

THE WILDLIFE CENTER OF VIRGINIA



2010 Annual Report

The Wildlife Center of Virginia, a hospital for native wildlife...

During 2010, the Wildlife Center of Virginia admitted a total of 2,303 animals for treatment – injured, ailing, and orphaned wildlife from all across Virginia.

At the Center, patients don't have names – they have numbers. Animals are given sequential patient numbers – in the order in which they are admitted.

For example, the first patient of 2010 – a Slate-colored Junco admitted on New Year's Day – was patient 10-001. Patient 10-002 was an Eastern Garter Snake. 10-003 was a Turkey Vulture... and so on...

While patients may not have names at the Center, they all have stories.

On February 8 a hawk – likely hit by a car – was admitted from Dayton. The hawk suffered a broken wing and an eye injury. While the wing healed, the injured eye could not be saved. With limited vision, the hawk could not be released back into the wild.

However, 10-0068 seemed a perfect addition to the Center's corps of resident environmental ambassadors – some 20 birds, mammals, and reptiles treated at the Center but that, for a variety of reasons, are unable to be released back to the wild.

These animals – from owls to opossums to turtles to hawks – are amazing environmental ambassadors for the Center.

Unlike patients, these permanent residents have names – and 10-0068 needed one. In early 2011, the Center asked students in elementary schools to suggest names – and suggest they did! More than 170 names were collected... and the "Final Five" were put to an online vote.

The winner? **Ruby** ... a name suggested by Ms. Phelps' first-grade class at South River Elementary in Grottoes. In submitting the name, Ms. Phelps wrote, "We are currently studying Ruby Bridges [*in 1960, six-year-old Ruby was the first African-American child to desegregate an all-white elementary school in New Orleans*]. The kids thought since Ruby was a brave girl who fought to have a better life and since rubies are red, this would be a good name for a female red-tailed-hawk who also fought for her life."

Ruby is now completing her training and will soon begin traveling to schools and other public events. During 2010, Center educators did 275 of these programs across Virginia and neighboring states, reaching more than 24,000 students and 4,000 adults.

On the cover: Patient 10-1075, a Bald Eagle, was attacked by an Osprey and admitted on June 11, 2010. The eagle was released on June 28 at Beaverdam Park in Gloucester, VA. Photo courtesy of James R. Deal.

Patient 10-0068
RED-TAILED HAWK
Injury: Hit by car
Admitted: February 8, 2010
Status: Non-releasable
Name: Ruby





Malcolm

In addition to Ruby, during 2010 the Center welcomed several new education animals, including:

Malcolm, a Corn Snake. Malcolm came to the Center as an unwanted pet. His life-experience in captivity means that he likely lacks the ability to survive in the wild, find his own food, and locate shelter.

Quinn, a Great Horned Owl, was found in the Roanoke area, stuck in a fence with serious injuries to both wings and his right eye. Center veterinarians determined that his eye would need to be removed, and Quinn's flight feathers never re-grew properly.

And Buddy...

This Bald Eagle is likely the most famous patient in the Center's history. His story begins when he hatched on April 27, 2008 at the Norfolk Botanical Garden. Thousands of individuals around the world followed his early days through "EagleCam" – a web-based camera – and soon noticed a lump developing on the side of the bird's beak.

In May 2008, the eaglet was taken from his nest and admitted as a patient at the Center. Lab tests revealed that the lesion on his beak was Avian Pox. Despite an all-out effort by Center veterinarians, the pox lesion caused a permanent misalignment in the bird's beak, which will need to be trimmed periodically for the rest of his life. In August 2009 he was declared non-releasable.

In April 2010 the Center made it official – the eagle would become a permanent resident at the Center and would be called "Buddy" – the name used broadly in the EagleCam community.

Center staff are working with Buddy to prepare him as a possible traveling environmental ambassador. In the meantime, we can watch the slow changes in coloration that will give Buddy the distinctive white head and tail of a Bald Eagle – at about age five.



Quinn



Buddy

Courtesy of James R. Deal

Ruby, Malcolm, Quinn, Buddy, and other Center education animals may be 'adopted' through the Caring for Critters program. Caring for Critters donations help provide food, shelter, and medical care for the sponsored animal, support the Center's education programs, and help provide state-of-the art emergency care to thousands of animals admitted to the Center each year.

