

The Ridgeline

NEWSLETTER OF THE BLUE RIDGE WILDLIFE CENTER

ISSUE 60 | WINTER 2024



2023 Annual Report

*Golden Eagle patient
suffering from heavy
metal toxicosis.*

Reaching Milestones

Twenty years ago, Blue Ridge Wildlife Center admitted its first patient. This year, we are on the brink of an extraordinary milestone—admitting our **35,000th** patient.

It's amazing to reflect on the journey that began with a wildlife hotline in 2000, now transformed into a pivotal force for positive change in wildlife conservation. Each of the 35,000 patients we've cared for has a unique story, contributing to a greater understanding and appreciation for the wildlife under our protection.

As you will see throughout this report, last year was a game-changer!

First and foremost, we added five amazing professionals to our team. These additions bring fresh perspectives and skills, ensuring that our commitment to excellence in wildlife conservation continues to grow and evolve.

We also achieved a significant milestone by admitting the highest number of patients we ever had in a year. With this growth came the need to upgrade our medical equipment and patient cages, and our donors rallied with incredible support, making it our most successful fundraising year ever. The annual gala alone raised **over \$300,000**, enabling us to acquire crucial equipment such as a new x-ray and ultrasound machine, and much more. This couldn't have come at a better time as we are seeing baby season (our busiest season) start earlier each year. That, combined with increased awareness of our work, we expect to admit close to **4,000** patients this year alone.

Of course, treating injured wildlife isn't all we do. Each patient contributes valuable data for studies in human, environmental, and animal health; their stories serve as educational tools, fostering public awareness and understanding; and their treatment provides vital training to our interns, the future stewards of wildlife conservation.

Looking ahead, we are inspired and motivated by the milestones we've reached, but we recognize there is much more work to be done. It is with deep appreciation that we acknowledge the integral role our donors play in shaping the next chapters of our story. Your support has been the bedrock of our successes, allowing us to provide top-tier care, expand our team, and make lasting strides in wildlife conservation.

As we reflect on the incredible journey of the past two decades, we want to express our heartfelt gratitude to each and every donor who has stood by us. Your generosity has not only transformed the lives of 35,000 patients but has also been instrumental in fostering a deeper understanding and appreciation for the wildlife we are dedicated to protecting.

Thank you for being the driving force behind Blue Ridge Wildlife Center's mission. Together, we are not just caring for wildlife; we are building a legacy of conservation and compassion, and your support continues to be the cornerstone of our success.

With gratitude,



Annie Bradfield

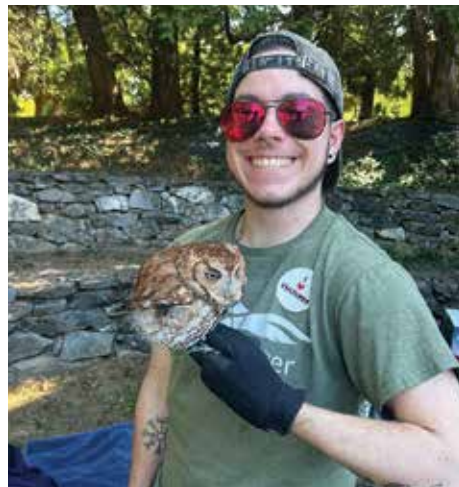


Meet our new team members!



Alix Badley, LVT

Our hospital team was so excited to have Alix, a licensed Veterinary Technician, join our team, where she assists our veterinary and rehab staff to provide excellent medical treatment to our patients in care.



Ashton-William Bohince

Ashton officially became permanent staff after working with our Education Department as a Summer Education Associate, earning his title of Education Coordinator.



Trish Carter

A previous Board member, Trish joined us as our new Development Director, helping to ensure the future of the BRWC through funding, grants, and continued community connection.



Morgan Powell

Morgan joined our team as a much-needed Building & Grounds Manager, where he helps keep our facility and enclosures running smoothly, for both our patients AND our staff!



CJ White

CJ joined our team in early 2023 as our Education Director, managing everything education from care of our Ambassadors, creating and giving educational programming, and planning for the future of our education department!

BRWC on the Road!

Our hospital staff attended five conferences including the National Wildlife Rehabilitators Association Conference, ExoticsCon, Veterinary Medical Expo, Call of the Wild, and Association of Avian Veterinarians Virtual. We also lectured at multiple conferences and in Fall 2023 started our first university-level course at Shenandoah University, Wildlife Medicine and Conservation, co-taught by board member Dr. Degrossi and our hospital director, Dr. Riley.



