
TALES FROM THE TREE

The Quarterly Newsletter of Ziggy's Tree Wildlife Rehabilitation Center



Volume No. 7 Issue No.1 Date Spring 2017
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WILDLIFE AND FREE-ROAMING CATS

Each year, at least 50% of our bird admissions at Ziggy's Tree are due to cats. Causes range from parent birds killed by cats, a fledgling (learning to fly) caught by a cat, or just the fear that a free-roaming cat might attack the fledgling or raid the nest. We also get several small mammals, especially young Eastern Cottontails, who have been injured by cats.

Continuing studies are now estimating that anywhere from 1.4 billion to 3.7 billion birds are killed each year in the continental United States by free-roaming cats. This is much greater than earlier estimates.

Each time we get a call that involves a feline threat to a baby bird, we ask the caller if they can keep their cat indoors for a few days to allow the baby to fledge naturally and stay with its biological parents. Many times the answer is an emphatic "no" – either the cat "likes" to be outdoors, a family member is allergic, OR the cat is not theirs.

It's always best to keep your cat indoors at all times. It's much safer for the cat and our native wildlife. But we realize that won't or can't happen for every cat owner. While we don't have any good suggestions for how to handle a neighbor's cat, our friends at Native Songbird Care and Conservation (www.nativesongbirdcare.org) in Sebastapol, CA have put together a great list of options for outdoor cat enclosures that will keep wildlife safe from cats, and cats safe from predators, cars and disease, while still allowing your feline friends access to fresh air and sunshine.



Indigo Bunting – attacked by cat

Enclosures range from the simple to the sublime. They can be furnished with old tree stumps and perches for climbing and scratching opportunities; tarps to provide shade and protection from the elements; even enclosed ladders for safe access to and from the house. A variety of pre-made pens, runs, and do-it-yourself kits are available. If you're a cat owner or know someone who is, take a look at these creative and useful options and see if there's a set-up that works for you and your cat.

- Habitat Haven. www.habitahaven.com. Commercial kits for indoor and outdoor cat runs and enclosures.
- My Pet Enclosures. www.mypetenclosures.com/ Custom and DIY kits for indoor and outdoor cat enclosures.
- C & D Pet Products. www.cdpets.com. Commercial kits and diagrams for enclosures available in various sizes and prices. Also offers kitten enclosures.
- Safe Cat Outdoor Enclosure. www.just4cats.com. Detailed drawings and descriptions to create custom outdoor enclosures for cats and other small animals.
- Kitty Walk System, Inc. www.kittywalksystems.com. Various commercial enclosures for cats and other small animals. Most enclosures are preassembled, portable.
- SunCATcher Enclosures. www.cagesbydesign.com. Free-standing outdoor cat enclosures for yard or patio.
- CatsOnDeck. www.catsondeck.com. Modular indoor/outdoor cat enclosures. Expandable and portable for RV use.
- Wild Whiskers. www.wildwhiskers.com. Portable, lightweight, non-permanent cat enclosures.

Meet our partner... The Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee

Have you heard that Ziggy's Tree has received a \$4,000 grant from The Animal Welfare Fund of The Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee? These funds will be used to support our wildlife rehabilitation program, and will directly help us to provide nutritional food, appropriate caging and medical care for our wild patients with the goal of returning them to their natural habitats.

The Community Foundation awarded more than \$1.98 million in grants to 328 nonprofit organizations as part of the 2016 annual discretionary grantmaking.

"We are excited to receive this support from the Community Foundation as we continue to provide care for more native wildlife every year" said Board President and Mammal Specialist Angela Hensley.

The Community Foundation awards discretionary grants annually from its unrestricted and field-of-interest funds through an open application process to Middle Tennessee nonprofit organizations addressing community needs and benefiting the well-being of citizens through valuable programs and innovative services. The Foundation connects generosity with need in order to build a stronger community for the future. To learn more, please visit www.CFMT.org.



Griffin Polesel Eagle Scout Project

This past fall, we were honored to be chosen as Griffin Polesel's Eagle Scout Project. He organized a work day at our mammal facility near Lascassas and constructed an additional 30 foot mammal cage, used primarily for pre-release conditioning for the large number of Eastern Gray Squirrels we admit each year. And it could not have come at a more opportune time, as our fall squirrel season was unusually heavy. In fact, we overwintered 64 squirrels, as we cannot release them during winter months when there is no tree cover for them.