As a Caring for Critters sponsor, you [or your gift recipient] will receive a special sponsorship packet, including:

- The sponsored animal's biography;
- A photo of the animal;
- Additional information about the species;
- A personalized certificate of sponsorship; and
- Periodic email updates on your sponsored animal..

Additional information is available on the Center's website, at www.wildlifecenter.org. Click on the "Caring for Critters" link.

2010 Patient Admissions

Mammals [1,037 patients]

American Beaver	2
Bat	2
Big Brown Bat	13
Black Bear	4
Bobcat	1
Eastern Chipmunk	12
Eastern Cottontail Rabbit	299
Eastern Fox Squirrel	2
Eastern Gray Squirrel	223
Gray Fox	5
Little Brown Bat	4
Mink	2
Mouse	22
Northern Long-eared Bat	1
Raccoon	54
Rat	1
Red Bat	4
Red Fox	18
Short-tailed Shrew	3
Silver-haired Bat	4
Southern Flying Squirrel	20
Striped Skunk	31
Virginia Opossum	205
Vole	1
White-tailed Deer	81
Woodchuck	23

Reptiles and Amphibians [122]

American Alligator	1
American Toad	3
Common Snapping Turtle	7
Corn Snake	1
Eastern Box Turtle	70
Eastern Gartersnake	1
Eastern Kingsnake	1
Eastern Painted Turtle	16
Eastern Ratsnake	8
Eastern Spadefoot Toad	1
Gray Treefrog	2
Northern Black Racer	2
Northern Red-bellied Cooter	3
Northern Ring-necked Snake	1
Red-eared Slider	1
Yellow-bellied Slider	4

Raptors [247]

American Kestrel	6
Bald Eagle	27
Barn Owl	3
Barred Owl	9
Black Vulture	8
Broad-winged Hawk	6
Common Buzzard	1
Cooper's Hawk	26
Eastern Screech-Owl	57
Great Horned Owl	12
Harris Hawk	1
Osprey	1
Peregrine Falcon	4
Red-shouldered Hawk	21
Red-tailed Hawk	45
Sharp-shinned Hawk	9
Turkey Vulture	11

Passerines (Songbirds) [634]

American Crow	19
American Goldfinch	8
American Robin	161
Blue Jay	38
Blue-headed Vireo	1
Brown Thrasher	4
Brown-headed Cowbird	2
Carolina Wren	19
Cedar Waxwing	10
Chickadee	7
Common Grackle	28
Common Raven	2
Common Yellowthroat	1
Eastern Bluebird	22
Eastern Phoebe	20
European Starling	121
Flycatcher	1
Gray Catbird	10
Hermit Thrush	3
House Finch	19
House Sparrow	27
House Wren	3
Indigo Bunting	1
Lincoln's Sparrow	1
Myrtle Warbler	1

Northern Cardinal	27
Northern Mockingbird	19
Pine Warbler	1
Pine Siskin	1
Purple Martin	1
Red-eyed Vireo	2
Red-winged Blackbird	2
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	1
Rusty Blackbird	1
Slate-colored Junco	5
Song Sparrow	1
Sparrow [unknown]	9
Tufted Titmouse	3
Unidentified Passerine	21
White-breasted Nuthatch	1
White-throated Sparrow	4
Wood Thrush	5
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	1

Other Birds [263]

American Coot	1
Barn Swallow	7
Belted Kingfisher	1
Canada Goose	25
Canvasback Duck	1
Chimney Swift	8
Common Loon	1
Common Nighthawk	1
Domestic Duck	1
Domestic Goose	3
Downy Woodpecker	4
Gadwall Duck	1
Great Blue Heron	5
Green Heron	3
Hairy Woodpecker	1
Killdeer	1
Mallard Duck	50
Mourning Dove	63
Northern Bobwhite	1
Northern Flicker	12
Pileated Woodpecker	4
Red-bellied Woodpecker	7
Red-headed Woodpecker	1
Rock Pigeon	22
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	12
Ruffed Grouse	2
Sora	1
Tundra Swan	1
Virginia Rail	1
Wild Turkey	4
Wood Duck	14
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	4





