

WildThing

Spring 2011

Volume 10, Issue 1



Photo by Susan Berg Davis

This lucky silver-haired bat was found before a major January storm in Bloomington; otherwise, she could have died unprotected this far north, despite the luxurious coat you see.

WildCare Inc.

Providing professional care to sick, injured, and orphaned wildlife with the hope of returning them to the wild, as well as promoting a biodiverse planet through live animal programming.

Board of Directors

Gabe Hinds, President
Jan Turner, Vice President
Lane Vargas, Secretary
Susan Berg Davis, Treasurer
James Moyer
Jeanne Payne-Harvey
Charli Taylor

Team Leaders

Bats: Zack Allen
Assistant: Megan Hoehn
Deer: Jennifer Cunningham
Opossums: Greta Dickerhoof
Assistant: Kelly Miller
Rabbits: Kandy Schwandt
Assistant: Jeanne Payne-Harvey
Raccoons: Susan Davis
Assistant: Doug Davis
Raptors: Charli Taylor, Lane Vargas
Reptiles: Amelia Reuter
Skunks: Crystal Anderson
Squirrels/Foxes/Coyotes: Jan Turner
Assistant: Ginger Christie

Part-Time Staff:

Jennifer Cunningham: Center Manager
Alyza Estridge: Animal Care Technician

Committee Coordinators

Adoption Director: Jan Miles
DaVinci's Friends: Emily Kaley
Education: Andrea Oeding
Facilities: Doug Davis
Executive Director: Susan Berg Davis
Fundraising: James Moyer
Public Relations: Jan Turner
WildCamp Director: "Charli" Taylor

Webmaster: Lu Cregar

WildThing Committee:

Editor: Susan Berg Davis
Layout/Design: Erin Butcher Dunn
Writer/Proofreader: Jan Turner

WildThing is printed by Fine Print on tree-free paper twice yearly, spring and fall. Direct address changes and requests for issue changes to Susan Davis info@wildcareinc.org

ADVISORY BOARD

Thanks to the following for supporting WildCare with their professional advice.

Mike Alexander, President, Alexander Electric, Inc.
Fred Cate, Distinguished Professor and C. Ben Dutton Professor of Law, and Director, Center for Applied Cybersecurity Research, Indiana University
Mary Alice Cox, D.V.M., Bloomington Veterinary Hospital
Sterling Doster, M.D., Bloomington Bone & Joint
Jim Koch, D.V.M., Bloomington Veterinary Hospital
Barry Lessow, Executive Director, United Way
Brandt Ludlow, M.D.
Phyllis Schwitzer
Kenneth W. Sparks, CLU, ChFC, Northwestern Mutual Financial Network
Catherine Stafford, Stafford Law Office, LLC
Dwight Stauffer, M.D., Morgan Hospital and Medical Center
Tom Tarzian, Chairman of the Board, Sarkes Tarzian, Inc.
Ed Vande Sande, Readiness Assessment Services
Rex Watters, Wildlife Specialist, Dept. of Natural Resources
Sue Whitman, D.V.M., The Cat Care Centre

EMERITUS BOARD

The Emeritus Board is selected annually from retired members of the WildCare Board of Directors. These representatives continue to support the Center by contributing their expertise as well as advocacy of WildCare within our community.

Ginger Christie
Bob Foyut
Marla Fry
Kandy Schwandt
Penny Stauffer

Interns 2011

Off Season Interns

Maple Fisher, Wildlife
Alyssa FitzGerald: Wildlife
Stephanie Hansen, Wildlife
Danny Hofstadter, Wildlife
Emily Kaley, Wildlife
Mikki Lanham, Wildlife
Anna Lawrence, Wildlife
Jessica Nicholas: Wildlife
Allie Praeuner, CISAB
Brad Rood, Wildlife Management

