

A NEWSLETTER FROM WILDLIFE HAVEN~
CENTER FOR REHABILITATION & EDUCATION

Issue 3 - 2008

Wild & Free

Giving Wildlife a Second Chance.....

Take a Walk on the Wild Side with Wildlife Haven & The Columbus Zoo

**Saturday Night, October 25th, 2008
St. Joseph Activity Center
Corner of Liberty St. & Harding Way E. ~ Galion, Ohio**

Show your support of Ohio's wildlife and join us for a wild evening of good food and great entertainment! All proceeds will go directly towards our rehabilitation and education programs.

**6:00 p.m. ~ Hors D'oeuvre Buffet
Non-Alcoholic Cash Bar
Silent Auction
7:00 p.m. ~ A Wild Presentation by the
Columbus Zoo**

Have an up-close look at some fascinating animals. Be sure to bring your camera!

Program will be followed by close of Silent Auction

**\$25 per adult
\$12 per child (under 10)**

Please RSVP by phone, email or mail as soon as possible.
Responses **MUST** be in by October 10th.
Call Jane at 419-683-3228 or email to wildjane@columbus.rr.com

**This year's event is dedicated with love
to Betty Goodwin who will always live on in our hearts.**



~ A Message from the Director

A few months ago we began to email this newsletter as a PDF file to some of our friends and supporters - those whose email addresses we had. I have had nothing but positive feedback from this. Not only are we saving money, time and paper but the quality is wonderful. You get crisp, clear print you can enlarge as big as you want or need and beautiful color photos.

I would love to get more of you on board for the electronic copy - I am currently emailing only about 160 newsletters and still mailing out over 550. I'd love to reduce the number mailed the traditional way. Last year we had costs of \$1,146.00 for printing and non-profit postage - money far better spent on animal care! I know some of you like to hold a hard copy in your hands and read it. You can still do this, just print it out! Please take a moment to email me at wildjane@columbus.rr.com and start receiving your copy via email.

We're looking forward to this year's Walk on the Wild Side! This is our big fundraising event of the year and we hope that our regular attendees will be joined by lots of new folks eager to see the wonderful zoo program. There's always good food and some nice Silent Auction items to bid on. Please call in your reservation as soon as possible to help in our planning!

I realized the other day that even if we never actually worked hands-on with another animal that we would still be a valuable asset and resource for both wildlife and people. The scope of our work can be quite local but it also spreads far beyond the person from Crawford, Richland or Morrow County who is looking for help with that little cat-caught bunny.

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

Every week we get many phone calls and emails from people, often as many as a dozen a day. Some are nearby, and some are nowhere near our area. They find our phone number or website and call or email us for help. I expect, no, I am sure that more animals are assisted through these contacts than actually show up at our facility.

We get many calls from people who have discovered a rabbit nest in their yard and don't know what to do - many come from all over Ohio and in other states. We got a call today from a school where a rabbit nest was discovered under the step up to a piece of play equipment at recess. They learned that they could enclose the area during school hours (when the mother would not be around anyway) and leave it open the rest of the time to allow the mother access. They were quite happy with this easy solution that let the babies be raised by their mother and so was I!

We also got a call (actually 4 calls!) from a man who had accidentally trapped a skunk when he was trying for a woodchuck. I told him step by step how to get the skunk out of the trap without getting sprayed and also gave him the recipe for a skunk spray neutralizer just in case. He called later to report that everything went just fine! These are a tiny sampling of the calls we get. People want solutions to problems, a referral to a rehabilitator in their area, natural history information or they simply want to help an animal in need and we are the source they turn to! It's nice to know that I could be useful even if all I could do was answer the phone!

~ 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

Squirrels Galore!

As August reaches an end we find ourselves with 20 young squirrels in the clinic with undoubtedly a few more still to show up! These youngsters are mostly orphaned as the result of their mothers being killed in the street. Some fell out of their leaf nests and were not reclaimed and several are here due to roof work being done and mother squirrel and young removed.

Regardless of how they arrived, they all need to be cared for. This second litter of squirrels for the season will need to be wintered over - requiring lots of food until spring. We will be needing in-shell nuts, sunflower seeds, in-shell unsalted peanuts and a special squirrel chow that provides a balanced diet. All of this will, of course, cost money!

Would you care to make a special donation earmarked for the needs of these babies? Eleven of them are pictured to the right, having a snooze after lunch. Consider it a puzzle and see if you can find & count them all!



Wildlife Profile ~ Northern Cardinal

You see a bird and you think “I wonder what kind of bird that is?”. But then you see a bright red bird with a crest on its head and you know right away that it’s our state bird - the Northern Cardinal. The two pictures accompanying this article were taken at our facility and are views of cardinals that most would be unfamiliar with - nestlings and a fledgling.

