



THE WILDLIFE CENTER OF VIRGINIA  
2009 Annual Report



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

During 2009, the Wildlife Center of Virginia admitted a total of 2,534 animals for treatment – injured, ailing, and orphaned wildlife from all across Virginia. And some of those patients were born at the Center.

On June 4, a clutch of 10 Wild Turkey eggs arrived at the Center from Albemarle County, brought in after the mother turkey was killed by a bush-hog. The eggs were candled, determined to be viable, and placed in one of the Center's incubators.

Three weeks later – on June 25 – the Center marked the arrival of seven healthy turkey chicks.

In May and June, the Center also served as surrogate mother, of sorts, for four pregnant female turtles – two Common Snapping Turtles and two Painted Turtles – that had been hit by cars. In the wild, these turtles lay eggs in a nest – a hole dug in moist soil or

sand. Once the eggs are laid, they are left unattended; the females return to their ponds or streams, and the eggs are on their own. At the Center, the turtles' eggs were buried in a peat-moss mixture in aquariums and housed in the Center's temperature-controlled reptile room.

And 75 days later, the Center welcomed a "baker's dozen" of new turtle patients – seven snappers and six painteds. The young hatchlings were taken to "turtle-friendly" habitats in Augusta and Madison Counties and released.

And the mothers?

Three of the four survived their injuries, and two were released. The third – a Painted Turtle from Augusta County – suffered serious shell and pelvic fractures – treatable but slow to heal. This turtle is over-wintering at the Wildlife Center and, with continued healing, is slated to be released in late Spring 2010.



## 2009 ... At A Glance

- **Patient #1 of 2009:** Eastern Screech Owl from Augusta County [hit by car]
- **Patient #2,534 of 2009:** Gray Squirrel from Orange County [dog attack]
- **Reasons for admission include:**
  - 127 animals hit by cars;
  - 80 birds that flew into windows;
  - 19 animals that had been shot; and
  - 222 animals that were attacked by cats.
- **Busiest day:** June 4, with 48 new patients
- **Busiest month:** June, with 524 new patients
- **Bald Eagles:** 40 admitted during 2009 – up from 25 in 2008 – including:
  - an eagle hit by a truck on I-95;
  - an eagle trapped in asphalt tar at a landfill;
  - an eagle driven into the Rappahannock River by an Osprey.

## PLEASE FEED THE BEAR

On July 6, the Wildlife Center admitted a small Black Bear cub from Rappahannock County. This bear had spent [more or less] three days up in a mulberry tree during the July 4th holiday but had eluded rescuers. The cub was finally captured and taken to the Center.

Upon admission, the bear — a male — was emaciated, dehydrated, and full of ticks but had no other apparent major health issues. According to Dr. Dave McRuer, the Center's Director of Veterinary Medicine, "The cub was VERY active during his physical exam and certainly did not appreciate being handled." The Center veterinary staff removed the ticks, administered fluids, and fed the cub.

Within a week, the cub was moved up to the Center's bear-pen, where he joined another cub [an orphaned bear whose mother had been killed by a car].

On July 28, both cubs were picked up by a bear biologist from the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries and released in a remote location in the National Forest in western Augusta County. During his three weeks at the Center, the Rappahannock cub's weight nearly tripled – from 4.9 pounds to 14.6 pounds.

*Here's a recipe for the food provided to the bear cubs, created by Suzy Doell, Center Wildlife Rehabilitator who honed her culinary skills at The Little Grill in Harrisonburg.*



### Bear Casserole a la Suzy

- 10 strawberries
- 15 blackberries
- 30 blueberries
- 3 broccoli florets
- 1 whole cucumber
- 10 baby carrots
- 3 tbsps peanut butter
- 10 crickets
- 1 can tuna
- 3 cups dog food
- 1 corn on the cob
- 5 acorns
- 1 cup sunflower seeds
- 1 cup birdseed

Mix until roughly blended.  
To serve, scatter around pen.

Prepared twice a day for each bear cub.  
*This is a very forgiving recipe. Ingredients vary from day to day, based on availability in the Wildlife Center's clinic kitchen.*

## Mammals

American Beaver	2
Bat	27
Black Bear	7
Eastern Chipmunk	9
Eastern Cottontail Rabbit	280
Eastern Fox Squirrel	11
Eastern Gray Squirrel	210
Gray Fox	7
Mink	1
Mouse	45
Raccoon	54
Rat	2
Red Fox	13
Shrew	3
Southern Flying Squirrel	17
Striped Skunk	25
Virginia Opossum	252
Vole	2
White-tailed Deer	101
Woodchuck	15

