



Wild & Free

Giving Wildlife a Second Chance.....

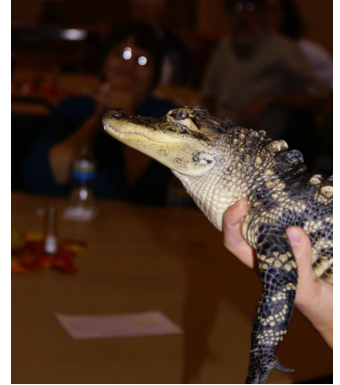
WOWS Photos



Beth Nagoda presenting, Punky & JB the Black-footed Penguins



Some of the audience enjoying the show!



Stubby, an American Alligator



Jordan, a Three Banded Armadillo - open and, on the right, closed!



JuJu the Two-Toed Sloth



Shortie an American Flamingo

Our annual Walk on the Wild Side, held last October, was a big success! It was obvious that everyone enjoyed both the food and the great program put on by the Promotions Department of the Columbus Zoo.

We look forward to October 17th when we will be doing it again. Mark down the date and plan on joining us!



Tiffany Wilt



~ A Message from the Director

A big thanks to all who have submitted their email addresses and elected to receive this newsletter with crisp clear print and color photos and graphics! Not only do they get better quality (which they can print out in color if they want a hard copy) but they save our organization quite a few dollars and, of course, save paper! So far, about 20% of our 600+ readers are receiving the newsletter via email. We'd love to have more of you receive our publication this way!

Our **Walk on the Wild Side**, held at St. Joseph's Activity Hall in Galion in October, was a great success! We had good attendance and cleared about \$2500 on admissions and the Silent Auction. The Promotion Department from the Columbus Zoo presented a wonderfully entertaining program as they always do! The two young women in charge of the program complemented each other nicely and made a good team - Tiffany Wilt was a great speaker and Beth Nagoda did well handling the animals and mingling with the audience. This year our event will be at the same place on October 17th. If you've never attended, please plan on doing so this year.... you have plenty of advance notice! And for those of you who always attend, we look forward to seeing you again!

Our **End of the Year Appeal** far exceeded our expectations thanks to a very surprising gift of \$4000 from one donor. We've ended up with a total of \$7950 and couldn't be more pleased. By the end of each rehabilitation season our bank account is fairly low and we count on Walk on the Wild Side, the End of the Year Appeal and our **Membership Drive & Renewal** (going on right now!) to beef up our funds so that we are prepared to care for the yet-to-be-born arrivals in the spring. By the time we get all the returns on our membership renewals we will be prepared for the coming year's wildlife care expenses.

Wildlife Haven 3659 S.R. 598 Crestline OH 44827 **Mission Statement**

To promote positive attitudes & behaviors towards wildlife and foster awareness, appreciation and interest in Ohio's wildlife through rehabilitation, education and stewardship.

Wildlife Haven was founded in 1990. Our main focus is on the care of injured, orphaned & displaced wildlife. Wildlife Haven gives professional care to native birds and animals and gives them a second chance at life in the natural world..

*Jane Schnelker, Exec. Director
Chuck Cotsmire, Trustee
Dianne McMahon, Trustee
John Shuler, DVM, Trustee
Deb Landin, Trustee
Shannon Henize, Trustee
Boyd Epperson, DVM, Advisor
Juanita Carter, Advisor
James Pry, Atty., Advisor
Mike Hocker, Advisor*

Here's another date to mark on your calendars.... **June 20th** will be the date of this year's **Open House**. This is always an event that people enjoy - an opportunity to tour our public area and a few behind-the-scenes spots. You can check out our Visitor Center, sit in the shade and enjoy a hot dog or bratwurst and a cold drink and buy a few raffle tickets for some nice items. A nice relaxing way to show your support of our work!

I want to thank all of you who help Wildlife Haven through your donations and/or attendance at our events. You are SO appreciated! Our ability to help wildlife and all the people who call with questions would be greatly limited without your help.

We'll be presenting a program on Saturday, March 28th at 2pm at Lowe-Volk Park. It's focus is on the history of wildlife in Ohio from settlement through today. It's a very informative and interesting presentation (if I do say so myself!) and we'd love to see you out there!

