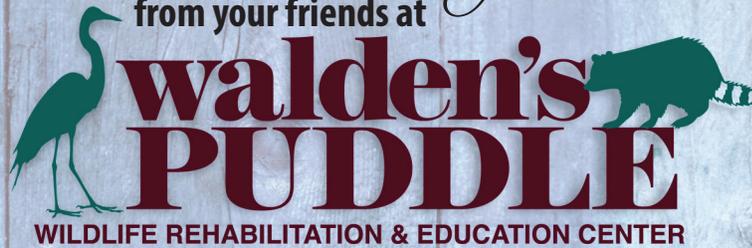


Season's Greetings

from your friends at



All the people and blessed critters at the puddle are sending our heartfelt wishes for a blessed and joyful holiday season and a healthy happy new year!!

Thank you so very much for being a part of the team! You are the breath of our very existence! Together we can continue to serve the needs of our wildlife and be part of **HUNDREDS of HAPPY ENDINGS!!**

Your love of wildlife has allowed us to care for over 3,500 injured and orphaned wild animals of over 120 different species this year! We are dedicating this letter to all of the amazing animals! We toast their vitality, fighting spirits, and joy for life.

WE also toast YOU. It is your loyalty to our healing work that makes it happen. It takes a community to care for our precious creatures of the surrounding forest. With your support, prayers and lots of dedicated hard work, we serve our community. We are grateful!

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.

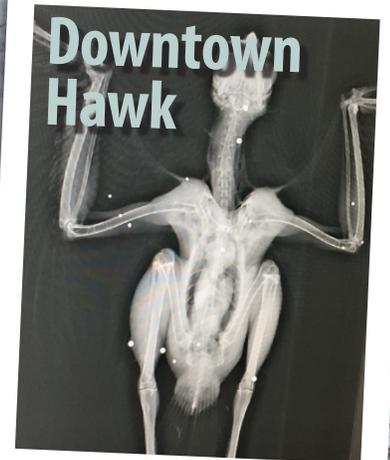
We are a special place that you can feel very good about supporting because we continue to maintain over 92% of all donations going directly to animal care!

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 in that **EXCITING** moment when a healthy, exuberant animal is released back to freedom!

We sincerely hope you enjoy reading about the wide range of accomplishments your ongoing support has allowed us to achieve this year and will help us to accomplish in the year to come!

Downtown Hawk



This hawk was rescued downtown from some people who were trying to keep it as a pet. The x-ray showed multiple bird shot.

After months of healing and rehabilitation, it was finally able to be released back into the wild. This is one of two birds found downtown after illegally being shot! We are working with US Fish and Wildlife to catch the criminals responsible.

The shot is visible in the x-ray as white dots.

Debbie, AC Supervisor



Two caring people help a poor Rat Snake

Rat snake in a sticky situation



I received a call from a man from Clarksville who found this snake caught up in tape in his garage. He had to go to work, and would be unable to bring the animal to Walden's until the next afternoon.

My next caller was a woman in Clarksville who had an injured robin. On a hunch, I asked her how she felt about snakes. She told me she was "cool". The two of them worked it out and she brought in the snake and the robin!

Within five minutes, Bettina, our Animal care Director had freed the snake from certain death by using vegetable oil to loosen his delicate skin from the tape. He was released to grow and do what his kind do!! The robin was also released after treatment!

Joane, front desk supervisor



Five minutes after arriving at Walden's Puddle, this snake was free of his tape.

Here is a map turtle release that I got to do. The creek was perfect with beautiful clear water and plenty of basking rocks. The turtle swam away eagerly as soon as I placed it in the water."

Carmen, AC Tech



Owl tangled up in soccer net

Thankfully this Great Horned Owl was not injured and was strong and healthy. The rescuer was happy to take the bird back and release it. The rescuer also said that the soccer net was in the trash!

Rebecca,
AC Supervisor

"There is no way of describing how it feels to release an animal back into the wild. I never take the experience for granted, and I thank God for giving me the strength to rehabilitate these animals."

Debbie, AC supervisor



Fox kit with her splint

A little fox tale

When an animal's injuries are just too severe for them to make it in the wild, but they are otherwise healthy, they often become our "animal ambassadors" and work with our education department. They help us educate our community through our outreach programs about native Tennessee wildlife.

We also transfer them to other licensed facilities, such as nature centers so they can live out their lives in peace and safety. This fox was non-releasable, so she was taken to her new home in Texas.