## Reptiles and Amphibians

American Bullfrog	2
American Toad	3
Black Rat Snake	9
Common Musk Turtle	1
Common Snapping Turtle	31
Copperhead	1
Eastern Box Turtle	81
Eastern Garter Snake	3
Eastern Hognose Snake	1
Eastern Mud Turtle	1
Eastern Painted Turtle	23
Five-lined Skink	1
Gray Treefrog	1
Marbled Salamander	1
Rough Green Snake	1

## Raptors

American Kestrel	12
Bald Eagle	40

Barn Owl	6
Barred Owl	13
Black Vulture	9
Broad-winged Hawk	2
Cooper's Hawk	35
Eastern Screech-Owl	45
Golden Eagle	1
Great Horned Owl	23
Merlin	1
Osprey	3
Peregrine Falcon	2
Red-shouldered Hawk	18
Red-tailed Hawk	64
Sharp-shinned Hawk	7
Turkey Vulture	13

## Passerines (Songbirds)

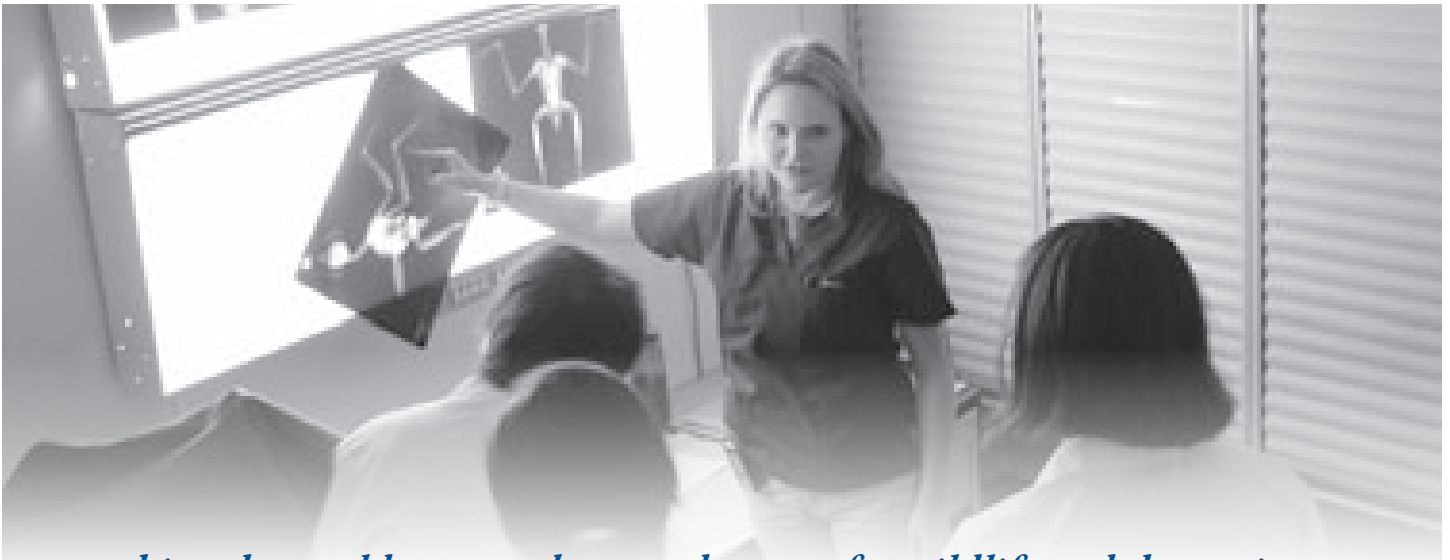
American Coot	1
American Crow	26
American Goldfinch	20
American Redstart	1
American Robin	107
Belted Kingfisher	1
Blue Jay	51
Brown Thrasher	1
Brown-headed Cowbird	2
Carolina Wren	56
Cedar Waxwing	10
Chickadee	2
Common Grackle	54
Common Raven	1
Common Yellowthroat	3
Eastern Bluebird	17
Eastern Meadowlark	1
Eastern Phoebe	5
Eastern Towhee	1
European Starling	79
Gray Catbird	4
Golden-crowned Kinglet	1
Great Crested Flycatcher	1
Hermit Thrush	1
Hooded Warbler	1

House Finch	32
House Sparrow	42
House Wren	11
Indigo Bunting	1
Northern Cardinal	29
Northern Mockingbird	24
Orchard Oriole	1
Ovenbird	1
Pine Siskin	8
Purple Finch	2
Purple Martin	1
Red-eyed Vireo	1
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	1
Scarlet Tanager	1
Slate-colored Junco	6
Sparrow	27
Tufted Titmouse	16
Unidentified Passerine	26
White-crowned Sparrow	1
White-throated Sparrow	1
Wood Thrush	2
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	1