We're giving you two cartoons this issue - I couldn't decide on one and since we are midway through winter and moving towards spring I thought they were both appropriate!

~ Jane

Make a Gift to Wildlife !

How would you like to give yourself the good feeling of knowing you are helping to make a difference? We're offering our friends and supporters the opportunity to share in helping wildlife by **becoming a member of Wildlife Haven**. Member's support will provide animals in our care with the necessary food, medical care and housing. **The biggest benefit given to members is the knowledge that they are a part of Wildlife Haven and are actively doing something to help the environment on a personal and local level.** Wildlife Haven Annual Memberships run January through December. Simply circle a category, clip out this form and slip it and your dues into the mail to Wildlife Haven, 3659 St. Rt. 598, Crestline, OH 44827-9729!

Wildlife Haven Annual Membership

Name: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

I would like to join in the following membership category: (Circle one)

Regular ~ \$25

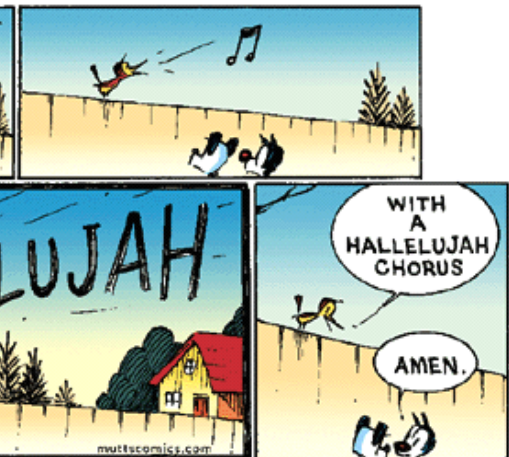
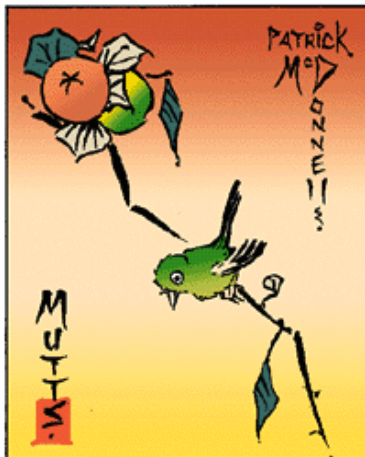
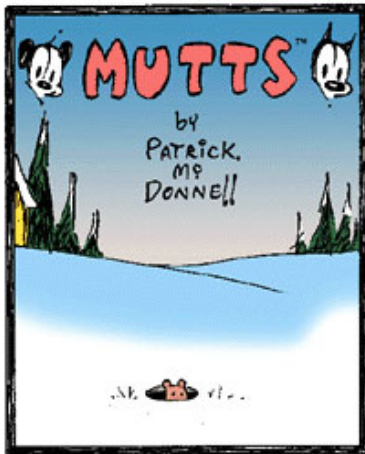
Family ~ \$40

Student/Senior ~ \$15

Sustaining ~ \$100

Patron ~ \$250

Benefactor ~ \$500





Wildlife Profile ~ Turkey Vulture



Victor, Wildlife Haven's 'Beautiful Boy'

The turkey vulture is a large black bird with a six-foot wingspan. All the descriptions call them black but if you see them in the sunlight you will notice how beautiful their feathers are—full of iridescence!

At a glance, one might think they are bald. But actually, they have a lot of small feathers on their head which is an adaptation to help keep clean when sticking their heads into a dead animal. The top of the head has lots of little folds, rather accordion-like.

Most of you will never get to touch the top of a vulture's head but, believe

me, it is one of the softest things I have ever felt. The adult has a bright red head and the immature vultures have a black head. In flight this vulture can be distinguished from hawks and crows because it soars extensively, holding its wings in a broad "V."

Habitat and Habits

This bird does a great service as a scavenger or garbage collector, helping to keep the countryside free of carrion. They also have a good sense of smell, rare in the bird kingdom, which helps them locate their next meal. At night, vultures often gather in large roosts. Preferred habitat includes deciduous forests and woodlands.

