

Season's greetings from your friends at Walden's Puddle

Greetings Puddle friends!

Happy Holiday Season to you!! We wish you a very blessed Merry Christmas and a happy, healthy prosperous New Year!!!

Thank you for your loyal support and for being such a vital part of our work at **Walden's Puddle Wildlife Center of Greater Nashville!!**

Our healing work continues through the grace of God.

As you can see above, we have a new logo and a partial change to our name.

Because of Nashville's rapid growth, intakes of animals from the greater Nashville area are high. We are reaching out to spread the word about the effects on our native

wildlife.

It takes a community to care for our wildlife in need; we hope to engage more Nashvillians in our mission.

If we interrupt the natural order of nature, nature cannot take its proper course! It is up to each of us to take responsibility for the affects we cause on our wild neighbors!

With your support and prayers we can be there for you and the precious animals you find that are in need.

We are grateful for your loyalty. Please help us expand our capacity to care for the increasing number of injured and orphaned animals coming through our door.

Our monthly operating expenses are

between \$30,000 and \$38,000 dollars. **We receive no federal or state funding.** We exist because of **your** caring hearts!

Our dedicated, working board continues to maintain over 92% of your donations going to animal care!

Together we have accomplished so much!

With you we can accomplish **EVEN MORE** in the year to come!

You make all these happy endings possible!

“

Returning an animal to its home is as good as it gets!”

Rebecca,
Animal Care Supervisor

Welcome to our new Animal Care Director

Elisa Fosco, Walden's new Animal Care Director, is a wildlife biologist and a licensed veterinary technician. She has been rehabilitating wildlife for over 30 years. Elisa has been running large wildlife centers around the country since the early 1990s. She also spent several years specializing in endangered species in an effort to focus her skills on wildlife conservation and preservation.

Elisa was an instructor for the International Wildlife Rehabilitation Council for 13 years and has taught professional wildlife medicine and rehabilitation worldwide. She has

taught in 14 countries and on 5 continents. We are proud and privileged to have her as our Director of Animal Care!

“I am so excited to join the team here at Walden's Puddle! Now that our busy summer season has slowed down we are working on so many new changes and programs. We have implemented our new internship programs and will be revamping our volunteer program this winter as well.

We are reviewing our species protocols and are making sure that our practices match the most current and best in the field of wildlife rehabilitation. Our staff has been working hard to make sure that our patients have the best care that we can offer and it has been a pleasure to join such an amazing group.”



Fosco



Our tiny fawn (known around here as “Micro”) was not much larger than a cat

when admitted.
Elisa Fosco ACD



The Puddle helps hurricane victims

Here is a photo of the Black-capped Petrel (*Pterodroma hasitata*) that was blown in after Hurricane Irma.

Elisa Fosco, ACD

“

“It is always touching to see people come together to save an animal. Two people found an injured juvenile Red-tailed Hawk standing in water inside of a dumpster. After just a few months, he was released back to his home!”

Casey, Front desk and marketing team member



Mourning Dove (*Zenaidura macroura*) that was caught by a cat (fractured shoulder). He was released back to his (waiting) mate after nearly 3 months in care.



A Red-tailed Hawk stands stunned on the side of the interstate. After being rescued by Bettina (photo below), and recovering at Walden’s Puddle, the hawk had a joyous release!



Wishing the best for Bettina!

We all got together for a party to wish Bettina Bowers the very best in her future endeavors and to thank her for her many years of work for the organization!! Here is a story about her to remember and honor her great work.

Two Nashville residents and a Metro police officer stopped to assist an injured Red-tailed Hawk that had slammed into a car while in pursuit of food above the interstate. The good Samaritans protected the bird from traffic and contacted Walden’s Puddle. Bettina was in the area and quickly came to the rescue.

“We all breathed a sigh of relief knowing the bird was in good hands, safe, and out of harm’s way. Without Walden’s Puddle the hawk would have had no chance to survive. Thank you for giving it a second chance at life!”

Valerie



Some photos of our non-releasable Eastern Box Turtles (*Terrapene carolina*) in their outside habitat.





Tiny fox kit

I was in the front office when this little one was admitted. She was on the brink of death. The man who brought in the tiny kit said he found her in his woodpile.

I took the infant downstairs and our animal care staff went to work on her. She was severely dehydrated and starving. I said a prayer over her and went back up to continue my paperwork. Before I left I checked on her and she was fighting.

A few days later I checked on her again, (the second picture). The difference was like night and day!! The staff was amazed at how active she was. She was raised and released!!