## Other Birds

American Woodcock	4
Barn Swallow	11
Black-billed Cuckoo	2
Canada Goose	19
Chimney Swift	24
Clapper Rail	1
Common Loon	1
Common Nighthawk	2
Common Snipe	1
Domestic Duck	6
Downy Woodpecker	4
Duck Hybrid	2
Eurasian Collared-Dove	2
Great Blue Heron	8
Great Egret	1
Green Heron	2
Horned Grebe	1
Mallard	42
Mourning Dove	76
Northern Flicker	10
Pied-billed Grebe	2
Pigeon	28
Pileated Woodpecker	9
Red-bellied Woodpecker	6
Ring-billed Gull	2
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	10
Wild Turkey	19
Wood Duck	18
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	2





### *... teaching the world to care about and to care for wildlife and the environment.*

The Wildlife Center is more than a hospital — it is also a center of education. 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 at our Waynesboro clinic in 2009, for example, were students from Austria, Canada, England, Germany, and Mexico.

The Center provided introductory training classes in wildlife rehabilitation for nearly 250 participants in cities across Virginia and hosted the 14th annual “Call of the Wild” conference, designed specifically for volunteer wildlife rehabilitators and other first responders.

Through education programs and outreach throughout Virginia, the Center also works to prevent activities and habits that cause injuries to animals. Litter at the side of the road, careless destruction of habitat, the free-ranging pet cat – all directly affect wildlife. The Center presented programs at schools, libraries, county fairs, and other public events in Virginia, reaching more than 39,000 children and 9,000 adults during 2009.

The Center’s website includes an array of news and information, including a special “I Need Rescue Advice” section that gives information on wildlife injuries and offers, step-by-step, ways to determine whether a wild animal – especially a young one – is really in need of a rescue and how to deal safely with a wildlife emergency. Visit the Center’s website at [www.wildlifecenter.org](http://www.wildlifecenter.org).



## **The Great Snow of 2009**

On Saturday, December 19, central Virginia was paralyzed by a tremendous winter snowstorm, with about two feet of snow at the Center. But, snow or no snow, there was critical work to be done. Center staff and volunteers trudged through the snow – walking a mile or more – to tend to the patients that needed to be treated and fed, and another two dozen resident-animals that needed to be checked on and cared for. Among the “weather warriors” were two individuals spending a year in training at the Center who hail from snowy climes – Madis Leivits, the Intern in Veterinary Diagnostics [from Estonia] and Dr. Ariane Santamaria-Bouvier, a Veterinary Intern from Québec.



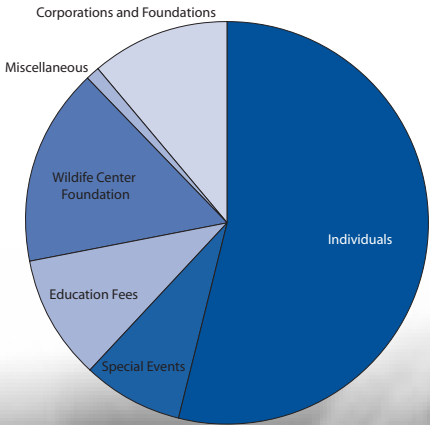
# Financials

The Wildlife Center of Virginia is a 501(c)(3) organization that depends 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 2009, for the second year in a row, the Center received the coveted “four-star” rating for sound fiscal management from Charity Navigator, the top rating provided by the nation’s premier independent evaluator of charitable organizations.

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

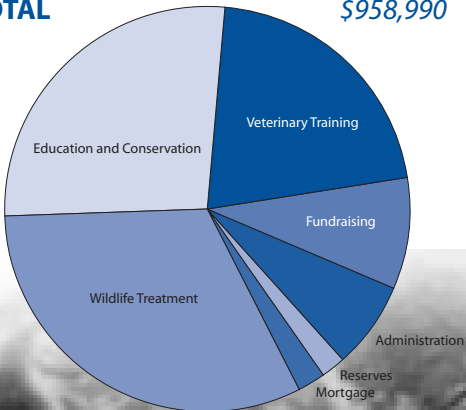
## REVENUE

Individuals	\$521,778	54%
Corporations & Foundations	103,336	11%
Special Events	77,677	8%
Education Fees	97,104	10%
Wildlife Center Foundation	153,500	16%
Miscellaneous	5,595	1%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$958,990</b>	<b>100%</b>



## EXPENDITURES

Education and Conservation	\$255,270	27%
Treatment	306,700	32%
Training	205,879	21%
Fundraising	86,368	9%
Administration	65,265	7%
Mortgage	23,448	2%
Reserves	16,060	2%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$958,990</b>	<b>100%</b>