Hospital Stats

We treated **3,645** patients of **160** different species in 2023! Similar to past years, patients that were alive at presentation and did not require euthanasia in the first 24 hours due to non-native status or severe injury had a survival rate of **72%**.

PATIENT BREAKDOWN



1,503

41.2% Birds

- 240 Raptors
- 856 Songbirds
- 407 Doves, waterbirds, gamebirds, etc.



1,672

45.9% Mammals

- 534 Eastern Cottontails
- 404 Virginia Opposums
- 321 Eastern Gray Squirrels
- 413 Foxes, Bats, Raccoons, and others



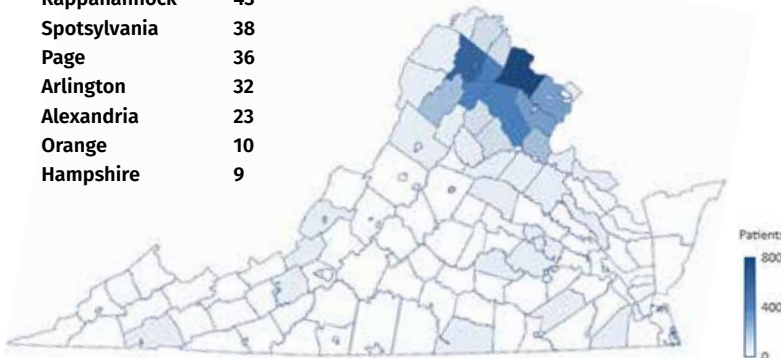
441

12.9% Reptiles & Amphibians

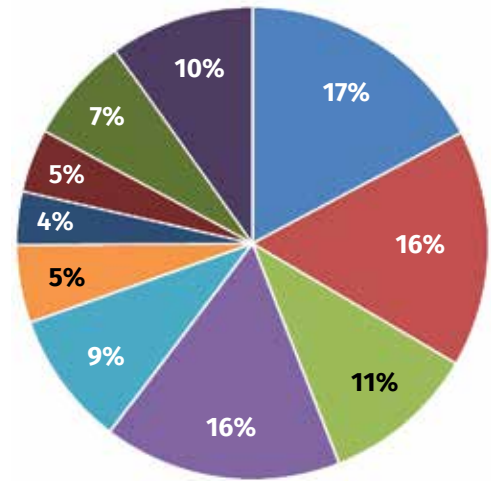
- 337 Turtles
- 97 Snakes
- 7 Skinks

PATIENTS BY COUNTY

Loudoun	760	King George	9	Prince William	2
Frederick	667	Washington	6	District of Columbia	2
Clarke	362	Chesterfield	5	Amelia	1
Fauquier	353	Hardy	4	Berkley	1
Warren	315	Morgan	4	City of Richmond	1
Fairfax	251	Westmoreland	4	Craig	1
Prince William	217	Caroline	3	Henrico	1
Shenandoah	149	Rockingham	3	King and Queen	1
Stafford	147	Allegany	2	Mecklenburg	1
Jefferson	68	Louisa	2	Northumberland	1
Berkeley	62	Madison	2	Suffolk	1
Culpeper	43	Montgomery	2	Sussex	1
Rappahannock	43				
Spotsylvania	38				
Page	36				
Arlington	32				
Alexandria	23				
Orange	10				
Hampshire	9				



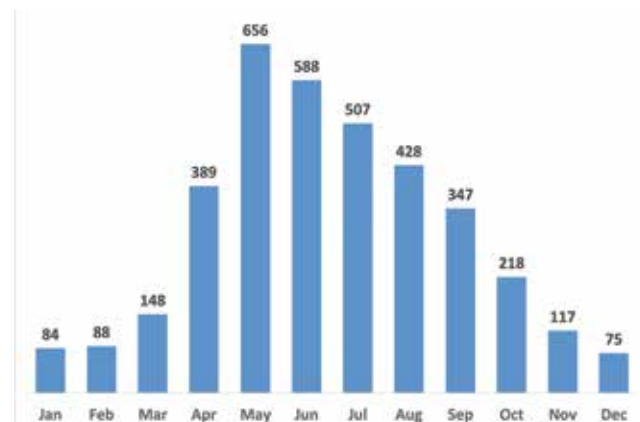
CAUSES FOR ADMISSION



- Orphans
- Hit by Vehicle
- Unknown Trauma
- Cat Attack
- Dog Attack
- Non-infectious Disease
- Window Strike
- Infectious Disease
- Human, non-intentional
- All Others