Lane, CEO



Gas pipeline update

The Gas Pipeline Compressor Station we fought so hard against is going in. We are doing everything in our power to be prepared for all of the possibilities. The animals will continue to need us! We are doing everything we can to make sure it will not affect our ability to serve our mission!

The WP Board



This snapping turtle (above) had been hit by car. He soon recovered nicely. He recently was released at Fountain Square, where he had grown up.

It's better with buddies...

This Coyote came in with eyes closed, weak, and with mange. Elisa, our animal care director, searched tirelessly within the rehab community to find other coyotes it could grow up with. This would ensure it would not become habituated to its human caregivers and could be released.

Elisa's efforts paid off. The coyote was able to grow up with two other orphaned coyotes here. He was released with his pack in late September.



“

“Of the many positions I've had, in my 19 years at Walden's Puddle, my favorite is working the front desk. It is a joy to interact with people from all walks of life who take time out of their busy schedules to rescue injured or orphaned wild animals by bringing them to us.”

Joane, Reception Supervisor

The Juvenile Broad-winged Hawk (*Buteo platypterus*), is seen here with her foster mom. She was admitted as a young nestling and was raised by an adult patient in our care.



She was released at the beginning of her migration and by the time you read this, she will be in South America for her winter season.



Injured Barred Owl

This owl was rescued and taken to Walden's Puddle!

Phone message:

“There is an injured Barred Owl on the train tracks near Stewart's Ferry Pike in Hermitage (Davidson Co). Any suggestions on what can be done? He/she appears to have a wing injury.”

Answer: Yes, safely contain and bring the owl to Walden's Puddle!!!

photo gallery

PHOTOGRAPHS
COURTESY OF
L. ADAMS

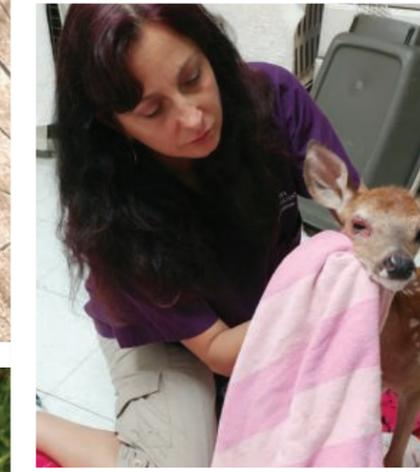


Walden's Puddle has the best Interns!

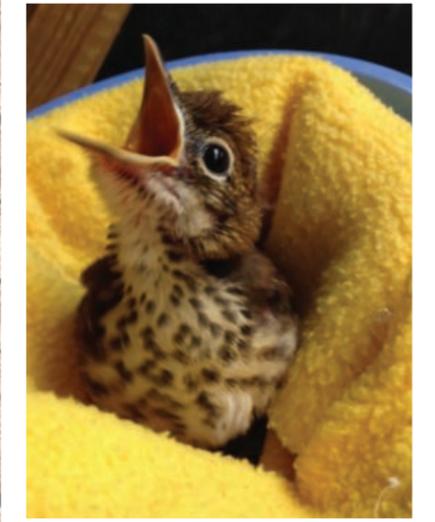


The front desk staff

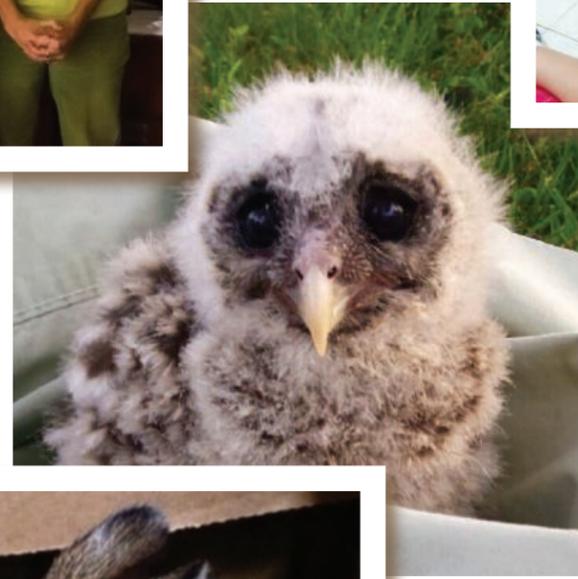
At left, Walden's Front Desk Crew: Casey, Becky, Merilee, Joane and Trina



Above, Elisa removes ticks from tick covered fawn.



“
“Being a part-time employee at Walden's Puddle has enabled me to enjoy the wonders of wildlife. I've learned each animal has its own personality and mission in life. We shed many tears but they quickly dry up when we release a rehabilitated adult or some orphaned babies that are now able to survive in this world.”
Becky, front desk



Animal Care staffers Laurie, Elisa, Rebecca and Debbie



Walden's Puddle Animal Care staff

Come join our "volunteer force for the animals!"