The "Ambassador" before her move to Texas

Dumpster Raccoon babies make it out!



In April, a call came in from a frantic man. Two juvenile raccoons were caught in the dumpster where he worked. The workers had tried everything to get them out to no avail. The youngsters were getting hot and very stressed.

We advised him to get a long board and set it into the base of the dumpster leading out. The onlookers all went back inside and watched from a window as the first little head poked out the top. The raccoon scrambled out, followed by the second one. They both scampered into the nearby woods!

Remember to **keep your dumpsters and garbage cans securely closed**. Always keep an eye out for trapped animals, and if a critter does get trapped, keep calm, use your head, wear gloves and have a box ready if needed; but first, give them every chance to get out on their own. You can always call Walden's Puddle for instruction and help, but animals usually know what to do with a little bit of added encouragement!

"With a little help from my friends"

New raccoon runs

We have constructed two new outside pre-release runs for the raccoons. We can never predict what the greater need will be in any given year. Bettina, our animal care director, pays close attention to the critter trends so we can be as ready and as prepared as possible to give the best care to every species. This year, she was raccoon mom to *many* very young babies, she said. Also, many were admitted much younger than in other years. These runs will get a lot of use.



Bettina feeds a baby raccoon

ALL turtles are released to where they were originally found but in these cases, **OFF the ROAD!** **REMEMBER:** Never move a turtle out of its location except to move it out of harm's way. *Turtles only live on and know about one acre of land their entire life. They will die if they are relocated.*

This turtle is now healing from his injuries.



Puddle maintenance

Over the summer, the maintenance team worked on several projects. All equipment is now on a maintenance schedule. Currently we are repairing raptor mews and preparing to build two more raccoon runs. Thank you, Shannon, for completing two runs this summer.

If you like working outside, please come volunteer. There is always plenty to do!

Ron, board member and "in kind" special projects manager



Fireworks casualty

This juvenile osprey, above, was admitted July 5 after being shot out of the sky by 4th of July fireworks. Very sore and in shock, it took several days for him to feel strong enough to fly.

After observing very strong flight in our large flight barn for a couple of days, he was deemed ready for release. He made a full recovery and was released back to his territory on the Cumberland River. (Photos at right).

Celebrating with fireworks can cause devastating consequences to our wildlife and this is a great example.

Laurie, AC manager



For "Banjo baby Squirrel"



Around Walden's



This Greater Yellow Legs, above left and above, was wandering with a broken wing, most likely blown in from a big storm as he was migrating. Dr. Corwin performed surgery and he is recovering well.

photo gallery



Our new, used SUV

Dependable transportation is *essential* to Walden's Puddle for transporting animals to the clinic for surgeries and rehabilitation, as well as for taking animals to their release. The AWC Family Foundation provided us with a grant toward the purchase of a new vehicle.

Jules Filet and the Beaman Automotive team, and many of you, including Elizabeth C. Eldridge, assisted us in finding the perfect SUV at the right price!



However, "free" is better. If you have a SUV that is in good working condition, please consider donating it to the Puddle. Both the critters and people would be most grateful!!

We're traveling back home in style!



This summer, we accepted 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.

Opossums thriving...



From babies...



...to adolescents...



...to release!

Thank you volunteers!

A big heartfelt thank you to all of our loyal volunteers for giving of their time and talents to help the animals!!! **We could not do this without you!!**

Huge shout-out to Margie, for both picking up animals and transporting our transfers, Emma for continuing to do so many rescues, checking out animal situations and pick-ups, also to Brian for doing a great job with the yard work. Also, thanks to Jerry and Jennifer who help with produce pick ups.



Join our "volunteer force for the animals!"

We are in great need of steady volunteers! *You can make a difference.* Just go to our website, www.waldenspuddle.org, click on the volunteer page, print the application, fill it out and send it in. You will be scheduled for orientation and a tour of the facility. Then you will be ready for hands-on training. If you are unable to print one, call us at 615-299-9938, leave a message and we will send you one.



Do you like squirrels?

Join our "Squirrel squad" and help feed the babies!!



Catholic Heart Work Camp at the Puddle

Volunteer work groups

Catholic Heart Work Camp volunteered at the Puddle this year, helping Lane, our "in kind" CEO, with her many thank you letters.

The group also worked hard cleaning cages, doing laundry, washing windows inside and out and painting both the front and rear decks. Thank you! We always welcome volunteer work groups. Contact our front desk to learn about how your group can help.