Patient 10-2051

GREAT HORNED OWL

Admitted: September 28, 2010

Injury: Rescued after being trapped in chimney for two weeks

Status: Non-releasable; possible Wildlife Center education animal

In mid-September, a couple in Bedford heard some noises coming from their chimney. Probably some nesting bird, they decided. After a few more days, they became increasingly concerned and decided to take a look. After climbing to the rooftop of their one-story house, they peered down into the chimney ... and saw a large owl staring back up at them.

Licensed wildlife rehabilitator Gwenn Johnston, with the assistance of John Briscoe of Black Goose Chimney Sweep, made the harrowing hour-long rescue and finally got the owl up out of the 20-foot chimney. The owl was admitted to the Center on September 28.

Despite weeks of treatment and months of rehabilitation and exercise, it appears that this owl will not be able to be returned to the wild. To hunt successfully, a Great Horned Owl must be able to fly silently – and 10-2051 now fails that test. The Center is now evaluating this survivor as an education animal.

Patient 10-2160

EASTERN BOX TURTLE

Admitted: October 30, 2010

Injury: Shell fracture

Status: Likely candidate for release Spring 2011

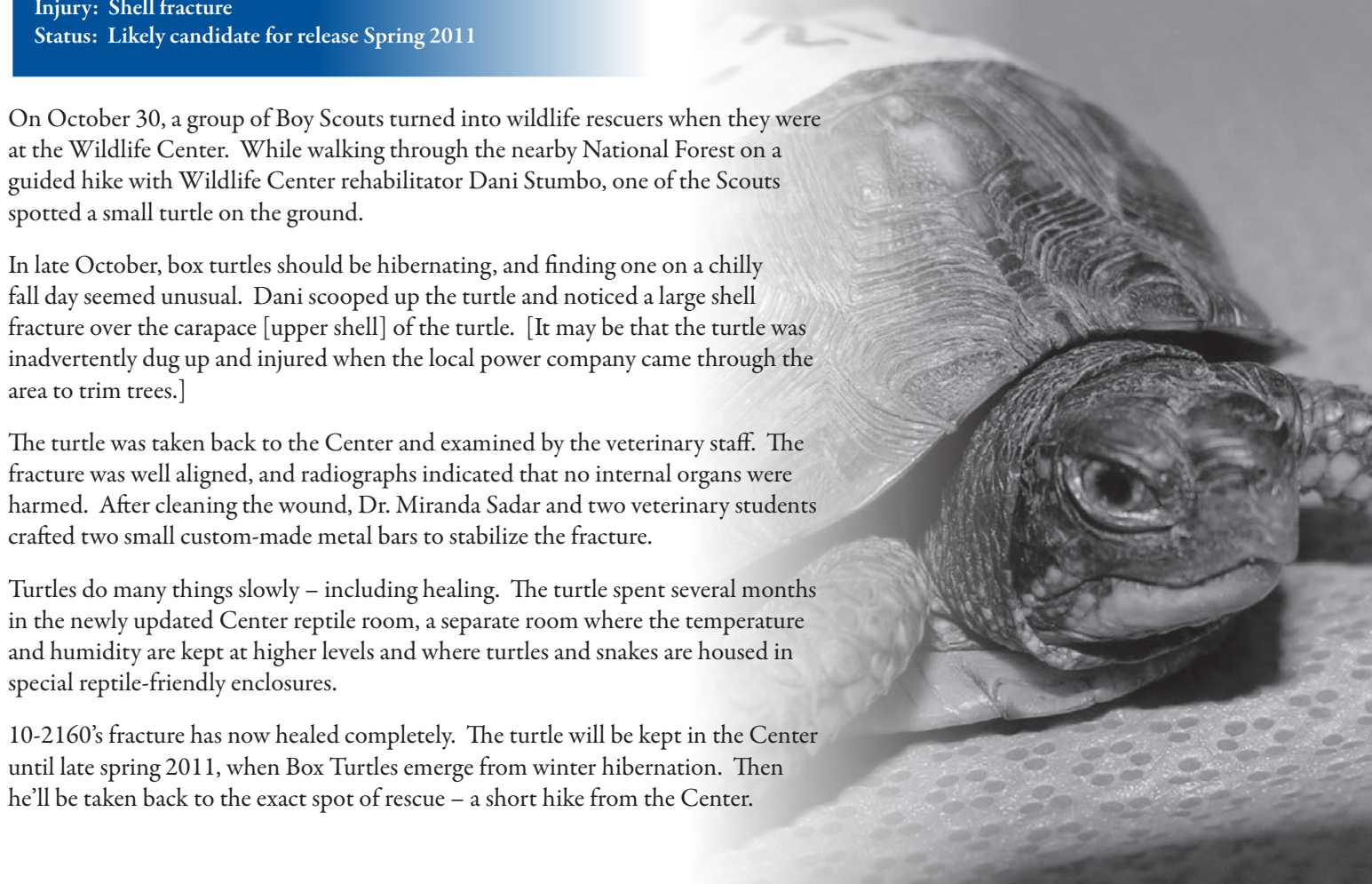
On October 30, a group of Boy Scouts turned into wildlife rescuers when they were at the Wildlife Center. While walking through the nearby National Forest on a guided hike with Wildlife Center rehabilitator Dani Stumbo, one of the Scouts spotted a small turtle on the ground.