Cardinals prefer a mixed habitat of woodlands, brush, and forest edges. They eat a variety of seeds that their thick, cone-shaped beak is well adapted to handling.

Cardinals do not migrate, but individuals may wander over a widespread area. As with most wildlife species, cardinals have a very short life span. Most cardinals live only one year or less; a two- or three-year-old bird is a rarity. Two or three broods of young in a year help offset the loss of older birds in the population.



In Ohio, cardinals begin nest building in April. Females construct the nest, usually in a dense bush or thick brush pile. The nest is a loosely built structure of leaves, twigs, grasses, and strips of bark. Nests are generally less than eight feet off the ground.

Females take sole responsibility for incubating the eggs. The male brings food to his mate while she incubates and he also feeds the young after

hatching as the female is often incubating another clutch of eggs. After leaving the nest, the fledglings are cared for by the male for about three weeks.

These three little cardinals were an absolute joy to raise. There was one really bad day when I was upstairs at the exam table, with a severely injured bird who could not be helped. I glanced up from my miserable task to see, at the second story window across from me, one of the little cardinals looking in at me and going through begging motions, trying to get me to feed him.

And there was also the day when we got to listen to one of them, free for over 3 weeks, practicing some of his adult songs! What a great reward for those of us who had worked with them!

Northern Cardinal *Cardinalis cardinalis*

At-a-Glance

- Mating: Monogamous
- Peak Breeding Activity: April and May; overall breeding season extends through September
- Incubation: 12-13 days
- Clutch Size: 3 or 4 eggs
- Young Fledged: In about 10 days
- Number of Broods per Year: 2 or 3
- Migration Patterns: Year-round resident
- Typical Foods: Mostly seeds, some insects



Fawn Rehabilitation



Over the last twenty years we have had the privilege of raising Whitetail deer fawns. Fawn rehabilitation needs a special permit in addition to the permits we already hold. This year Wildlife Haven is among only 10 rehabilitators in the state who are permitted to raise orphaned fawns.

We have spent a lot of time and effort to raise our fawns properly. This means a hands-off policy as soon as possible and the use of sight-barriers and stockade fence panels so they do not become accustomed to humans. No one is allowed to speak around them and feeding is generally done by the same person all the time. Our fawns have consistently been wild and wary of people upon release.

Every spring, from April through June, we answer dozens of phone calls concerning fawns. People find them alone and think they are in trouble and want to know what to do. People pick them up and bring them home - kidnapping them! Many are found lying or standing beside their dead mother on the roadside or in the ditch. The orphaned ones come to us. All the other ones stay with their mothers, as they should. The callers are given natural history information so that they understand why mom isn't there during the day and the fawns are taken back and/or left alone for their mother to find in the evening when she comes to feed them. We had over 40 calls this spring where we were able to prevent fawns from being taken from the doe's care.

All this wealth of experience and the 10,000 square foot deer pens we have will now go to waste. We have been informed that the Ohio Division of Wildlife (DOW) will not be allowing anyone to work with fawns after this year. They cite various reasons which include the large amount of deer in Ohio, crop damage and vehicle collisions, and possible spreading of disease.

Is any of this going to matter to the concerned person who finds the fawn beside its dead mother and learns that instead of getting help the fawn will be killed? A colleague spoke to someone at DOW and asked them how we are going to teach children about caring and compassion in these instances? They were told, with all seriousness, that the children could be taught about the food chain instead.

Am I upset about this? You bet. Regrettably, the decision has been made. Most rehabilitators look at animals as individuals - and each one matters to us. The trouble is that wildlife management people look at them as a species and a resource and the individual fawn just doesn't matter to them. All of us at Wildlife Haven are very unhappy about our future inability to care for orphaned fawns.



Earth Share of Ohio - Environmental Workplace Giving

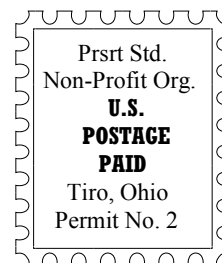
If you already support Wildlife Haven by your designated workplace giving through Earth Share of Ohio, please disregard any funding appeals you may receive from us throughout the year!

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3659 State Route 598
Crestline OH 44827-9729

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Return Service Requested



~R.S.V.P.~

Take a Walk on the Wild Side—Saturday, October 25 2008

Yes, I will be able to attend

Name (s)

**\$25 per Adult
\$12 for children under 10 years of age**

I am not able to attend, but would like to make a contribution of _____

(Checks should be made out to Wildlife Haven)

Instead of mailing the above form, you can RSVP by telephone to 419-683-3228

or

Email to wildjane@columbus.rr.com

Regardless of how you RSVP, it must be received by October 10th!