In Season Interns

Ashley Batchik: Wildlife
Eva Blacconiere: WildCamp
Meara Bucklin: Wildlife
Cayla Carlson: Wildlife
Amelia Daily: Wildlife
Amanda Holdman: Wildlife

•••••

• **HAPPY 10TH BIRTHDAY TO WILDCARE** •

• As we move into our tenth year of helping area wildlife, we reflect on the support of our •

• volunteers, our donors, our interns, our professional and corporate partners, our team •

• leaders, our underpaid part-time staff--and we are humbled. But, we also recognize we •

• need to grow to the next level. •

• Three acres is not enough to house fawns as well as coyotes and foxes. We need mature •

• trees, water, and fields that will provide natural barriers so these animals don't have to be in •

• our backyards. We need to build a wildlife center complete with a visitor's section for non •

• releasable wildlife on display. We need full-time staff. •

• We appreciate and support groups who observe and teach about birds, groups who care for •

• gifts of land so that land will not be developed, even though our displaced wild mammals •

• and some birds are not welcome on those lands, but there is also a need to help wild animals •

• that present themselves to us sick, injured, and orphaned right now. And we know you •

• believe that as well because we are Ten Years Old. •

• Thank you. The WildCare Family •

•••••

BATTY ABOUT BATS

By Susan Berg Davis

Found the day before a major ice storm in January, this silver-haired bat presented with no wing injuries and weighed 8.7 grams. She had been huddling outside a house behind a snow shovel leaning against a corner. Every time the Finder moved the shovel to see if she was still there, she would bare her teeth and growl. That went on for two days. Afraid his cat would take advantage of the situation, a friend told him to call WildCare, and that's when he contacted our Bat Team Leader, Zack Allen. Allen told him to carefully scoop her into a shoebox without touching her bare-handed and bring her in.

After throwing up a few times, she started eating mealworms and within four days was grooming herself. A very good sign a bat is doing well. She was not only observed licking her wings carefully, but also wiping her face off much like a cat.

While most other species of bats hibernate during the colder months when flying insects are not available, this bat is one of the few species which mostly migrates to the southern United States. We don't know why this particular female did not migrate when the others did, but we have two in rehabilitation this winter, so some don't make the trip—sometimes at their peril.

Her dark brown hairs are tipped with silver, giving her back a frosted look that does not extend to her face or neck. Among the most common bats in forested areas of the country, silver-haired bats are mostly solitary as they roost in the crevices of trees. Even though mating takes place in early fall when both sexes congregate for migration, fertilization is delayed until the following spring when maternity colonies are formed to protect pups that are born to each female annually. Just before they are born, she will roost with her head facing upward
(continued on page 4)



Photo by Susan Berg Davis

Short, rounded, naked ears assist with the silver-haired bat's acute hearing. Using echolocation to find insects, their diet consists mainly of flies, beetles, and moths. They may use sharp teeth and take an insect into the mouth directly, or catch prey through the use of their tail by turning it into a pouch-like compartment.

THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS

WildCare could not help area wildlife without the ongoing generous financial support from the following.

Investing \$5,000 or more/year

Alexander Electric, Inc.
Lane & Richard Vargas

Investing \$3,000-\$4,999/year

City of Bloomington

Investing \$1,000-\$2,999/year

Anonymous
Crystal Anderson
Maryellen & Robert Bieder
Bloomington Moose Lodge
Beth & Fred Cate
Susan & Doug Davis
Greta & Roger Dickerhoof
Mary Ann & Bruce Gingles
Roberta & Dave Mank
Kandy Schwandt
Phyllis Schwitzer
Kathy & Steve Strickler
The Tony Stewart Foundation
Jan & Jim Turner

Investing \$500-\$999/year

Becky & Bill Campbell
DeHayes Family Foundation, Inc.
Ginny & Dick Elder
Barbara & Mark Holmquist
Christina Kuzmych
Philippa Guthrie & Alex Tanford
Cathy & Tom Tarzian
Anne & Ed Vande Sande
Dedaimia Whitney