In late October, box turtles should be hibernating, and finding one on a chilly fall day seemed unusual. Dani scooped up the turtle and noticed a large shell fracture over the carapace [upper shell] of the turtle. [It may be that the turtle was inadvertently dug up and injured when the local power company came through the area to trim trees.]

The turtle was taken back to the Center and examined by the veterinary staff. The fracture was well aligned, and radiographs indicated that no internal organs were harmed. After cleaning the wound, Dr. Miranda Sadar and two veterinary students crafted two small custom-made metal bars to stabilize the fracture.

Turtles do many things slowly – including healing. The turtle spent several months in the newly updated Center reptile room, a separate room where the temperature and humidity are kept at higher levels and where turtles and snakes are housed in special reptile-friendly enclosures.

10-2160's fracture has now healed completely. The turtle will be kept in the Center until late spring 2011, when Box Turtles emerge from winter hibernation. Then he'll be taken back to the exact spot of rescue – a short hike from the Center.



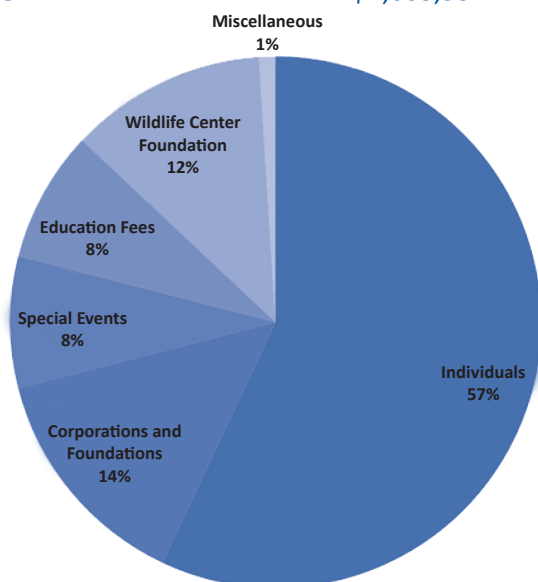
FINANCIALS

The Wildlife Center of Virginia is a 501(c)(3) organization that depends primarily upon private donations – not federal or state funding – for its programs and services. The Center works hard to be an effective and efficient non-profit – we strive to keep our administrative and fundraising costs to a minimum, so that we can do the best job possible as a wildlife hospital and education center.

