when I was in the 5th grade, I learned to check an opossum on the side of the road for babies. If it weren't for y'all, I wouldn't have known that. I know they will be treated with the best of care. Thank you for all that you do!

Dedicated friend and Puddle supporter!"

Trash Talk

We really don't like trash: fishing line, garden netting, bottle caps, bottle rings, etc. We see many animals tangled or stuck in litter.

This raccoon, left, came to us with a bottle cap stuck on his paw. It was a long process to get it off. We will give him meds, time to heal, and send him on his way.

This goose was in a park with fishing line wrapped around his leg. The foot has fallen off due to

lack of circulation, and he will likely have to have the rest



Staff member tube feeding tiny baby



We admitted this baby raccoon that was trapped in a truck engine, suffering severe, facial and paw burns. Burns are very painful, take a long time to heal and are susceptible to infection. He was treated daily with antibiotics and burn cream, which was no fun for him or animal care staff.

His wounds healed quickly. We housed him alone to protect him from baby raccoon's rough play. He seemed a bit sad, so as soon as his wounds were closed, he was introduced to a group of other juvenile raccoons and they hit it off. Now he wrestles and plays with his mates. He will never have an upper lip, but has no trouble eating, so he is releasable. We gave him the nickname "Fire Marshall Bill" (the character with no upper lip created by Jim Carrey).



We think he's so cute with his funny little face and **he's certainly one of our favorite success stories from 2015.**

Laurie, Animal Care Supervisor

Fawns can find themselves caught in fences, hit by cars, run over by bush hogs, and more. Leg injuries are critical. White-tailed Deer rely on their long, springy legs. Before we release any of our rehabilitated wildlife, we ensure they are able to survive wild, catch prey and/or evade predators. WT Deer must be able to use their legs to their full potential. The catch here is that **they don't need to use all 4 of their legs!** Over the years we have been able to rehabilitate and release numerous fawn with 3 legs.

Here's a brief walk through that process:

- Determine if the leg can be salvaged
- If amputated; allow the surgery site to heal, without compromising the health or strength of the fawn.
- Deer spend their day moving in order to digest food.

As the fawn grows it must build and maintain strength to carry its own weight. We often use slings that aid in physical therapy. The sling holds the bulk of the weight, while allowing exercise. The sling is gradually loosened, until the fawn is ultimately able to support its own weight unassisted.

- Finally, we must make sure the amputee fawn can run. Being able to run to escape a predator is a critical survival skill. All of the fawns in our care cycle through



Tiffany feeds a 3-legged fawn

our corral before release. An amputee fawn must run and jump like the other fawn before being released with them.

Tiffany, Animal Care Supervisor and Trainer

No Gas Pipe-line Compressor Station

Many of you probably saw the stories in the news about the proposed Gas Pipe-line Compressor Station. **We have been doing everything in our power to stop it from happening**, including filing with The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. The Concerned Citizens for a Safe Environment (CCSE) has also been working tirelessly to stop it.

These stations emit groundwater contamination, toxic chemicals into the air and water (we are on a well) as well as vibrations and very high noise decibels at "blowdowns", which would be contrary to a healthy peaceful place to do our work. There is also the real threat of explosions. **We are one mile away from the proposed site.**

We will keep you posted via our Facebook page and website. Please keep us in your prayers and support us by taking the time to learn about this issue affecting our entire community and us. Google "Gas pipe-line Compressor Station in Joelton," for more information!

Go to www.change.org and search "Walden's Puddle."

"I found a Great Horned Owllet on the ground hatched from a nest in my pine tree. Thankfully, Walden's Puddle said to bring him in. Relieved, I returned home, pulled down my driveway and the second owl was down. I again phoned Walden's for help. I learned that if the remaining baby is removed, mama and papa owl will abandon the nest.



Walden's staffers explained how to make a nest out of a basket, put the baby in, and hang it up as high as I could; soon they would be out. This was an education and **showed me how dedicated and remarkable the folks are at Walden's Puddle.**

Returning two owllets to the treetop

Soon a professional tree climber showed up with Bettina, the Animal Care Director, and the first owllet. They made a professional nest with nesting materials to be raised to the top of the 60' tree near the original nest site. The climber secured the replacement, then each baby owl was placed in a pillowcase tied to a rope and hoisted to the nest.

All I can say is these people are the best. We should be grateful for their dedication and care for our wildlife. I have two baby owls and a mama and papa Great Horned Owl who share my view. There are two babies who would not be here but for Walden's Puddle."

Kathy



Owlet



photo gallery



The new waterfowl room



This Great Horned Owl (above) was hit by a car and the wing is broken.

This non-releasable juvenile Broad-winged Hawk (right) is training to be a program bird at an education center. He's wearing anklets and jesses for glove training.



This fox with mange is almost finished with treatment.



Non-releasable Barred Owl



Baby turtles



Bobcat



Hummingbird (left) with a wing injury.

