
TALES FROM THE TREE

The Quarterly Newsletter of Ziggy's Tree Wildlife Rehabilitation Center



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SHARING OUR WORLD WITH WILDLIFE

Part of the mission of Ziggy's Tree is providing information on how to live more harmoniously with the wildlife in our backyards. Whether it is learning how and when to intervene with potentially orphaned or injured wildlife, humanely evicting unwanted visitors or creating a better habitat for our wild neighbors we hope that the information we provide can help us all to be better caretakers of our wild world.



Red-bellied Woodpecker

First, Do No Harm

Avoid bug zappers! Research has shown that bug zappers kill millions of insects that are beneficial to us and actually kill very few mosquitoes! Instead of zappers, use natural repellents and citronella candles.

Limit your use of pesticides and grass killers. Having a golf course style of landscape eliminates the diversity needed for wildlife and insects, such as bees. We all need our bees!

Before mowing, walk your yard looking for turtles, cottontail nests and fledgling birds. You can safely contain the turtle or bird while mowing, then place them back where you found them. If you find a cottontail nest, you can mark the area and avoid mowing there. We also encourage you to mow on the highest setting to avoid accidentally injuring your wild neighbors.

Keep cats inside! The natural behavior of our beloved pet cats are PREDATORY. They are mini lions and tigers. No matter how well-fed Fluffy is, he is a predator at heart. When allowed to roam freely in your backyard, he will hunt. It is a situation where no one wins. Not only are free-roaming cats responsible for millions of wildlife kills annually, but far too many cats suffer horrible deaths due to larger predators, poisoning and vehicle strikes. In case you're thinking about "warning" the birds by attaching a bell to your cat's collar, don't bother: Birds are hard-wired by evolution to flee loud, startling noises and cracking branches, not jingling pieces of metal. The best way to protect our beloved felines and your wild neighbors is to keep cats inside or create a backyard Catio. A screened in enclosure allows them both the enjoyment of being outside, watching the wildlife, and keeping them safe and sound from other predators! There are literally thousands of plans that you can Google or Pinterest for ideas.

While there are huge numbers of bird lovers who routinely feed our feathered friends, you may not know how important it is to keep those feeders clean. Feeders draw a wide range of species to one spot, making them a potential hothouse for disease. It is necessary to clean those feeders to prevent transmitting disease. Feeders should be emptied and cleaned once or twice a month with a 10% bleach solution and allowed to air dry.

Avoid sticky traps! They are a cruel and indiscriminate killer. Too many times, we are called because a bird, small mammal, or reptile has been caught. Whenever this happens, the finder may try to remove the animal which causes the animal more pain. Instead of trying to remove the animal yourself, sprinkle cornmeal or flour on the trap to prevent further sticking, place the animal in a box in a dark quiet place and contact your closest rehabilitator for further instructions. Removing the sticky substance and bathing the animal should only be attempted by a trained wildlife rehabilitator.

Creating Habitats

Create a brush pile to give shelter to our small animals as well as beneficial insects and amphibians. Make a small, secluded hiding space by piling sticks and shrub trimmings together in an out-of-the-way place. This will give birds and small mammals a place to hid from larger predators and gives shelter in rainstorms.



Eastern Box Turtle

Leave the leaves! Many insects that our feathered friends rely on for food for their growing young can be found in leaf litter. If you do need to rake or mow to keep the human neighbors happy, add the leaves to the brush pile!



Brown Thrasher

Attract toads and frogs to your garden. They are wonderful insect predators! Tilt a small flowerpot to make a small "cave". Make sure this shelter is well-shaded and secluded as amphibians are largely nocturnal and require moisture to live. They eat a wide variety of common garden insect pests.

Create a water source for butterflies, dragonflies, birds, and other small creatures. You only need a small, shallow dish (or flower pot drainage bottom). This shallow dish will allow insects, birds and other small animals a safe place to grab a drink. Because these dishes are small and shallow, they are easy to keep clean and filled with drinking water.

Put up birdhouses and a bat house while you're at it. Bats are fantastic insect predators! They consume hundreds of insects each night.

Humane Eviction of Unwanted Wildlife Guests

We know that there are some wild neighbors you'd like to have living just a little farther away. But please do not trap and relocate animals! By doing so, you have created a "For Rent" sign. Removing one only invites new inhabitants.

Relocating animals puts them at high risk of death. Most animals and birds have territories, so by putting someone "new" in that territory, it upsets the whole ecosystem. They now have to fight for survival. It also opens the door for spread of disease.

Wildlife rehabbers get numerous calls on orphaned babies because a well-meaning person has "trapped and relocated" an animal, and a few days later learn that they now have babies that are orphaned and starving. There are a number of humane ways to encourage wildlife to move out of an area without upsetting their natural behaviors.



Striped Skunks

In many cases, loud noises and bright lights will encourage your wild neighbors that your house is not their home. You should also avoid leaving any kind of pet food outside as that is just putting out the welcome mat – after all, who doesn't want a free dinner? It's also a good idea to clean up around your bird feeders on a regular basis. Seed on the ground can attract some larger mammals to your yard.

Once you are sure that your wildlife neighbors have moved out, check your house for entry points and secure them. Wildlife living under your house is an indication that you have loose vent screens or cracks in the foundation that need to be repaired. You can thank your wild guests for helping you address these issues!

THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS SUPPORTERS!

(January 2023 through April 2023)

WILDLIFE CHAMPION

Deborah Trimble

Anonymous

ADVOCATE

Banjo Baby Squirrel Fund & Cheryl Schur

Patricia Perkins

SUSTAINING

Sharon Butcher * Karen Dean

Julie Wotruba * Kevin Eastman Studios

Lorena Romero Alberto * Charles Woodall

Robin Mitchell

SUPPORTING

Amy York * Larry Partington * Debbie Bomar *

Amy McNerney * Bob & Star Eaker

Charles Parish * Andrew Arn

Hamilton Family * Ruth Ann Henry

Brady Palmer * Rhonda & Robert Ellis

Gabby Rajapaksa * Annette Evers

Kristin Wilhelm

FAMILY

Gracie & Jerry Vandiver * James Gilmore * Jack Enoch

Mike Blackburn * Constance Chavarria

Malisa Harrington * Paula Lin

INDIVIDUAL

Donna Edwards * Cynthia Wennemark

Livesay Cunningham * Sydney Pribic

VETERINARIANS

Pet Medical Center

Haley Veterinary Clinic

IN-KIND & CASH DONATIONS

Nela Drbohlavova * Xavier Johnson

Tullahoma Live Bait Shop * Rachela Enesser

Joanne Masco * Steve Tatum * Lori Ireton

MATCHING DONATIONS

Verizon

2023 RELEASES

January

1 White-throated Sparrow

March

1 Red-bellied Woodpecker

1 House Finch

1 Eastern Bluebird

1 Carolina Wren

15 Southern Flying Squirrels

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

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

KROGER COMMUNITY REWARDS

Thanks to our 87 participating families in the Kroger Community Rewards program, we have received \$366.99 for our first quarter disbursement for 2023. The funds we receive annually through this program are 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!

Ziggy's Tree Wildlife Rehabilitation Center
PO Box 713
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
PO Box 713
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 _____
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- I would like to receive my newsletter by email.

I am interested in volunteering in the following areas:

- ___ Wildlife Rehabilitation
___ Fundraising/Administration

Checks should be made payable to Ziggy's Tree WRC. You can also renew/donate by credit card at [Paypal.me/ziggystree](https://www.paypal.com/merchot/cgi-bin/?cmd=_express-checkout&context=express).

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.