During 2010, the Center was honored to receive several gifts through bequests – gifts that enabled the Center to continue its life-changing and life-saving work. *If you would like to learn more about including the Wildlife Center in your estate plans, please contact Ed Clark or Randy Huwa.*

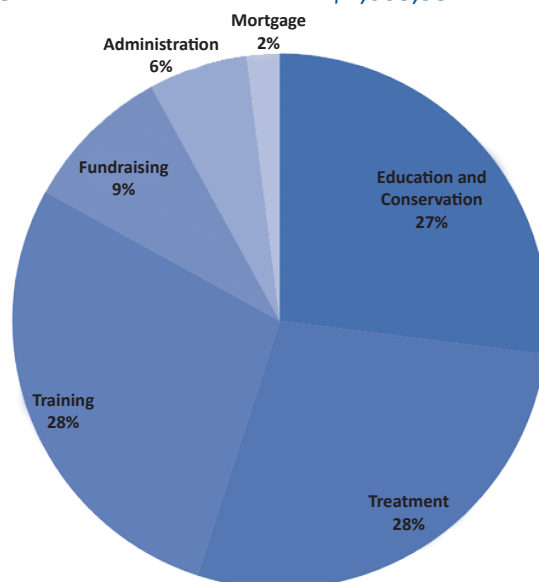
REVENUE

Individuals	\$569,569	57%
Corporations and Foundations	139,500	14
Special Events	84,777	8
Education Fees	81,031	8
Wildlife Center Foundation	117,965	12
Miscellaneous	10,692	1
TOTAL	\$1,003,534	




EXPENSES

Education and Conservation	\$272,479	27%
Treatment	273,812	28
Training	281,273	28
Fundraising	91,729	9
Administration	60,793	6
Mortgage	23,448	2
TOTAL	\$1,003,534	



A financial statement for the most recent fiscal year is available upon request from the State Division of Consumer Affairs, P.O. Box 1163, Richmond, VA 23209; 1.804.786.1343.





The Wildlife Center is more than just a hospital for wildlife. Our mission statement sets forth a broad objective ... *teaching the world to care about and to care for wildlife and the environment.*

- The Center shares the lessons learned during more than two decades of wildlife medicine with veterinary, conservation, and rehabilitation professionals from all across the nation – indeed, from all over the world. Among those working alongside our veterinary and rehabilitation staff during 2010, for example, were individuals from Brazil, Canada, Estonia, Hungary, Panama, Spain, and Thailand.
- The Center provided introductory training classes in wildlife rehabilitation for more than 180 participants in cities across Virginia and hosted the 15th annual “Call of the Wild” conference, designed specifically for volunteer wildlife rehabilitators and other first responders.
- In June, Wildlife Center President and Co-Founder Ed Clark joined a team of wildlife and habitat experts to tour areas of the Gulf Coast affected by the BP oil-spill. The mission was organized by the Humane Society of the United States. Ed continues to work to share the lessons learned from the largest man-made environmental disaster in U.S. history.

To get the latest news from the Wildlife Center of Virginia:

- Visit the Center’s website ... at www.wildlifecenter.org. The “What’s New” section in particular provides a quick review of recent developments and top Center news.
- Sign up for an RSS feed – an automatic update on the Center’s website.
- Visit the Center’s Facebook page.

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On November 6, 2010, friends of the Wildlife Center gathered at the historic Stonewall Jackson Hotel in Staunton for the Center's Annual Gala Benefit and Auction. We are grateful for the generous support of our sponsors and for the individuals and businesses who donated items for our special silent and live auctions.

A highlight of the evening was meeting some furred and feathered members of the Host Committee – several of the animals who are permanent residents at the Center and who serve as key members of our outreach and education team.



*Courtesy of
James R. Deal*

Saturday, November 5, 2011

SAVE THE DATE!

Please join us this fall for our Annual Gala Benefit and Auction.

The evening includes a cocktail reception and dinner, both silent and live auctions, and a special opportunity to meet Center supporters and staff – and a hawk or an owl! Proceeds from the evening help support the vital work of the Wildlife Center.

For additional information, please contact Kristen Sluiter at 540.942.9453 or gala@wildlifecenter.org.

