Happy Holidays

from your friends at Walden’s Puddle

Season’s greetings. Merry Christmas and a happy, healthy, prosperous New Year to all! We are more than grateful for your loyalty and participation in our healing work! Through the grace of God, your support, prayers and lots of hard work, we are able to be here for you and the wild ones of our community in their time of need.

You have received this advance inside look because you are the true believers whose generously helps us grow and prosper. Our selfless “working board” allows 92% of all donations to go to animal care expenses which are 30,000 to 38,000 dollars per month. We receive no federal or state funding, so only you can help us expand our capacity to care for the growing numbers of injured and orphaned wild ones that are brought to us for help.

This holiday season please give – to help keep the Puddle splashing, the incubators warm and waiting and the happy endings for wild hearts, paws, little song bird feet and raptor wings, happening in the coming new year!

“Thank you so very much for everyone at Walden’s Puddle, you are all beautiful people who have love and commitment for all those amazing critters!”

Love Hugs” – Kim B

We share this sentiment with you!

Busy year at the Puddle

By Elisa Fosco, Animal Care Director

We have had another exciting year of growth! We have revamped many of our animal programs as well as our volunteer and internship programs. We have also upgraded some of our equipment, including a new anesthesia machine, which also allows us to provide oxygen therapy to some of our more critical patients. We

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Free to fly again!

Wildlife rehabilitators are now allowed to accept orphaned Striped Skunks thanks in part to efforts by Walden’s Puddle.

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are now working with Shelby Bottoms Nature Center on a turtle hatching program, harvesting eggs from turtles that did not survive their annual trek to lay their eggs. Almost all native turtles are declining, so conservation efforts are very important.

In 2018 we changed the world for Tennessee skunks! We worked to make changes to state legislation and now Tennessee wildlife rehabilitators can be permitted to care for orphaned skunks. In our first season, we admitted 56 skunks, with a 97% release rate.

Several of our staff gave presentations at the National Wildlife Rehab Conference, sharing our knowledge with others nationwide.

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Animal Care Director Elisa Fosco worked with Rep. Mike Sparks on wildlife legislation issues.

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A woman and her daughter brought in this Pied-billed Grebe (Podilymbus podiceps) found stranded, after accidentally landing on parking lot pavement after a heavy rain. After a quick exam that included checking the bird for waterproofing, the family took it to the water nearest where they found it and off it went!

Debbie, Animal Care Specialist

Watch those talons!

If you aren’t following Walden’s Puddle on Instagram you are missing some GREAT photos and anecdotes!

Debbie, Animal Care Specialist

This year, we are incorporating big changes in the education department. We are making improvements to our animals’ enclosures, and updating our training methods and enrichment protocols. We are looking forward to sharing our changes by giving presentations at the state and national rehabilitation conferences in the upcoming year.

Debbie, Animal Care Specialist

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Our focus on education

Educating Middle Tennesseans about wildlife and the services offered by Walden's Puddle is one of our organization’s missions. Carolyn Pendarvis, our Education Director, logs hundreds of volunteer hours teaching people about what to do if they find an injured or orphaned wild animal. Carolyn, along with assistant Lizi Baucom, do presentations at area schools, churches and civic groups reaching thousands of people every year. Countless wild animals are spared from harm when people learn to respect them and their habitats.

All Animal Ambassadors in our program are non-releasable animals.

Educational ambassadors

Natchez - Broad-winged Hawk
Demetri - Eastern Screech Owl
Sheldon & Penny - Eastern Box Turtles
Nagini & Fireball - Corn Snakes
Caddy - Groundhog
PJ, Tippy and Sylvester - Eastern Gray Squirrels

Willie - our Virginia Opossum
Slippers and Sliders - Eastern Chipmunks
Graydon - Common Grackle
Odie* - Eastern Screech Owl
King Arthur* - Red-tailed Hawk

* in training

Strange, wonderful new residents

We love getting to know armadillos, as they become more common in Tennessee. We have successfully raised three baby armadillos, who are now back in the wild!

A member of our wildlife care staff working with a young armadillo.

Talk about indigestion!

This Eastern Spiny Soft-shelled turtle (Apalone spinifera) was admitted after having an encounter with a fishing hook – requiring surgery. If you look closely at the x-ray, you can also see the snails she had for breakfast!

Juvenile Nine-banded Armadillos (Dasypus novemcinctus) having a snack in their holding kennel

Red-tailed Hawk (Buteo jamaicensis) release

www.waldenspuddle.org
At 10:30 p.m. during baby season, our Education Director brought in a mother opossum and her 5 babies. (Our ED had been in a traffic jam caused by this opossum family.) Although we were exhausted and ready for home, we gladly went to work tending to the patients.

While treating the mama, who had an obvious bleeding wound to her back, we separated the babies to warm them. Although mama was on pain medicine, she kept trying to walk, frantically smelling everything. Then it hit us: she was looking for her babies!

We put them with her and she relaxed. Just before midnight we checked on them, and sadly, Mama had peacefully passed. So, we stepped in for this wild mom and raised her babies. It was so rewarding to release them in memory of their very dedicated Mama.