## 2009 GALA SPONSORS

### BOBCAT SPONSOR

---

Col. Gloria Diggs



Dr. and Mrs. John M. Garvin

### PEREGRINE SPONSOR

---

Mr. and Mrs. Cecil Armstrong

Robert and Suzanne Brooks

Phebe Cambata

Lee and Jane Campbell

Linda R. Lee

John and Adrienne Mars

Mint Spring Frame Shop

Morgan-Miles Picture Frames

Mary N. Scott

StellarOne

Stonewall Jackson Hotel

Charles and Ginny Wilson

### KESTREL SPONSOR

---

Anonymous

Laurie Berman

Celesta Dexheimer

James and Beverly Foster

Mary Helen Jessup

Joan Lane

Elisabeth Looney

NTELOS Foundation

Martha Olson

Frank L. Robinson III

Richard and Cindy Shady

Mr. and Mrs. Jacob A. Stein

Dr. Theodore Wright

Erika Yery

### LIVE-AUCTION DONORS

---

AirTran

John Banovich

Brave Heart Safaris

Bill Easton and Janine Higgins

The Honorable Bob Goodlatte

Habitat Dive Resorts

Images of Nature

Kevin and Avra Leigh

Tim O'Kane

Charlene Scott

William Smith and Polly Evans

Robbin Thompson

Charles and Ginny Wilson

### GALA COMMITTEE

---

Christine Kelley, Chair

Phebe Cambata

Connie Dulaney

Bernice Glenn

Robert Harris

Linda Roland

*On October 10, 2009, friends of the Wildlife Center gathered at the historic Stonewall Jackson Hotel in Staunton for the Center's 25th 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.*

*Among the items in our live auction — naming rights for this Virginia Opossum, a former patient and now a permanent resident of the Wildlife Center and a member of the education "faculty". The winning bidder was Sabrina Garvin, who has named the opossum "Garv" — in honor of her husband, Dr. John "Lucky" Garvin.*



## *Save the Date*

---

*Please join us for the 26th 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 likely a hawk or an owl! Proceeds from the evening will help support the life-saving and life-changing work of the Wildlife Center.*

♦ **What:** 26th Annual Gala Benefit and Auction

♦ **When:** Saturday, November 6, 2010

♦ **Where:** Stonewall Jackson Hotel in Staunton

For additional information please contact Kristen Sluiter at 540.942.9453 or [gala@wildlifecenter.org](mailto:gala@wildlifecenter.org).

# THE WILDLIFE CENTER OF VIRGINIA

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Erwin Bohmfalk, Ph.D., Chair  
Ron Perry, Vice Chair  
Kurt Plowman, Secretary  
Lee Campbell, Treasurer  
Chester C. Housh III  
Christine Kelley  
William O'Luanaigh  
Linda Roland  
Neysa Simmers  
Dickson Young, Esq.

### *Ex Officio*

Ed Clark, President  
Nancy Sheffield

## STAFF

### ADMINISTRATION

Edward E. Clark, Jr., *President*  
Randy Huwa, *Executive Vice President*  
Elizabeth Brooks, *Office Manager*  
Lacy Kegley, *Front Desk Coordinator*  
Nicole Koiner, *Front Desk Coordinator*

### VETERINARY SERVICES

Dave McRuer, DVM, *Director of Veterinary Medicine*  
Elizabeth Daut, DVM, *Veterinary Fellow*  
Ariane Santamaria-Bouvier, DVM, *Veterinary Intern*  
Leigh-Ann Horne, *Veterinary Technician*  
Madis Leivits, *Intern for Veterinary Diagnostics*

## FOUNDATION TRUSTEES

Lee Campbell, Chair  
Vittorio Bonomo  
Tom Flynn  
Christine Kelley  
Tom Maltby  
Jennifer Shirkey  
Dickson Young, Esq.

## SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Dr. Jamie Reaser, Chair

### REHABILITATION

Amanda Nicholson, *Outreach Coordinator & Rehabilitation Supervisor*  
Suzanne Doell, *Wildlife Rehabilitator*  
Dani Stumbo, *Wildlife Rehabilitator*

### EDUCATION

Gretchen Achenbach, Ph.D., *Director of Environmental Education*  
Kelly Rourke, *Education Coordinator*  
Quinn Robinson, *Environmental Educator*

### DEVELOPMENT

Kelly Matherly, *Fundraising Coordinator*  
Kristen Sluiter, *Special Projects Coordinator*

Board and staff as of January 2010







## THE WILDLIFE CENTER OF VIRGINIA

Post Office Box 1557  
Waynesboro, Virginia 22980  
540.942.9453  
[www.wildlifecenter.org](http://www.wildlifecenter.org)

 **Mixed Sources**  
Product group from well-managed  
forests, controlled sources and  
recycled wood or fiber  
[www.fsc.org](http://www.fsc.org) Cert no. SW-COC-003104  
© 1996 Forest Stewardship Council