Reproduction and Care of the Young

Two large white eggs, heavily marked with dark brown, are laid in a rock crevice or hollow tree and sometimes in a hidden place on the ground. There is no nesting material or lining.

Turkey Vulture

Cathartes aura

At-a-Glance

- Incubation: 38-41 days
- Clutch Size: 2 eggs
- Young Fledge: 66-88 days after hatching
- Typical Foods: carrion



Victor as a baby - the day he arrived at our place!



I'd like you to meet.....



Steffani Jijon!

I don't remember what year I first met Steffani. I believe it was at least 7 years ago that she came to us as a work-study student from Ohio State University. She was wonderful asset to Wildlife Haven and we became great friends during the years she spent here.

Today she is working for The Institute for Wildlife Studies (www.iws.org) and living on Santa Catalina Island off the coast of California near Los Angeles. Her work involves many things including daily care of both a captive bald and a captive golden eagle, monitoring bald eagle nests, keeping track of eagles through radio telemetry and incubating and hatching eagle chicks.

I think the incubating and hatching is probably her favorite part. The eagles on the island were very affected by DDT and are still recovering. Their own body weight crushes the thin-shelled eggs. Steffani and other employees rapel down cliffs, get lowered by helicopters, and climb mountainsides to access

the nests, collect the freshly laid eggs (replacing them with dummies) incubate and hatch the young eaglets and then care for them for about 7 days before placing them back in their respective nests for the parents to raise. The program has worked wonderfully, the population is doing well and last year one pair was actually able to hatch out their own eggs! It's beginning to look hopeful for the eagles to eventually be able to do the whole process themselves!

I had the opportunity to go out to Catalina and visit for 5 days this past October. I had such fun working and playing with Steffani and our days were busy with radio tracking, hiking, sight-seeing, sea kayaking and eating great food. It was such fun and I got to visit the entire island, most of which is off limits to tourists due to all the environmental work going on there.

It's wonderful to know that Steffani got her start here and credits me for her getting started in the work she loves. I consider that a fine accomplishment!

EarthShare Ohio - Environmental Workplace Giving

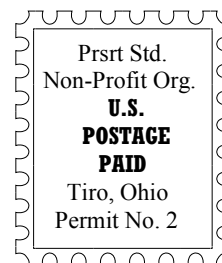
If you already support Wildlife Haven by your designated workplace giving through Earth Share of Ohio, please disregard any funding appeals you may receive from us throughout the year!

**A NEWSLETTER FROM WILDLIFE HAVEN~
CENTER FOR REHABILITATION & EDUCATION**

3659 State Route 598
Crestline OH 44827-9729

Giving Wildlife a Second Chance....

Return Service Requested



One environment.
One simple way to care for it.®

2008 Admissions at Wildlife Haven

We had approximately 500 admissions in 2008. As always, not all of them got to go back to their rightful place in the wild. Some died of their injuries, some were not found until so starved and dehydrated that we could not bring them back and some had such severe injuries that euthanasia was required. Happily, 75% of our admissions were released back into their world! The following species were in our care during 2008:

Virginia Opossum	Raccoon	Eastern Cottontail	Whitetail Deer
Woodchuck	Striped Skunk	Grey Squirrel	Fox Squirrel
Red Squirrel	Mink	Red Fox	Chipmunk
Snapping Turtle	Garter Snake	Milk Snake	Little Brown Bat
Barred Owl	Blue Jay	Canada Goose	Northern Cardinal
Cedar Waxwing	Chimney Swift	Chipping Sparrow	Pigeon
Starling	Cooper's Hawk	Common Grackle	Great Blue Heron
House Finch	American Kestrel	Killdeer	Kingfisher
Mallard	Wood Duck	Mourning Dove	Red-bellied Woodpecker
Red-tailed Hawk	Robin	Screech Owl	Red-winged Blackbird
Song Sparrow	Turkey	Turkey Vulture	
Double Crested Cormorant		White-breasted Nuthatch	

We hope that the 2009 'crop' of wildlife babies will not be showing up anytime soon, but received an email last week from a rehabilitator in Indiana who received a litter of newborn squirrels recently!