Walden's staff



Bettina Bowers (left), our Animal Care Director, loading up animals for their wonderful day of release back to the wild! Bettina has been nominated to be elected to the National Wildlife Rehabilitators Association Board of Directors.



Thank you volunteers!

We thank our many regular volunteers who give the Puddle their time and talents. *We could not do this work without you!* We are in great need of steady volunteers. **Come join our team!** It might be the most rewarding experience of your life!

We also welcome volunteer work groups!

"There is nothing stronger than the heart of a volunteer"

– Lieutenant Colonel James Doolittle, 1942



A group of US Navy Reservists

"A year ago I made a trip to Walden's Puddle to talk about volunteering. It didn't take long to realize I wanted to be a part of it. First assignment: clean the fawn stalls.

Looking back, it was a test, which I must have passed because they asked me back. Since day I've had the opportunity to work with volunteer groups, repair pens and cages, clean crates, and assorted other tasks – including building a deck.

I know what I do helps the staff do their work faster and better. It's fulfilling and, yes, even fun! If you have building or mechanical skills, we need your help. I encourage you to join the team.



Ron builds our new deck

Hey, the fawn stalls need cleaning again!"

Ron, Board Member, Special Projects Manager



Catholic Heart Work Camp



Migration isn't over yet! This adult female American Redstart (right) was trapped in a building for a couple of days. Many people worked hard to capture it and bring it to us. We will make sure she has plenty to eat to rebuild her strength so she can continue her journey. American Redstarts are a type of warbler; they are neo-tropical migrants, meaning they winter in South America.

American Redstart

This fawn (left and below) was hit by a car and had very severe head trauma. She had a difficult time eating on her own so we needed to hand feed her for a while. She has since been moved outside to the fawn corral with friends and is awaiting release. We lovingly refer to her as "Moose" – she is the largest fawn we have ever seen!



Before



After

This precious hybrid duckling (above) had a leg deformity or perhaps an old injury that didn't heal correctly, but as you can see, he's standing and is walking with his bootie splint!

There is a very sad backstory for this little guy: someone illegally shot his mallard mother in a park and left him and his siblings to fend for themselves. The father and the other ducklings were gathered by her dead body when this little one was found. Many animals stay near a dead mate, parent or offspring for days mourning their loved one.

On a happier note, the father duck is currently taking care of the other ducklings that were all in good health. With the help of US Fish & Wildlife, we hope we will be able to identify and prosecute the poacher. (Not only was it out of season, hunting in the park is strictly prohibited at all times). Our duckling has grown into his feet, walks normally, swims, was paired with a foster parent and then moved outside to our aviary!



Before

After



Lane Brody and other Hometown Heroes

Darrell Waltrip Hometown Heroes Luncheon

Last year our hard working Chairman and "in kind" CEO, Lane Brody, was the recipient of the Darrell Waltrip "Hometown Hero Award". Waltrip hosted a luncheon for the Heroes. This group came from many non-profits. Each Hero stood up and shared their experiences. Moments were emotional, as they looked back on struggles, joys and sorrows. These selfless Heroes are the pillars of our non-profit community and we are grateful to Darrell and Stevie Waltrip for all they do to recognize their ongoing work.

Give while you shop

Your holiday shopping gives 20% to The Puddle at "Lynch Creek Farm fundraising." Choose from absolutely stunning fresh wreaths and garlands, as well as other festive decorations. Please visit:

www.lynchcreekfundraising.com/campaigns/32250



For "Banjo baby Squirrel"!



I just love "Puddle Food"!

Nutritious meals and special diets for each guest are always prepared fresh daily!

Many Thank-yous!

These incredibly generous foundations and people have awarded us grants

Phillips Family Foundation, Memorial Foundation, The Frist Foundation, Margaret Ann Kirk Trustee of the Second Reinstated Revocable Trust, Marjorie Neuhoff Private Foundation, Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee, The Max and Victoria Dreyfus Foundation Inc, Whole Foods, Letty Lou and Joe Gilbert Jr. Advised Fund, Malcolm Fraser Foundation, LG Newgarden, R&N Hamilton Foundation, Patricia and Rodes Hart Foundation, Emily Magid, Marilyn Lehew, Leslie Christodouloupoulos, Catherine Dees and Traci Samczyk, Lydia Horton, The Big Payback, Victoria Heil.

See more "Thank-yous" on page 8

Our interns have been invaluable

This summer we accepted 15 interns from Volunteer State, MTSU, APSU, OSU and Auburn. The experience they gain with wildlife is only available in this area through Walden's Puddle. **We could not have survived the summer without them.**

Out into the community

We educate about Middle Tennessee Wildlife: what to do if you find an injured or orphaned wild animal and what we do at Walden's Puddle, fostering the relationship between humans and animals. **Carolyn Pendarvis, our Education Program Director**, presented programs at area schools, churches and civic groups, traveling 2,191 miles, reaching 7,123 people, logging in 417 volunteer hours, \$3,618 worth list items and \$2,254

in donations! It is our hope that more people become aware of the relationship between humans and animals and learn how to prevent the acts that harm them. Countless wild animals are spared from death or injury when people learn how to respect them and their habitats.