Check us out

Please check us out on Guidestar.org and Giving-Matters.org.



Education: part of our mission

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. Carolyn Pendarvis, our education program director, takes this message to the community, through presentations at area schools, churches and civic groups. This year alone she has traveled 2,801 miles, reaching 9,907 people, logging more than 452 volunteer hours, collecting wish list items valued at \$2,152 and \$3,411 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



Joyous releases!

"I found a nice location with plenty of trees and a water source. The opossum immediately started walking around investigating its surroundings and then disappeared into the vegetation. I was impressed with how curious it was!"

Carmen, AC Tech



"You guys sent out an e-mail about an injured duck with a hook in his foot. We found him, cut the hook out and brought him to you! Thankfully, he recovered and was later released. Thanks for all you do."

Michelle

Give while you shop

169 households have enrolled in the Kroger Community Rewards Program and selected Walden's Puddle as their organization to support. Thanks to their shopping, \$1,346.02 was contributed to the Puddle by Kroger over the summer! To join, go to www.kroger.com/account/enroll/CommunityRewardsNow

Two more ways:

www.igive.com and www.smile.amazon.com



This duck was brought in after an encounter with a large fishing hook.

From the animal care director

When I first started working at Walden's Puddle, 18 years ago, winter was a slow season. **Now, 'busy' is the slowest we get!** Our winters are spent recovering from – and preparing for – baby season by doing intensive cleaning. In late winter and spring, we start getting in nestling birds of prey that have fallen from their nests. We reunite as many as we can with their families, which requires an experienced tree climber and nest rebuilding. This year we returned several great horned and barred owlets back to their homes.

Then the baby cottontails and the first batch of baby gray squirrels start rolling in. We never know when it will begin in the spring or end in the fall – or which animal we will get more of than usual. We just have to be ready.

Bettina Bowers,
Animal Care Director



Returning owlets to the wild requires an experienced tree climber and nest rebuilding.



Safely back in a nest





we are grateful...

Thanks to these many people and organizations who have helped Walden's Puddle this year! Please know that even if you do not see your name your support of the work of Walden's Puddle is truly appreciated!

Legacy giving

Remembering the Puddle in your legacy is a wonderful way to insure the future of our work and your ongoing care of our native Tennessee wildlife. We are honored to be the recipients of these treasured gifts! To make arrangements, please contact Lane Brody/Chairman of the Board lane@lanebrody.com or 615-714-4002

- Ed Clark, Founder of The Wildlife Center of Virginia, for graciously coming to the Puddle for a workshop to aid us in our work! It was a pleasure having you visit, and a wonderful learning experience for all!
- Dr. Corwin of Airport Animal Clinic for his donation of top veterinary care. His selfless sharing of his healing gifts saves many precious lives yearly!
- Dr Jerrod Johnson of New Hope Veterinary Clinic
- The Inglewood Kroger and Whole Foods, Green Hills provide nutritious produce for our critters' diets every day!
- Wild Birds Unlimited
- Wild Cow Vegetarian Restaurant in Nashville
- Heritage Travel Center in Joelton
- Robin Hornsby, Transaction Coordinator, and the Caterpillar Financial Services Corporation group
- We are grateful for the legacy gift of an endowment from **Anne H. & Robert K. Zelle** Advised Fund. May their memory be eternal.
- For helping us fight the Gas Pipe-line Compressor Station: **Ann Davis and Southern Environmental Law Center** and Attorney **Carolyn Elfant**; Concerned Citizens For a Safe Environment
- Special thank you to everyone who supported our Go Fund Me page for our new bridge. **It is almost finished!**



Four-year-old Caleb holds a Walden's Puddle certificate after he brought in an orphaned baby squirrel.

"All In" to help the animals! These incredibly generous foundations and people have awarded us grants

The Dugas Family Foundation; Barbara J. Mapp Foundation; Andrea Waitt, Carlton Family Foundation; Memorial Foundation; The Frist Foundation; Margaret Ann Kirk, Trustee of the Second Reinstated Revocable Trust; Marjorie Neuhoft Private Foundation; The Max and Victoria Dreyfus Foundation Inc; Letty Lou and Joe Gilbert Jr. Advised Fund; 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; Andrea W. Carlton & Steve Rasmussen, AWC Family Foundation; Norm & Deborah Miede, Barbara J. Mapp Foundation; Calvin & Marilyn Lehw; Joe R. G. & Jane Fraser Fulcher, Malcolm Fraser Foundation; Louie Buntin, The Phillips Foundation, Allison Buntin Jr., Advisory Board of The Phillips Fund; Ed & Hettie Stuart, Ridgeview Foundation; Currey Thornton, & Lester Turner of T & T Family Foundation; McInnes Family Foundation; Trisha Yearwood Brooks; Jay & Donna Richards, Richards Family Advised Fund; Animal Welfare Fund; Community Foundation of Middle TN; Clarise Ann DuQuasie Fund; Mrs. Randi B. Land; Kelly Harris

