
TALES FROM THE TREE

The Quarterly Newsletter of Ziggy's Tree Wildlife Rehabilitation Center



Website: www.ziggystree.org

E-mail: ziggystreewildlife@gmail.com

WORKING TOGETHER FOR WILDLIFE

We often say that wildlife wins when we all work together.

Sometimes it is as simple as contacting one of the other local small mammal or songbird specialists when we receive a single young animal. Most wildlife in their natural environment are raised as part of a family group. By combining the youngsters with conspecifics, either through transfer to another facility or accepting the animal into our care, the young wildlife benefits.

At other times, we may receive an animal for which we cannot provide appropriate long-term care. In this case we can reach out to other rehabilitation facilities to determine if they can provide the best ongoing care for a specific animal.

We admitted two interesting cases this spring that fall under this last category. In both of these cases, we were able to provide medical and supportive care until transfer to a more appropriate facility was available.

A Bonaparte's Gull (*Larus philadelphia*) was found on the runway at the Tullahoma Regional Airport, weak and unable to stand on April 7. The intake examination revealed that he was severely emaciated, but there was no evidence of fractures. We scheduled an appointment with our consulting veterinarian, Pet Medical Center. X-rays confirmed that there were no fractures and he tested negative for any intestinal parasites. He was prescribed daily swim therapy which allowed him to exercise his legs and keep his feathers clean. He continued to show improvement and after three weeks was moved to one of our pre-release cages with a kiddie pool to allow him more room to exercise,

Bonaparte's Gulls are winter residents in Tennessee. They spend their summers on their breeding grounds in Canada. As the gull continued to improve, we knew we did not have adequate space to allow him room to recuperate while waiting for this species to return this fall and winter.

There are very few federally permitted wildlife rehabilitators in Tennessee, and none that are set up to care for a gull that needs a large space with a pool. Thanks to contacts we had made over the years at state and national conferences, we were referred to Lake Erie Nature and Science Center in Bay Village, Ohio. In addition to wildlife and nature education programs, they also have a wildlife rehabilitation area with caging specific to birds that live on the water. The gull was transferred to their care on May 23.



Bonaparte's Gull

We are happy to report that the gull has been progressing nicely and will be scheduled for release soon. There are reports of a small flock of Bonaparte's Gulls on Lake Erie. Our gull will join that flock.

On May 25 we received a call from one of the local game wardens. An adult Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) was found grounded in the Clifftops area of Monteagle. As the nearest federally permitted rehabilitator, we were asked to temporarily house him until transport could be arranged to the American Eagle Foundation in Pigeon Forge, TN.



Bald Eagle

Our initial examination revealed that while the bird was thin, he did not have any evidence of fractures. At the request of the staff at AEF, we arranged to transport the eagle to the University of Tennessee in Knoxville. The veterinary staff there completed x-rays and drew blood samples to check overall condition as well as lead or zinc toxicity.

The good news for the eagle was that there were no fractures and his bloodwork was negative for lead poisoning. We suspect he had sustained soft tissue injuries as a result of a collision with something, and as a result was unable to hunt.

The staff at AEF reports that he is doing well. He was treated for internal parasites and is molting, so he will have an extended stay at their facility.

For more information on Lake Erie Nature and Science Center, visit their website at www.lensc.org. For more information on the American Eagle Foundation, visit their website at www.eagles.org.

HERE'S WHAT WE'VE BEEN UP TO

It's been a busy first half of the year for us! We've already passed the 500 mark on intakes.

We started off with a bang in February and March with the intake of over 40 neonate Eastern Gray Squirrels. We are one of the few facilities in middle Tennessee that can handle the intense feeding schedule of these eyes closed babies. While we were still admitting squirrels, baby season started for Virginia Opossums and Eastern Cottontails as well. We admitted 63 squirrels, 71 opossums and 82 cottontails this spring, along with a handful of mice and groundhogs.

Our mammal team didn't get much of a break this year – we've already started admitting the second round of opossums and squirrels. And of course, the cottontails have been coming in steadily all spring and summer as well.

Our baby bird season started in mid-April. Our heaviest intake months for young songbirds is May and June. We've just passed 200 baby bird intakes. While we admit primarily hatchling and nestling songbirds, we've also admitted nearly 50 injured adult birds this year as well.

Our phones stay busy with calls about potentially orphaned wildlife. We've worked diligently to assure that the animals we admit truly do need our care. We love to educate our callers on the natural history of the animals they have called about – especially when that means that they young animals can stay in their natural environment with their real parents. And it's a happy outcome for the caller as well – they get to see nature in action in their own backyard!