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!!

We are in great need of steady volunteers! You can make a difference.

Just go to our website (www.waldenspudde.org), click on the volunteer page and follow the instructions.

Huge shout-out to Margie, Emma, Kim, Jerry, Bryan, Ralph, Bonnie, Rory, Kate, Tammy, Trina, Harrison and *all* our volunteers, for doing a great job. And thanks also to Lisa, our volunteer coordinator.

Also, many thanks to all who donated fresh eggs (Randy and Richie, Bubba Jacks Farm) and goats' milk; these items have been a huge blessing for the animals!

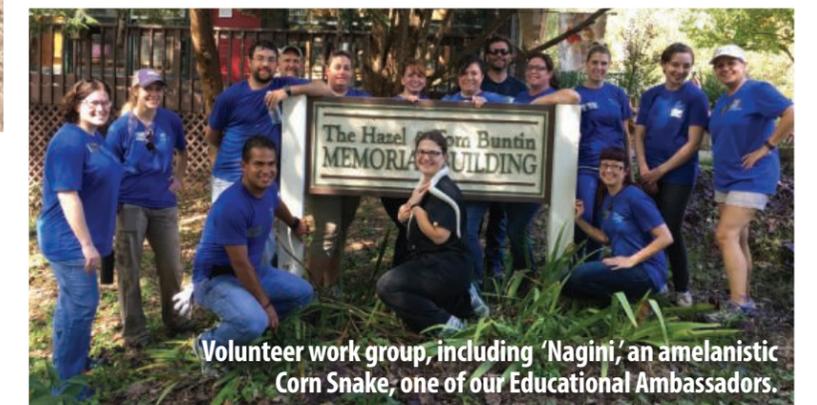
We welcome volunteer work groups!

Thank you to the following work groups: Automotive Training Institute (ATI), locally represented by and organized by A&R Complete Auto Care in Clarksville, The Catholic Heart Work Camp, DC-4, and HCA!

"On behalf of the team members, thank you for

providing the opportunity for HCA employees. It was a pleasure working with your organization and we value all that you do for our community."

Sincerely, Deborah
HCA project coordinator



Volunteer work group, including 'Nagini,' an amelanistic Corn Snake; one of our Educational Ambassadors.

“

“Thank you, Elisa, for coming in many times before the break of dawn, and staying until midnight to ensure the animals get the best care. The knowledge and hard work you have brought to Walden’s Puddle is priceless, and we can’t thank you enough!”

Debbie, AC Supervisor

Welcome to our Board

Ashley and Ronnie Leftwich of Perfect Pebble Company created our new Walden’s Puddle logo this spring. They are also heading up our new marketing team, that includes Brian, Ron, Lane, Harrison, Casey, and Angela.

“After volunteering, having our logo adopted, and meeting the staff, volunteers, and board members, we knew it was the right fit for both WP and PPC. We could not be more excited to help give wildlife a second chance through Walden’s Puddle.”

Ashley and Ronnie Leftwich



This Canada Goose had fishing line wrapped so tightly around his leg that it was tied around the actual bone. Elisa was able to remove all the line; the goose was treated with antibiotics and pain medication and was surgically repaired. Within a matter of a few weeks, the injury was healed, and he was able to go back to his family.



EDUCATIONAL ANIMALS - OUR AMBASSADORS

Introducing our newest Animal Ambassadors



Willie (Virginia Opossum)



Caddie and Shack (Groundhogs)



PJ (Eastern Gray Squirrel)

Walden’s Puddle inevitably ends up with animals with deficits that prevent them from being returned to the wild. This might be because of injuries or because they had been kept as pets. A few of these long-term residents who have the right temperament become our Educational Ambassadors. You may have seen them visiting school children or at a talk at one of Nashville’s Nature Centers.

This year marked the passing of some of our beloved Animal Ambassadors. They were all remarkably amazing teachers and representatives of their kind. They served well and are greatly missed. In loving memory of...

Maxine, Bandit, Rascal and Mr. Shakes (Raccoons)

Radnor (Eastern Screech Owl)

Poppy (Eastern Gray Squirrel)

Captain Jack (Opossum)

Jelly Bean (Eastern Fox squirrel)

Caring for turtles

This Yellow-bellied Slider (*Trachemys scripta*) had been hit by a car. We were able to help it heal from shell damage and a severe infection. She was rehabilitated and released into the wild in time to hibernate!

This year we have also been revamping our turtle care program. We are now doing most of our shell repair in-house and we have made new changes to our medical care, diets and housing protocols for these declining species.