Investing \$300 to \$499

Wayne Craig
Joan & Robert Hongen
Helene Jones
David Lynn
Susan Chernak McElroy
Mary K Rothert & Tom Zeller
Elaine Routh
St. John Associates Inc.
Carol Shapiro
Caroline & Richard Snapp
Phyllis & Kent Taylor
Charles Thompson

Corporate Partnerships

Bloomingfoods
College Mall Veterinary Hospital
Delilah's Pet Shop
Modern Designs
Shelterwood, LLC
Sublime Design
Yarns Unlimited

Professional Partnerships

Bloomington Animal Hospital:
Jim Koch, D.V.M.
The Cat Care Centre:
Sue Whitman, D.V.M.

(continued from page 3)

and when they are born, she will hold her tail membrane forward to form a cup that will catch them. It will be 3-4 weeks before the pups can fly and forage for themselves.

Even though the number of bats carrying rabies is very low, you should never handle a bat with bare hands, especially if it is on the ground. The public is unduly fearful of bats, however, because our news media tends to play up the rare encounter, instead of emphasizing their crucial role of keeping our insects in balance. What we should fear is a world with no bats. A world where heart worm and West Nile emerge even more forcefully without this natural check. And is the increased use of pesticides really the self-sustaining goal we seek. Added to their natural predators (skunks, owls, feral cats, and raccoons) now are wind turbines; silver-haired bats are showing up dead beneath these turbines all across the country. But nothing has threatened all our bats as much as the white nose syndrome caused by the newly-identified fungus *Geomyces destructans*.

The Indiana Department of Natural Resources received confirmation February 1st that a bat found in a southern Indiana cave tested positive for the fungus that causes white-nose syndrome (WNS), Indiana's first documented case. This fungus thrives in the cold and humid conditions characteristic of caves used by hibernating bats, and can transfer through the air as well as spores on clothing and caving gear, which is why Indiana caves with bats have been closed for two years. New research has instructed bat rehabbers how to quarantine new arrivals, and, if infected, how to treat them. More than one million bats in the eastern United States have already died. Because this deadly fungus can be transferred to humans, the protocols are very strict. It is believed this fungus came over from Europe and is not the result of climate change, pesticides, toxins, or food. Because it doesn't grow above 68°, we are keeping all our bats in the Reptile Room, where heat and humidity are high. Current research shows this is the best environment for bats in rehabilitation anyway.



Photo by Susan Berg Davis

The Greek and Latin scientific words for silver-haired bat mean "night wandering shaggy bat," which is a pretty good description of the luxurious coat on this mammal who can live up to 12 years.



Photo by Susan Berg Davis

This big brown bat will compete for feeding times, so it is not surprising there is evidence to suggest that the slower-flying silver-haired will accommodate the flying time of the big brown, the red, and the hoary bats by either flying earlier in the evening, or later.



Photo by Susan Berg Davis

Our beloved Virginia Opossum Ambassador, Jack, died this January of heart disease. He was not quite one year old. He was hit by a car early last summer, scooped from a parking lot, and nursed in a supportive environment by his Guardians, Greta and Roger Dickerhoof, when he wasn't delighting audiences with his gentle acceptance and trust.

We will miss that little wet nose.

NATURE'S CLOWN: THE SOUTHERN FLYING SQUIRREL

By Jan Turner

While gazing out your window during the late evening, you may have been surprised to see one or more tiny rodents with huge, dark eyes having a snack at your bird feeders or scampering up a tree trunk. The scientific name for these small, nocturnal creatures is *Glaucomys Volans*; they are commonly known as Southern Flying Squirrels. They are brownish-gray with a white or off-white underside and soft, dense fur. Adults are 8 to 10 inches long and weigh only 1.5 to 2.5 ounces, about one-third the size of their larger cousin, the Northern Flying Squirrel, which is found in the extreme northern U.S. and Canada.