Griffin's work crew included Boy Scouts Caleb Heath, Ryan Heath, Liam Hodge, Chandler Little, Joshua Naugle and Michael Vogt. The Scouts were assisted by adults Mike Polesel, Brad Polesel, Clint Polesel, Suzanne Belleter, Bill Heath, Todd Naugle, Joyce Wheaton, and Michael Wheaton.

The project was sponsored by Home Depot, Cambridge Builders, Southern States Electric Company, and Griffin's grandparents Julie and Charles Adams and Elaine Moody.



Eastern Gray Squirrel

THE LATEST HAPPENINGS

2017 has started off with a bang for us. We have been admitting orphaned squirrels since early February along with a record number of opossums. We currently have over 200 mammals in care, including squirrels, opossums, groundhogs and chipmunks.

One of our more interesting mammal cases was an injured adult female Virginia Opossum. She had been hit by a car and was carrying a pouch full of newborn babies. The babies continued to nurse and grow while Mama was recovering from her injuries – yes, even in the wildlife world, Mom never gets a break! She has now made a full recovery and will be released with her youngsters in the near future.

Our baby bird season has started as well. We are the only facility in middle Tennessee set up to care for native species songbirds from young hatchlings through release. We've taken in birds from Clarksville to Chattanooga and all points in between. Our most common intakes at this time are House Finches, Carolina Wrens and American Robins, but we will take in over 40 different species of songbirds by the end of the year.

We were notified earlier this year that we received a \$1000 grant from The Daily News Journal of Murfreesboro for our education program. We are in the process of building a cage for a non-releasable bird of prey as well as an enclosure for a non-releasable Southern Flying Squirrel. We plan to start presenting programs with our Wildlife Ambassadors this fall.

Our wildlife rehabilitation work has been featured in articles in the Tullahoma News and The Herald Chronicle (Winchester). We also appeared on "Grassroots", a half hour interview program on Tullahoma Channel 6.

WISH LIST

- Gift cards (grocery store, Lowe's, Home Depot, Tractor Supply)
- Dried Bloodworms
- High quality dry cat food
- Baby Food (fruit – apples, bananas, blueberries)
- Canned or frozen mixed vegetables
- LCD Projector
- Heating Pads (without automatic shut-off)
- Nuts (pecans, walnuts, acorns)
- Fresh Vegetables (broccoli, carrots, kale, sweet potatoes, zucchini)
- Paper Towels
- Facial Tissues
- Toilet Paper
- Unscented laundry detergent
- 24, 36 or 48 inch Bungee cords

Contact us at 615-631-2205 or 931-393-4835 to arrange to drop off any of the above items.



Northern Mockingbird

For assistance with orphaned or injured mammals or general questions about mammals, call or text Angela at 615-631-2205.

For assistance with orphaned or injured birds or general questions about birds, call LouAnn at 931-393-4835 or 931-841-9781.

Looking for a project for your scout troop, church, school or civic group? We'd love to have more squirrel nest boxes, and could also use small bluebird or woodpecker boxes to use with our young cavity nesting birds. Contact us for more information.

KROGER COMMUNITY REWARDS

Thanks to everyone who has signed up to support us through the Kroger Community Rewards program. We've received our first check for 2017 in the amount of \$151.41!

For privacy reasons, Kroger does not provide names of those who have signed up to support us. So even though we can't thank you personally, please know that we are extremely grateful for your support.

Not registered?. Just go on-line to www.kroger.com/community_rewards, and enroll your rewards card, selecting Ziggy's Tree as your charity. You still get gas points and discounts – and Kroger donates money to us!

Don't have an e-mail address or computer access? You can still sign up. Just call 1(800) KROGERS, OPTION 3 or 1(800)576-4377, OPTION 3.

And please ask your friends and family to enroll and support us!