Some of these turtles are over 50 years old! They deserve every chance to get back home to the wild!

Ongoing staff education

Members of our staff regularly attend professional wildlife conferences and several of our staff have been presenters at both the national and the international meetings.

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.



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!

- Dr. Corwin of Airport Animal Clinic, and Dr. Jerrod Johnson at the New Hope Veterinary Clinic for their donation of top veterinary care. Their selfless sharing of their healing gifts save many precious lives yearly!
- Veterinary Ophthalmology Services (VOS), a specialty clinic that Walden's Puddle has frequently depended upon.
- The Inglewood Kroger and Whole Foods, Green Hills provide nutritious produce for our critters' diets every day!
- Wild Birds Unlimited
- Heritage Travel Center in Joelton
- Bubba's Farm Eggs
- Kristi Keppler at Marshall Bruce Printing
- Elizabeth Queener
- Darrell Waltrip
- Leigh Melton Singleton
- Community Foundation Big Payback

The following incredibly generous foundations and people have awarded us grants:

The Dugas Family Foundation, Phillips Family Foundation, Carrey Thornton and T&T Family Foundation, Barbara J. Mapp Foundation, Andrea Waitt Carlton Family Foundation, Memorial Foundation, Margaret Ann Kirk Trustee of the Second Reinstated Revocable Trust, Marjorie Neuhoff Private Foundation, Community Foundation, The Max and Victoria Dreyfus Foundation Inc, 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 Lehw, Mr. and Mrs Doyle R. Rippee, Leslie Christodouloupoulos, Catherine Dees and Traci Samczyk, Lydia Horton, The Big Payback, Walter Cook and TWRA, Victoria Heil.

“

“As the Grants Writer and Coordinator for the past 7 years, I am proud of the way our community of donors has been there for us through the years. We are thankful for their support... We couldn't do this work without you. It makes me and others proud to donate 100% of our time to this organization, knowing that we have thousands of supporters that have our backs and share in our passion for helping wildlife.”

Brian J. Hock, Ph.D.,
Treasurer & Grants Coordinator

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.

Gifts left to Walden's Puddle in the wills of our beloved friends have – more than once – brought us through tough financial times. Our hearts are always so moved. We are honored to be recipients of these treasured gifts.

In Memory:

- | | |
|--------------------|------------------|
| Fevronia Star | Clarise Ann |
| Anne and Bob Zelle | DuQuazie |
| Hester Bobbitt | Janine Betkar |
| Landis B. Gullett | Anna F. Mogensen |

Thank you **Ed Clark**, Founder of the Wildlife Center of Virginia, for graciously coming to Nashville to help us launch our new campaign to raise public awareness and engage more Nashvillians in our work. WP advisor **Freddy Mc Laughlin** graciously hosted a luncheon at Maggiano's Little Italy for many of our Foundation representatives, philanthropists, and the press. Our Animal Care Director, **Elisa Fosco**, gave a thought provoking and emotionally moving presentation about the struggles of Wildlife in our area.

From Walden's Chairman

Please help us accomplish our goals and meet the GROWING needs of the orphaned and injured wildlife in our community.

THE PUDDLE IS A LITTLE TREASURE TO US ALL and we sincerely and humbly appeal to you for your heart-felt consideration in including us in your charitable holiday giving! Please consider a monthly donation to help us through the coming year. Our ONLY real need is to be able to meet the needs of our precious wildlife.

Thank you for your compassion and for

believing in and helping to 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



Stay cozy and warm!

Give while you shop

Kroger Rewards:

www.kroger.com/account/enrollCommunityRewardsNow

iGive: www.igive.com

Amazon Smiles:

www.smile.amazon.com

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



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!

Beautiful in Red

This Red-tailed Hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*) had been hit by a truck and was admitted with a fractured wing. While in recovery she went through her annual molt, growing new feathers for her next year. You can see by her tail in this photo that she is replacing her brown juvenile feathers with adult red ones, exhibiting the red tail that this species is named for.

She went back to the wild with her spiffy new adult colors.



Check us out on Giving Matters and Guidestar.

We're going NUTS at Walden's Puddle

Here's a nutty idea: Gather up all your raw, in-the-shell unsalted nuts after the holidays. Bring them to Walden's Puddle and

the residents will enjoy these high-protein treats! Walnuts, almonds, pecans, acorns, black walnuts and de-skinned hazelnuts are all suitable and welcomed. The animals thank you!



Educational programming

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, has presented programs at area schools, churches and civic groups traveling 2,174 miles, reaching 1,645 people, logging in 621 volunteer hours, \$3,706 wish list items and \$3,173 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.