Although called flying squirrels, they do not actually fly, but instead glide from tree to tree with the help of their patagium,



Photo by Susan Berg Davis
This baby is almost ready to wean; for now, she still receives several formula feedings per day.

a furry membrane which extends along the sides of their bodies between the front and back legs. Depending on wind and take-off height, they can glide 80-150 feet; the longest recorded glide is nearly 300 feet. Their wide, flat tails act as rudders, allowing them to easily navigate between trees and to quickly execute up to a 180 degree turn in mid-glide if necessary to escape a predator.

Flying squirrels are delightful to watch. They are quite gregarious and are sometimes referred to as nature's clowns. They find everything amusing and seem to regard life as one great party. They are very social and often feed and den together, especially during winter. A single nest can have two dozen or more adults and juveniles huddled together to keep warm. They do not hibernate, but remain inside when the weather is especially harsh. They are also very curious and will



Photo by Susan Berg Davis

Juvenile flyers require daily interaction with their foster parent. As they mature, they remain friendly but begin to turn to each other for companionship.

often gather outside windows after dark to watch the activity inside a home.

WildCare receives at least a dozen flying squirrels each year, ranging from naked, helpless neonates that lose their homes when trees are cut or trimmed, to adults caught by prowling cats. At least one litter of infants each spring is found by AT&T's phone line specialists. The babies are delivered in a wide variety of cardboard boxes and paper bags, but always warm and secure. They grow rapidly and are released in late summer. Fall arrivals stay throughout the winter and are joined by singles and groups that have commandeered warm attics and are trapped by homeowners. Northeastern Monroe County appears to be the hot spot this year; we have received over a dozen flyers from one location.

It is relatively easy to determine that a group of flying squirrels has moved into an attic. They sleep all day and play most of the night, racing around the space and producing a multitude of scratching and bumping noises. They also vocalize, emitting a series of high-pitched squeaks and chirps. They run up walls easily and glide back down, making soft plopping sounds as they land.

Because flyers are very social, having a single in rehab for the winter should be avoided if possible. They can go into a deep depression if they are alone for an

extended period, so they must be given daily attention and opportunities for play. This past fall we received a litter of three seriously compromised infants and, sadly, only one survived. He spent much of his time hanging on the side of the cage begging for attention and leaping into my hand or running up my arm to perch on my shoulder whenever I opened the cage door. That practice came to a screeching halt with the first new arrival.

The lonely little squirrel poked his head out of the nest box as I opened the door and set the carrier in the bottom of the cage. As the newcomer stepped out of the carrier, the little juvenile ran down a limb to greet him. Within moments they were racing around the cage and leaping from limb to limb in a merry game of tag, pausing only to get a drink or catch their breath. Over the next two weeks, there was a new arrival almost daily. Each newcomer ran up the limb leading to the nest box and popped inside, causing a few seconds of scuffling and chirping as everyone shifted to accommodate the new arrival.

As the numbers have expanded, the entertainment level has grown. Flyers are incredibly fast, and virtually impossible to count as they repeatedly race up a limb to the top of the cage and hurl their tiny bodies to the floor. The jokesters in the crowd sit on a high shelf and drop acorns, sometimes narrowly missing the unsuspecting creatures below. The tiny fall arrival now has an entire colony that shares his temporary home, and all will be released together in the spring. For a rehabber, it doesn't get any better than that.



Photo by Fred Cate

Flying squirrels have very loose skin which enables them to arch their bodies into a parachute shape for gliding. Their patagium is more visible when they are lying down.

UPDATES ON WILDLIFE ISSUES

By Jan Turner

We reported in the fall newsletter about two issues currently facing Indiana's wildlife. The following is an update on those issues.