SUPPORT ZIGGY'S TREE

- Become a member – just complete the application on the back of this newsletter, or visit our website to download and print an application.
- Give a gift membership to a friend!
- Purchase items from our wish list.
- Donate newspapers (we use those to line cages and cover the tables under the cages)
- Contact us about volunteer opportunities, such as transport, animal releases, administrative/office work, fundraising, board membership or contributing to our newsletter
- Like us on Facebook and stay updated on releases, admissions and other news.
- Invite us to speak to your church or civic group – we love to tell people about the work we do!

Check our website at www.ziggystree.org for other ways you can support us!



Great Blue Heron

THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS SUPPORTERS!

ADVOCATE

Joy Chrisman

SUSTAINING

Charles Wharton
Trudy Guthrie
Gina and Bingham Bragg

SUPPORTING

Winchester Family Dentistry
Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Murfreesboro
Patty Marvel for Olivia West
Banjo Baby Squirrel Fund
Marcia Medford
Rebecca Brawner

FAMILY

Sara Padgett * Robert & Jackie Taylor * George Gifford
Deborah Bomar * Jennifer Swanson
Thomas & Patricia Adams

INDIVIDUAL

Emily St. Amant * Judy Stone * Mike Blackburn
Robin Jones * Regina Watts * Lee Morris
Melissa Schapiro

VETERINARIANS

Pet Medical Center

IN-KIND & CASH DONATIONS

Banjo Baby Squirrel Fund * Janet Matthews
Wildlife Resources & Education Network
Darlene Goodin * Companions Forever * Conne Bellet
Danielle Herbig * Brooke West * Anonymous
Vanessa Laurin * Sandy Hosse * Sherry Anderson

VOLUNTEERS

Animal Care: Sami Green, Valerie Bjorn, Sherry Teas,
J.T. Cuttrel, Angela Hensley, LouAnn Partington

2016 RELEASES

AUGUST

10 Virginia Opossums
13 Eastern Cottontails

SEPTEMBER

8 Eastern Cottontails
1 Red-bellied Woodpecker
8 American Robins
2 House Finches
2 Northern Mockingbirds

OCTOBER

3 Virginia Opossums
20 Eastern Gray Squirrels

NOVEMBER

2 Eastern Cottontails

DECEMBER

2 Eastern Screech Owls
1 Barred Owl
1 Turkey Vulture
1 Great Horned Owl

2017 RELEASES

FEBRUARY

28 Eastern Gray Squirrels
8 Eastern Cottontails
1 Great Horned Owl

MARCH

14 Eastern Gray Squirrels
1 Northern Mockingbird
1 Northern Cardinal

Ziggy's Tree Wildlife Rehabilitation Center
92 Maple Ave.
Tullahoma, TN 37388



NOTICE: YOUR MAILING LABEL CONTAINS YOUR MEMBERSHIP EXPIRATION DATE.

To avoid any interruption with delivering your newsletter, we ask that you renew at least one month before the date shown. Use the Membership Form provided below.

PLEASE RENEW, STAY INFORMED, WE NEED YOU!!!

YES, I WANT TO SUPPORT ZIGGY'S TREE, I AM ...

- A NEW MEMBER**
 RENEWING MY MEMBERSHIP

Memberships are for one year
Gift Memberships are also available.

Please Mail This Form To:

**Ziggy's Tree WRC
92 Maple Ave.
Tullahoma, TN 37388**

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY.

___ Individual	\$25.00
___ Family	\$40.00
___ Supporting	\$100.00
___ Sustaining	\$250.00
___ Advocate	\$500.00
___ Wildlife Champion	\$1000.00

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____
Home Phone (____) _____ Zip _____ -- _____
Work Phone (____) _____
e-mail _____

I would like to receive my newsletter by email.

I am interested in volunteering in the following areas:

- ___ Environmental Education
___ Wildlife Rehabilitation
___ Fundraising

Checks should be made payable to Ziggy's Tree WRC.

Not sure what to get that special someone for birthdays, anniversaries or just because? Consider giving them a one year membership to Ziggy's Tree!

Members receive our newsletter.

Ziggy's Tree strives to be environmentally conscious. If you would prefer to receive an electronic copy of our newsletter, please check the box above or e-mail ziggystreewildlife@gmail.com to be placed on our mailing list.