
TALES FROM THE TREE

The Quarterly Newsletter of Ziggy's Tree Wildlife Rehabilitation Center

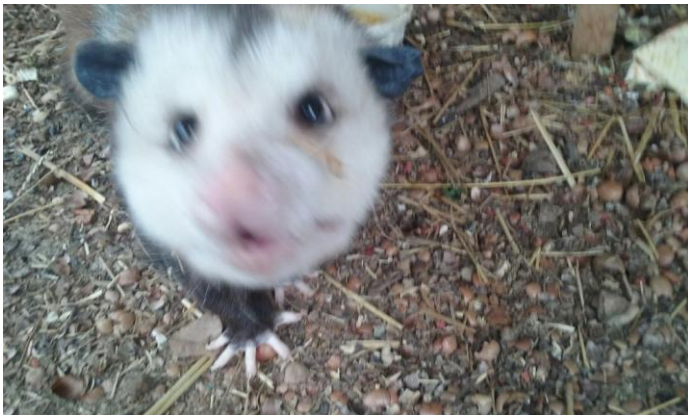


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Website: www.ziggystree.org E-mail: ziggystreewildlife@gmail.com

WELCOME HEATHER!

While our primary focus as an organization has been the rehabilitation and successful release of orphaned and injured wildlife, assisting our callers with tips on living in harmony with their wild neighbors as well as determining when and if wildlife needs help is also part of our daily routine.

We are excited to announce that our education program now includes our first non-releasable "Wildlife Ambassador" – Heather, the Virginia Opossum!



Heather was injured when she was hit by a car as a youngster. A well-meaning family rescued her, but unfortunately did not get her to a licensed wildlife rehabilitation facility. While she survived her initial injuries, she was kept as a pet by the family and became too habituated to people to be successfully released back to the wild. When the family realized that the long-term care she needed exceeded their ability to provide, as well as the fact that it is illegal to keep wildlife as pets without obtaining the proper permits in advance, we were contacted and agreed to provide her a forever home as part of our education program.

If you would like to invite Heather to a school or civic group program, please contact us by e-mail at ziggystreewildlife@gmail.com or text 615-631-2205.



We also plan to grow our education program to include a non-releasable small bird of prey, such as an American Kestrel or Eastern Screech Owl. We have secured some funding for this project, and are looking for cage building assistance. If you have construction skills or know an Eagle Scout that is looking for a project, please contact us via e-mail or by phone at 931-393-4835 or 931-841-9781 (text).

We are looking forward to continuing to expand our wildlife rehabilitation and conservation education programs. We believe we can best serve our wild neighbors through sharing their stories and natural history information. We all benefit by learning to share this planet we all call home.

Fun Opossum Facts

- North America's only marsupial mammal. The female carries and nurses her young in her pouch (marsupium) until the young are 2 to 3 months old and then carries them on her back for another 1 or 2 months when she is out foraging. The babies are born the size of a bumblebee and must crawl into her pouch to survive
- At maturity they are approximately the size of a house cat. They have gray to black fur with black eyes, pink nose, feet and tail. Some opossums are almost white. The fur looks coarse but is actually quite soft.
- They are quite adaptable. They are able to live wherever there is food, water and shelter. They are very agile in trees, able to climb and use the prehensile tail to help when climbing. They are not able to hang by their tail however.
- They have 50 teeth (more than any other North American mammal) which they will show, along with hissing and growling, when they are frightened. They are generally very gentle and passive. They avoid confrontations and just want to be left alone.
- The opossum's diet consists of insects, snails, berries, rotting fruit, grass, leaves and of course, carrion. They are nature's sanitation department! They are able to consume fur, bones, feathers, tissue, etc. They will eat everything. They love ticks and snakes! They are immune to snakebite venom.
- They are generally nocturnal, solitary animals. When they are attacked or frightened, they may fall into an involuntary shock-like state "playing possum".
- When "playing possum" they will mimic the appearance and smell of a dead animal. The lips are drawn back, teeth are bared, saliva foams around the mouth and foul-smelling fluid is secreted from their anal glands. They recover sometimes within minutes or sometimes hours.
- They are also one of the shortest lived mammals, typically living only 2 to 4 years. They are killed most often by motor vehicles, dogs, cats, owls and other larger wildlife.
- They have extremely poor eyesight which may explain why they are often killed when crossing the road.
- They are nomads (having no territory), following their nose to the next meal. Sometimes opossums will take shelter in abandoned burrows, hollow logs, woodpiles, attics and other man-made structures.
- Due to their low body temperature, it is almost impossible for them to get rabies.

THE LATEST HAPPENINGS

This has been a busy year for us. We have admitted over 1000 small mammals and birds – and, in what was a first for us, a young Snapping Turtle. The turtle had sustained a very minor shell injury, and was able to be released the next day back to his territory.

We are excited that we have released over 800 of our wildlife patients back to their free and wild lives! We network with other rehabilitators in Tennessee and across the United States and Canada to stay current on best practices in wildlife rehabilitation. We work to continue to improve our success rates, both through successful rehabilitation and release as well as techniques for reuniting babies with their parents whenever possible.

As we do nearly every year, we still have 50 squirrels in care. We were still receiving babies in October with their eyes closed, meaning they were younger than 4 weeks old. If the weather this winter stays mild, we will provide a supported release for these fur kids as soon as they are old enough to go. If you noticed on our wish list, we can still use a variety of nuts, as well as gift cards so we can purchase fresh produce for these growing youngsters.