Waste Management Inc. of Tennessee turns their old landfills into wetlands and has won the Tennessee Chamber of Commerce and Industry's "Environmental Excellence Award". They wrote:

"Thank you Walden's Puddle for your participation in this effort - we truly appreciate all you have done to further the WHC project and its goal by releasing some animals back into these areas."

Animal care staff members

Tiffany and Laurie have done an amazing job with Facebook and Instagram. Their posts are educational and entertaining. We are so lucky to have them as our social media queens! Also we have **new staff members this year who have proven to go above and beyond their job description** and I am so thankful to have them on the animal care crew.

The facility has really grown in the past year. The new "Washeteria" and building extension has made life downstairs more efficient and organized. **Shannon, Glenn and Jackson**, our new construction volunteers, have really been working hard in the pre-release area. They have built two mammal enclosures. These enclosures will enable the staff to get animals outside and released much sooner. So exciting!

Rebecca, Animal Care Supervisor



Check us out

Please check us out on Guidestar.org and GivingMatters.Guidestar.org

we are grateful...

Thanks to these many people and organizations who have helped Walden's Puddle! Please know that even if you don't see your name, your support of the work of our organization is truly appreciated!

- **Phillips Family Foundation**
- **The Dugas Family Foundation**
- **Currey Thornton/ T&T Family Foundation**
- **Dr. Corwin and the staff of Airport Animal Clinic** for his donation of top veterinary care. His selfless sharing of his healing gifts saves many precious lives yearly!
- **The Inglewood Kroger and Whole Foods Green Hills** provide nutritious produce for our critters' diet every day!
- **Jackalope Brewing Company** for their fundraiser! We received a check for over \$600! It's very awesome to be part of a community that boasts locals supporting locals!
- Enterprising 12-year-old **Jayla** made beaded jewelry and keychains and raised \$101.00 for us! Her mother emailed us this thank you letter:
"Thank you so much for allowing, Jayla, to

come make her donation. Attached is the picture with the wonderful lady [Becky] that accepted her donation and gave us more information about Walden's Puddle. While we were leaving, we saw a turtle on its back by the Puddle's creek. We stopped and Jayla turned it over to its feet, we watched it walk back to the creek."

– Cheryl

- **Wild Birds Unlimited**
- A few of our "Critter Runners" deserve special mention: **Jerry Vandiver** (who picks up produce as well as animals), **Margie Bannister**, **Emma Bonnet** and **Jerry and Phyllis Hobson**
- **Chattanooga Zoo**
- **Dr Jerrod Johnson** and the staff at **New Hope Veterinary Clinic**
- **Silverthorne, Dequaise, Alladdin Industries Foundation**
- **Roger T. Moore Revocable Trust - Belinda Leslie**
- **Barbara J. Mapp Family Foundation**
- **Joanne Pulles - HCA Caring for the Community**
- **Karl Dean and Delta Anne Davis**
- **Carolyn Crippin Miller**
- **Alco Products**
- **J&E Automotive**
- **Mr. and Mrs. James P. Totten**
- **Wild Cow vegetarian restaurant**
- **Heritage Travel Center** in Joelton



Thanks Christopher and Diane!

- **Couture for a Cause**
- **Christopher and Diane** for their abundant donation to the critters at Walden's Puddle! They collect supplies and donate 2-3 times a year! It so humbling to see our younger generations caring for wildlife!
- Because of the generosity of **the Andrea Waitt Carlton Family Foundation** we have a new state of the art air purification system it has made the working environment much cleaner and safer for humans and animals!
- We owe **Steve Rasmussen** and **Andrea** a debt of gratitude.
- Thank you to our wonderful photographers this issue: Brenda Walker, Tiffany Woody, Joyce Peck, Joane Gelep and Lane Brody. Thanks to Leigh Singleton for the layout.

Legacy giving

Your love for wildlife and Walden's Puddle's mission can live on with your legacy gift. To make arrangements, please contact Lane Brody/Chairman of the Board lane@lanebrody.com or 615-714-4002



Thanks Jayla! (seen here with Becky)

You make a difference

As another remarkable year in the life of the Puddle comes to a close, we sincerely and humbly appeal to you for your heartfelt consideration in including us in your Charitable Holiday Giving. **Perhaps consider making a monthly donation to help us through the coming year.** TOGETHER, we are striving to reach our fullest potential. Just like the many the animals we care for, we are spirited survivors!

You are part of the Walden's Puddle Family and the vision for our future. Thank you for helping to create, maintain and grow Walden's Puddle Wildlife Rehabilitation and Education Center!

On behalf of The Executive Committee, The Board of Directors, The Staff and All The Critters, we send our Very Best Wishes for a Healthy, Happy and Prosperous New Year to all!

God bless you, God bless the USA, Walden's Puddle and all the precious animals!

With much gratitude,
Lane Brody, Chairman and "in kind" CEO



Stay cozy and warm!