We've also been providing photographs of some of our hatchling and nestling songbirds to staff at Tufts University. They are developing a website to assist with identification of hatchlings and nestlings. They were pleased to receive this picture of one of our more unusual intakes this year – a 2 day old Common Nighthawk.



THE BIG PAYBACK

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.

For assistance with injured turtles, contact Rachel at 615-587-2977.

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.

"Nature always wears the colors of the spirit." - Ralph Waldo Emerson

"Not to hurt our humble brethren is our first duty to them, but to stop there is not enough. We have a higher mission - to be of service to them whenever they require it." - Francis of Assisi

"Life is as dear to a mute creature as it is to man. Just as one wants happiness and fears pain, just as one wants to live and not die, so do other creatures." - Dalai Lama

"Climb the mountains and get their good tidings. Nature's peace will flow into you as sunshine flows into trees." - John Muir

Thanks to everyone who supported us for the Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee's The Big Payback, a one day on-line giving program that benefits many non-profits in our area. We raised \$1,350 this year!

The Big Payback Donors

Anne Ray
Laura McCall
Susan Gruber
Hazel Fannin
Kelly Armes
Karen Yasui
Donna Jennings
Kimberly Dutzek
Debbie Sykes
Amy York
Holly Gilbert
Gracie Vandiver
Kathryn Green
April Powell
Leslie Fowler
Andrea McCarrick
John Ham
Cynthia Wennemark
Ann Gildemeister
Marcia Medford
Valerie Bjorn
Amy Shever
Angela Hensley
Amanda Miranda
LouAnn Partington
Philippa Holloway
Andra Hedrick
Anonymous
Delek Fund for Hope
Eskind Family Foundation

And as always, a big THANK YOU to the Community Foundation for coordinating this event. They are so supportive of the non-profit world, and have been especially kind to us at Ziggy's Tree through their discretionary grant fund for the past several years.

KROGER COMMUNITY REWARDS

Thanks to our 51 participating families in the Kroger Community Rewards program, we've received our second quarterly check for \$290.85. The funds we receive annually through this program are now covering approximately one month of our operating costs.

If you shop at Kroger and would like to support us through this program, 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.

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.

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!

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 Fruit and Vegetables (broccoli, carrots, kale, sweet potatoes, zucchini, apples, blueberries, strawberries)
- 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.

**THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS
SUPPORTERS!**

WILDLIFE CHAMPION

The Animal Welfare Fund of The
Community Foundation of Middle
Tennessee

ADVOCATE

Becky Seaton

SUPPORTING

Banjo Baby Squirrel Fund
Dean and Donna Jennings
James Richards * Amy York
Amayla Knight * Debbie Bomar
Lisa Stetar * Lorraine Vogel
Julie Bryant * Crown Castle
Kristina Hurlburt * Floyd Barrett

FAMILY

Suzannah Reilly * Anonymous
Mary Ann & Larry Partington * Charlotte Avant
Linsey Bregman * Mary Dillard * Daniel Turklay
Camille Cowart * Karen Wooten * Todd Lyles
Angela Pezeshk

INDIVIDUAL

Sara Padgett * Deborah Bomar * Lynn Smith
Karen Brown * Mike Blackburn * Angela Lawson
Karen Dean * Gay Talmei * Brenda Lavieri

VETERINARIANS

Pet Medical Center
Airport Animal Clinic

IN-KIND & CASH DONATIONS

Banjo Baby Squirrel Fund * Mike Blackburn
Templeton Thompson * Valerie Hayashi
Tony Terraciano * Connie Beal * Harold Balkcom
Bell Haynes * Kelsey Horick * Lee Gitter * John Abel
Lisa Dammert * Ricky Walls

VOLUNTEERS

Sami Green, Valerie Bjorn, Sherri Pierce, Vollie Stone,
Stefan and Courtney Fudge, Angela Hensley, LouAnn
Partington, Rachel Singer

2019 RELEASES

March

1 Horned Grebe

April

1 American Goldfinch
21 Eastern Gray Squirrels
1 Mourning Dove
41 Eastern Cottontails

May

6 American Robins
23 Eastern Gray Squirrels
2 Virginia Opossums
28 Eastern Cottontails
1 Common Snapping Turtle
1 Eastern Box Turtle

June

3 American Robins
4 Northern Mockingbirds
4 Eastern Bluebirds
1 Brown-headed Cowbird
1 Brown Thrasher
1 Carolina Wren
2 Mourning Doves
14 Eastern Gray Squirrels
39 Virginia Opossums
2 Eastern Box Turtles

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/Administration

Checks should be made payable to Ziggy's Tree WRC. You can also renew/donate by credit card using our PayPal account.

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.