THE WILDLIFE CENTER OF VIRGINIA

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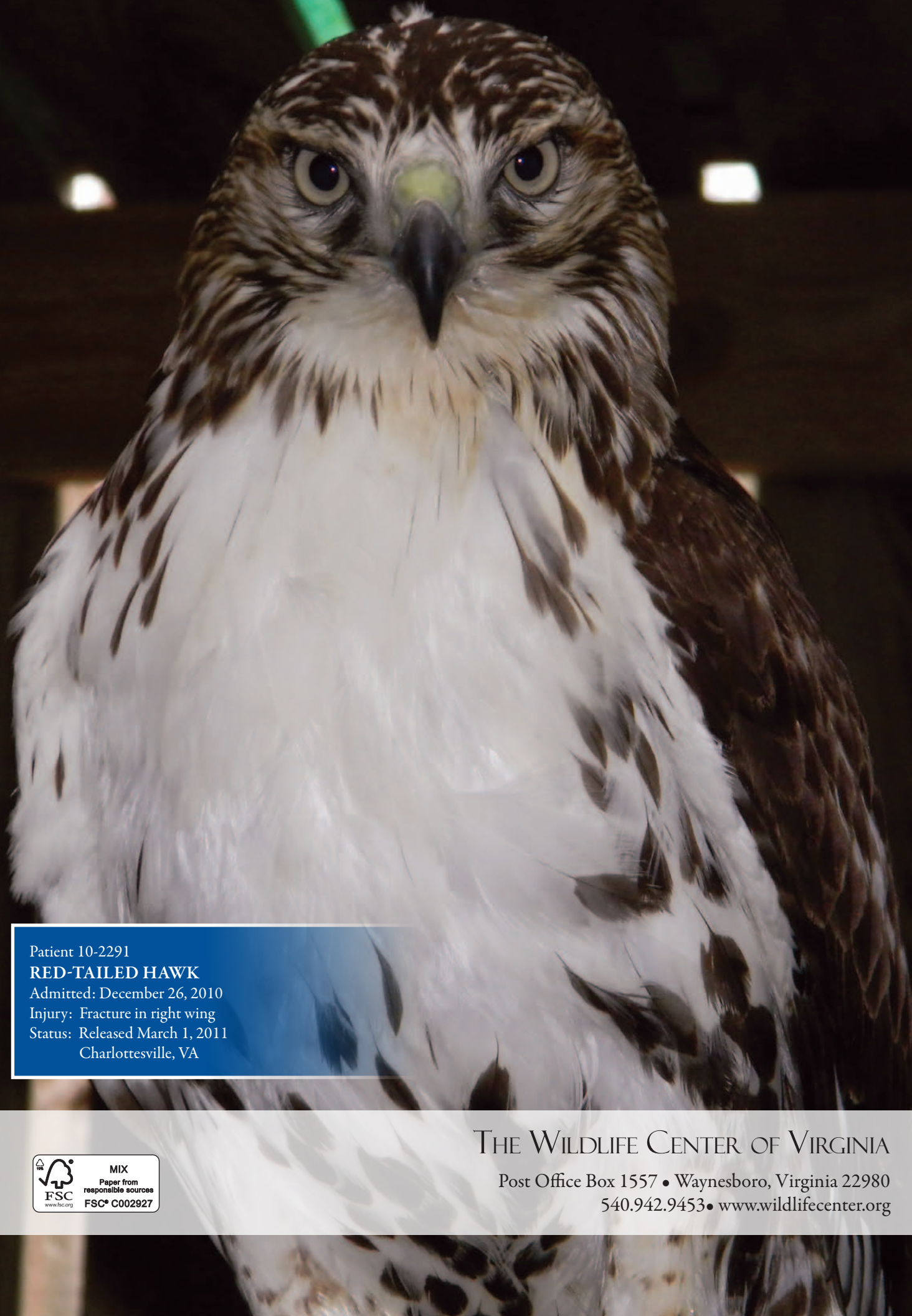
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Board and staff as of January 2011

Patient 10-2299

TUNDRA SWAN

Injury: Ruptured air sac; neurologic symptoms
Admitted: December 27, 2010
Status: Released February 11, 2011
Essex County, Virginia



Patient 10-2291

RED-TAILED HAWK

Admitted: December 26, 2010

Injury: Fracture in right wing

Status: Released March 1, 2011
Charlottesville, VA



THE WILDLIFE CENTER OF VIRGINIA

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540.942.9453 • www.wildlifecenter.org