Many letters have appeared in newspapers around the state opposing the fox and coyote running pen located in Greene County. The business, which incorporated in December 2009 as the WCI Foxhound Training Facility, is now being referred to as a wildlife preserve by its operators and by Channel 59 Fox News; it enjoys nonprofit status and is exempt from paying taxes. Whether it is called a training facility, a preserve or a sanctuary, it is in fact a running pen for dogs to chase penned foxes and coyotes to exhaustion, often up to 16 hours a day. Wildlife supporters are deeply concerned that this pen could gain permanent approval to operate in Indiana. Almost as troubling are reports of how the preliminary approval came about.

On a hunting forum on November 13, Indiana Beaglers' Alliance President Jack Hynes wrote: "Tuesday November 16, 2010 is the next Natural Resource Commission hearing. On the agenda, again, is the Fox and Coyote dog training and field trialing enclosures. It would appear that Indiana Department of Natural Resources is again thumbing its nose at orders from the Governor's office. . . We are working with the Governors [sic] office and asking them to honor the promise we were given before the elections. The promise was that no enclosures would be banned..." The Governor's Office later stated that no promises have been given to the sportsmen's group. Hyden continues to insist that promises were indeed made.

At the November meeting, the NRC stunned the crowd in attendance by giving preliminary approval to the running pen and issuing a moratorium that would allow new penning operations to move into our state until January 2012; opponents' requests to suspend operation until a final decision is reached were summarily denied.

In early January, Representatives Linda Lawson and David Cheatham introduced HB 1135, which would permanently ban fox and coyote penning in Indiana. Shortly thereafter, Senator John Waterman introduced SB 265, which would place decisions about all wildlife hunting and trapping issues in the hands of a five-member commission consisting almost exclusively of hunters and trappers. Both bills died in the Legislature, but the penning issue may be discussed in the summer study committees.

Also in January, a beagler's group in southern Indiana was fined for using leg hold traps to catch federally-protected hawks and owls, killing some and forcing euthanasia of others, simply because they were eating the rabbits that the members hunt with their dogs. The sportsmen's group acknowledged that they know it is illegal, but stated that they are working to get the laws changed.

The NRC continues to accept comments on the penning issue and will schedule several public meetings later this year, prior to deciding whether to grant permanent approval to the Linton pen and any other operations that may move into the state prior to January 2012. Comments can be made at <http://www.in.gov/nrc/2377.htm>. Scroll down to the middle of the page and comment under the heading "coyote/fox – dog training grounds."

Thirty-nine states have already banned this practice. Almost as disturbing as having our Indiana wildlife subjected to this cruel practice in state is the exporting of Indiana animals to other states for this purpose.

At the heart of the fox/coyote penning controversy is the issue of fair chase. Hunters have long respected this code, and so does WildCare.

We urge you to send comments opposing this inhumane practice. You can make a difference.



Photo by Fred Cate

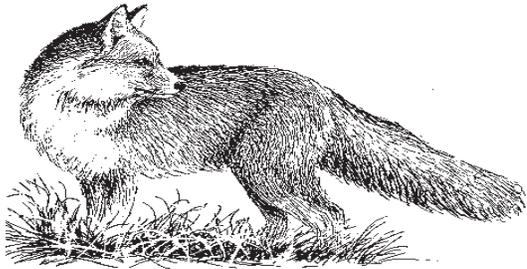


Photo by Susan Berg Davis

NEW RULES FOR WILDLIFE REHABILITATORS

When the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) published their proposed new rules for wildlife rehabilitators, many rehabbers had concerns with portions of the document under consideration. WildCare's team leaders submitted many suggested changes that were accepted. Our deepest concern, however, was a proposed rule that would require all mammals to be returned to the county they were found in for release, forcing juveniles that had been raised together to be separated and, in many cases, dropped alone into unfamiliar territory.

On November 29, IDNR Wildlife Operations Specialist Linnea Petercheff and Administrative Law Judge Sandra Jensen met with rehabbers from facilities throughout the state. Following a lengthy discussion, Petercheff and Jensen agreed to drop the county of origin language from the proposed new rules. The updated rules package was approved by the NRC at its January meeting. WildCare now believes these new regulations will bring Indiana in line with the most progressive guidelines in the country and salutes the IDNR.