From Walden's Chairman

The Puddle is a little treasure to us all. We sincerely and humbly appeal to you for your heartfelt consideration in including us in your Charitable Holiday Giving! Please consider a monthly donation to help us through the coming year.



The simple truth of is, we need to expand our capacity to care for the increasing number of injured and orphaned animals coming in our door. Our ONLY real need is to be

able to meet the needs of our precious wildlife. Thank

you for your compassion and for believing and helping to create, maintain and grow Walden's Puddle!
The Executive Committee, the Board of Directors, the staff and all the critters send our very best wishes for a healthy, joyous and prosperous New Year to all!

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

Lane Brody
Chairman and "in kind" CEO

Final notes: Thank you to our wonderful photographers: Brenda Walker, Joyce Peck, Joane Gelep, Laurie, Debbie, Bettina, and Lane Brody.

Dedicated to all the animals we have been privileged to help and know!





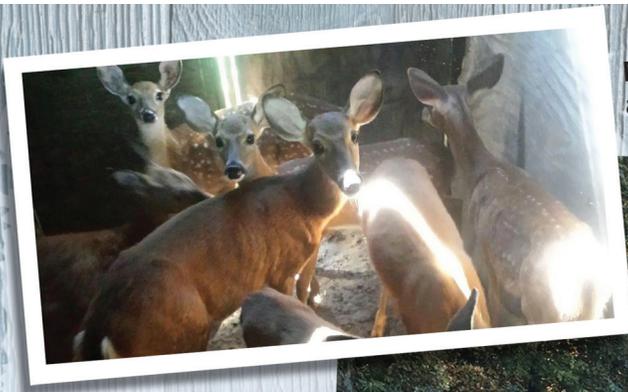
WILDLIFE REHABILITATION & EDUCATION CENTER

P.O. BOX 641
JOELTON, TN 37080

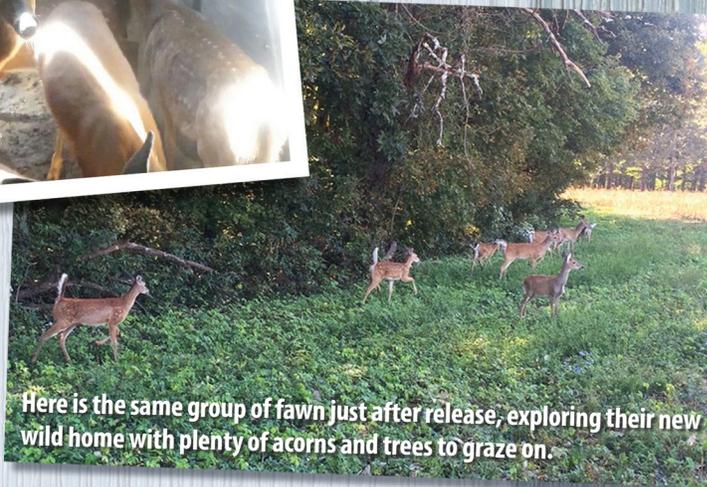


We need you!

Your generosity makes all the difference for the creatures being helped at Walden's Puddle!



Fawn loaded into the trailer and ready for transport to their new release site.



Here is the same group of fawn just after release, exploring their new wild home with plenty of acorns and trees to graze on.



“Until today, I was unaware of a local rehabilitation facility. To see what you all do and how much you care for injured and orphaned animals is astonishing and warms the heart. Please accept this donation. God bless all of you!”

Steven

Go fawn GO!!!

Release days are always exciting, especially so with this group of fawn.

To calmly coax these rescues into the transport trailer we leave it open and backed up to their coral gate. We put tempting food inside for a few days beforehand. It works like a charm!

All fawn must be released on Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency-approved sites where there is **NO HUNTING!** *Sweet freedom!*

This release was in mid-October, 2016.



Your donations keep me in my Puddle home with a plenteous supply of nuts!

A Walden's Puddle ambassador