We are currently working with our state permitting agency, Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency, to assist in training additional rehabilitators in the area. If you are interested in becoming a wildlife rehabilitator, please contact us by e-mail at ziggystreewildlife@gmail.org or call 931-931-4835. The TWRA website also has information on the basic requirements for obtaining a wildlife rehabilitation permit (www.tn.gov/twra/law-enforcement#rehabilitators).

A big **THANK YOU** to our friend Nora Beck for dropping off these tubs of walnuts. The squirrels are having a great time honing their nut-cracking skills/1



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

Have you heard that Ziggy's Tree has received a \$4,000 grant from the Patricia & Edward J. McGavock Humane Treatment of Animals 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 food, housing and medical care for the orphaned and injured native Tennessee wildlife entrusted to our care.

The Community Foundation awarded more than \$2 million in grants to 346 nonprofit organizations as part of the 2017 annual discretionary grantmaking.

Ziggy's Tree is an all-volunteer organization, so all funds received through individual and corporate support, as well as this grant, go directly to the care of our furred and feathered patients. The need for our services continues to grow. We are currently the only middle Tennessee organization specializing in the care of newborn small mammals and songbirds.

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.



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.



Black-billed Cuckoo – our last baby bird for the year

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 now received 4 disbursements from Kroger for a total of \$761.60 so far this year!

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!

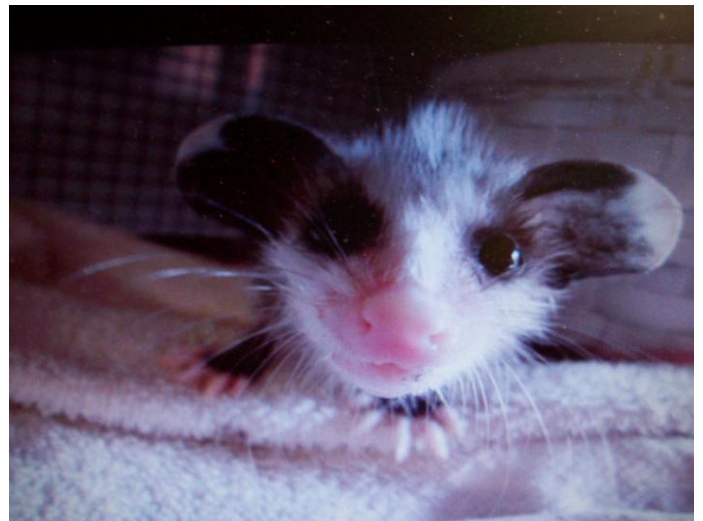
Don't have an e-mail address or computer access? You can still sign up. Just call 1(800) KROGERS, OPTION 3 or 1(800)576-4377, OPTION 3.

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!

THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS SUPPORTERS!

WILDLIFE CHAMPION

Patricia & Edward J. McGavock Humane
Treatment of Animals Fund of The Community
Foundation of Middle Tennessee

ADVOCATE

Charles Wharton

SUSTAINING

Winchester Family Dentistry
Lynn Smith
The Bucket Foundation

SUPPORTING

Deborah Bomar
Bob & Star Eaker
Banjo Baby Squirrel Fund
Linda Foster
Anne Kenny

FAMILY

Gina Cleek * Jackie Taylor * Ashlee & James Judkins

INDIVIDUAL

Amanda Holloway * Sandy Phillips * Karen Brown
Adam Chandler * Sara Padgett

VETERINARIANS

Pet Medical Center

IN-KIND & CASH DONATIONS

Emily Blue * Nancy Lewis * Alan Christensen
WREN * Nora Beck

VOLUNTEERS

Animal Care: Sami Green, Valerie Bjorn, Sherri Pierce,
Sherry Teas, Brenan Bailey, Tahira Mohyuddin, Angela
Hensley, LouAnn Partington

2017 RELEASES

JULY

6 Eastern Bluebirds
2 Mourning Doves
3 Northern Rough-winged Swallows
1 Barn Swallow
14 American Robins
16 Wood Ducks
8 Mallards
11 Carolina Wrens
1 Brown-headed Cowbird
3 Brown Thrashers
5 Northern Mockingbirds
1 House Finch
5 Chimney Swifts
1 Southern Flying Squirrel
2 Groundhogs
14 Eastern Gray Squirrels
9 Eastern Cottontails
15 Virginia Opossums

AUGUST

1 Tree Swallow
1 Barn Swallow
4 Eastern Bluebirds
4 Northern Mockingbirds
2 Orchard Orioles
1 House Sparrow
5 Chimney Swifts
9 Carolina Wrens
5 American Robins
69 Virginia Opossums
20 Eastern Cottontails

SEPTEMBER

4 Carolina Wrens
2 Northern Cardinals
1 Brown Thrasher
2 Ruby-throated Hummingbirds
1 Indigo Bunting
1 Northern Mockingbird
1 American Robin
25 Virginia Opossums
4 Eastern Cottontails
2 Eastern Gray Squirrels

OCTOBER

1 Brown Thrasher
1 Carolina Wren
16 Eastern Gray Squirrels

NOVEMBER

1 Mourning Dove
11 Eastern Gray Squirrels

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.