Robert Savannah, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Your Support Matters!

Here is my tax-deductible donation to help local wildlife.

Please do not publish my name

Name _____ \$35 \$50 \$75 \$100 Other _____

Address _____ I would like to donate a monthly recurring amount of _____, so have called my bank to have it sent to your UCB account 1002658.

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____ Notify me of special events.

Mail to WildCare Inc. 198 N. Hartstrait Road, Bloomington, IN 47404

BEQUESTS

To those friends and supporters of WildCare Inc. who wish to help us by means of a provision in their will, the following general form of bequest is suggested.

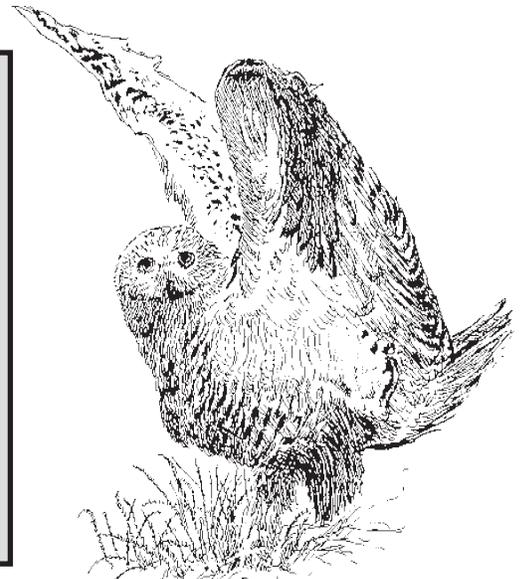
“I give, devise, and bequeath to WildCare Inc., an Indiana nonprofit, 501 (c) (3) Corporation at 5970 West State Road 48, Bloomington, Indiana 47404, the sum of \$ _____ (or specifically described property. . .)”

WildCare Inc. welcomes any inquiries about bequests. Call (812) 323-1313.

INVEST IN US THROUGH STOCK TRANSFERS

Call Adam Estes at Hilliard Lyons (812) 332-6333 or (800) 790-6333 and ask for the DTC# to have stock transferred to WildCare Inc. directly from your broker to ours.

We have a standing order to sell the same day and direct deposit with our bank. It's a great way to save you capital gains and support us at the same time.



Robert Savannah, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

IN HONOR OF OR IN MEMORY OF

Donor Gifts that start at \$50 In Honor of

Larry Ratts in honor of his friend, Karen Patterson
Elaine & Ken Sparks in honor of their neighbor, Denise Hoke, who loves animals

Donor Gifts that start at \$50 In Memory of

Barbara & Mark Holmquist in memory of their niece and cousin, Patricia Johnson Kinser, who loved animals and appreciated WildCare
Col. Maurice L. Johnson in memory of his daughter Patricia Kinser who loved animals
Becky & Steve Carothers in memory of Jana Pershing
Judith Vitaliano in memory of “Uncle” Mike Parrish



198 N. Hartstrait Road
Bloomington, IN 47404
(812) 323-1313
info@WildCareInc.org

Nonprofit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit #494
Bloomington
Indiana

Return Service Requested

Go Wild
with
GoodSearch and GoodShop

We're on the Web!
See us at:
www.WildCareInc.org

WILDCAMP: THE NATURAL CONNECTION



Photo by Susan Berg Davis

WildCamp is a one-week day camp from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. for children entering grades 3-6 July 18-22 at our Center on N. Hartstrait Road. Applications are on our website under Education or Events. The emphasis is on learning how to share the earth with our wild neighbors. While most of the animals are alive, here the children examine some of the wildlife that are not in order to study how adaptations help them hunt or hide. Questions may be directed to our new Camp Director "Charli" Taylor by emailing info@wildcareinc.org.