– Mandi, animal care staff

A rough night

Thank you, Catholic Heart Work Camp, for volunteering with us for four days this summer. Carolyn, our Education Director, did an education program on their lunch break, and, as you can see, our star groundhog, Caddy, won the crowd over!

Welcome volunteer work groups!

Thank you to everyone who donated to our new fawn barn. Below, young White-tailed Deer (Odocoileus virginianus) hungrily enjoy their breakfast.

Shy Red Fox kit (Vulpes vulpes) with a splint on his fractured leg.

Pre-fledgling America Crow (Corvus brachyrhynchos) in care after his tree was cut down.

Two young opossums (Didelphis virginiana) peeking out from their hide dens.

GALLERY OF our wild ones

Young Northern Raccoons (Procyon lotor) exploring their new outdoor pre-release enclosure.

Young Eastern Gray Squirrel (Sciurus carolinensis) with her tail bandaged after being pulled from her nest by a cat.

Eastern Box Turtle (Terrapene carolina) enjoying some fresh air.

Common Nighthawk (Chordeiles minor) healing from a wing injury. Migratory birds often have to race the seasonal clock and this nighthawk did not heal in time for migration, so he is spending the winter with us. He will be released in the spring when his species returns.

Tennessee Warbler (Leiothlypis peregrina)
Healthy appetite

This stunning 11.5-pound Nine-banded Armadillo came into care after being hit by a vehicle. While he was under sedation we examined him, cleaned his wounds and removed hundreds of small maggots from the wound. Infection had already begun to take hold, so he was put on aggressive antibiotic therapy and pain management.

He has recovered beautifully and we couldn’t ask for better wound healing. He received laser therapy several times a week to help speed up the healing. He’s had a voracious appetite from the beginning and ate over 20,000 worms in his time with us!

Giving is easy!

When you shop, Walden’s Puddle can benefit! Check out these merchants’ rewards programs:

Kroger REWARDS!!
https://www.kroger.com/account/enroll-CommunityRewardsNow

iGive
http://www.igive.com

Amazon Smile
www.smile.amazon.com

Waldens in the workplace

The Walden’s Puddle marketing team would like to be invited to your work! We are looking for businesses which would like to choose the Puddle as their charity. We can suggest lots of ways your business can support our nonprofit: employer-employee donation matches, rewarding employees who donate with a casual “Blue Jean or Hat Day” at the office, good old corporate donations or perhaps organizing a fundraising event that designates a portion of the revenue to the Puddle.

Ask your Manager or Human Resources personnel about how we can partner.

If you’d like to become a part of our team contact us at waldenspuddlepartners@gmail.com.

Two baby raccoons in showing different color morphs.

We kicked off our spring season with a booth at The Nashville Lawn and Garden Show. We were excited to be invited to this annual event. The Puddle team all pitched in and our animal ambassadors were on hand to win hearts. It gave us a boost going into baby season!

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iGive
http://www.igive.com

Amazon Smile
www.smile.amazon.com

Show your support with our new merchandise. We have t-shirts, sweatshirt hoodies, designer hoodies, hats and more. Purchase your puddle gear (and holiday gifts!) at waldenspuddle.org/shop/
The Puddle is a safe haven to grow and heal our wild ones. We sincerely and humbly appeal to you for your heartfelt consideration of 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 believing in us and helping to create, maintain and grow Walden's Puddle!

Our mission is “Helping The Greater Nashville Area Grow Compassionately and Responsibly by Giving Wildlife a Second Chance”

“Done, done and done!” is a phrased often used today. All of you, our wildlife, and our community count on us to “get it done” – and we do!!

The Executive Committee, the Board of Directors, the staff and all the critters, God bless you, God bless the USA, Walden’s Puddle and all the precious animals!

― Lane Brody, Chairman and “in kind” CEO

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

www.waldenspuddle.org

Remember the Puddle in your will
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.

Check us out on Giving Matters and Guidestar.
We need you!

We need steady, dependable volunteers! Are you ready to make a difference in the lives of these animals? Just go to our website, www.waldenspuddle.org, click on the volunteer page and follow the instructions. Walden’s Puddle offers volunteer training, and can promise a rewarding experience!

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

Our 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 work without you!!

We need steady, dependable volunteers! Are you ready to make a difference in the lives of these animals? Just go to our website, www.waldenspuddle.org, click on the volunteer page and follow the instructions. Walden’s Puddle offers volunteer training, and can promise a rewarding experience!

Do not be alarmed...

...by the pitiful appearance of this creature! During molting time our Eastern Screech Owls all look pretty awkward, but this baby took the cake! Molting is a normal and necessary process brought about by hormonal changes. It’s the process where old and worn feathers are shed and replaced by new ones. Molt varies significantly by species, both in frequency and pattern, with some birds molting only once a year and others molting several times annually. (It’s O.K. to giggle a bit at his goofy appearance! We did!)

Blessed return to freedom

This Black Vulture (Coragyps atratus) successfully released after a shoulder fracture.

After the holidays

Your donated Christmas trees provide our guests with natural enrichment! Please remember Walden’s Puddle when you un-trim the tree this season!