Trauma of Unknown Cause indicates that there is trauma, but the event that caused trauma was not witnessed. The vast majority of these cases are likely to be hit by vehicle or cat-attacked cases. **Human, non-intentional** is the cause we list if the issue was caused by humans who were not intentionally trying to harm the animal. This includes things like lawnmower injuries, garden netting injuries, and glue trap victims. **Non-infectious disease** includes things such as emaciation, aspiration pneumonia (a common finding when a baby has been fed by the finder prior to admission), aural abscesses in turtles, congenital diseases, cancerous processes, etc. while Infectious diseases were primarily cases of rabies, distemper, and west Nile viruses.

2023 MONTHLY PATIENT INTAKES



First-time Species

In 2023 we saw **160** species, **12** of which were native species seen for the first time at our facility!

Not pictured: Greater Black-backed Gull, Tundra Swan, and Eastern Kingsnake.



This year we took in not just one, but three Eastern Wormsnakes for the first time in our facility's history!



This Northern Parula was brought to us after it struck a window in the fall, likely during their migration south.



This Gadwall was a facility first, and while rarely seen in care, are a common wintering duck in Virginia.



This Mississippi Kite, an uncommon bird for Virginia, was brought to us after a suspected window strike with a broken wing.



While common in Virginia, this was our first admittance of a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher at our facility.



This Black-crowned Night Heron was brought to us after being found with a fishing line constriction injury. Thankfully the injury was superficial and this bird was released shortly after intake!



This uncommon visitor, a Northern Cricket Frog, was thankfully rescued by an observant finder when the frog appeared to have a leg injury.



A concerned finder rescued this Spotted Salamander out of their barn looking dehydrated and lethargic. Thankfully, this unique patient had no physical injuries, and after some R&R, was released back home!



We were honored to help rescue and treat this beautiful Golden Eagle suffering from heavy metal toxicosis.

Memorable Patients



Wood Turtle

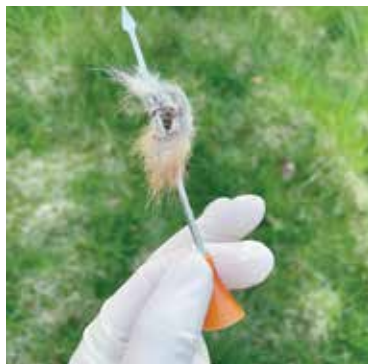
This female adult Wood Turtle came to us in the later half of 2022 with a severe carapace fracture from a likely vehicle strike. Like many turtles across the nation, wood turtles are declining largely due to habitat loss and vehicle collisions on roadways. Despite her guarded prognosis, she healed all winter and in May of 2023 was successfully released home, where she can continue to contribute to the population of this state threatened and Federally endangered species.



Northern Flickers

These nestling Northern Flickers were brought in to us after their nest tree was cut down. Despite the finder's attempts to renest in a hand-made cavity our staff provided, the parents never returned, so our staff had the privilege of raising these babies from just a few days old all the way to competent, beautiful adults!

Cottontail



In early 2023, this cottontail was found in Arlington with a blow dart sticking out of their hind leg. Thankfully this rabbit was able to be captured, and under anesthesia, the dart was able to be removed and the wound treated. This cottontail was successfully released shortly after completing a course of pain medications and antibiotics!

Great Horned Owl



This Great Horned Owl was rescued after being trapped at a wastewater treatment plant, covered in sludge with an injury to one wing. Thankfully, this owl was stable enough to be bathed on intake, and after treatment for the injured wing and flight reconditioning, made a full recovery and was successfully released!

“Shark fin” Squirrel



Broken bones in adult mammals can be difficult to treat, as they require physical handling which can be dangerous and stressful, as well as some sort of bandage that can stand up to teeth, claws, and constant attempts at escape. We were able to rig a “shark fin” bandage on this squirrel to keep his broken front right leg stable while also allowing better movement and eating on his own. After a few weeks in the bandage, his fracture was stable enough to be removed and he was able to be placed in an outdoor enclosure to rebuild muscle.



Northern Watersnake



This Northern Watersnake was brought to us after being found caught in a trap intended for another species. Despite being minimally responsive on intake, after stabilization, this snake gave birth to 15 lives babies! After a little bit of observation, both mom and all her babies were released back home!



Did you know? It is illegal to raise or rehab a wild animal without the appropriate license and permits. If you are located in Virginia, use this website to find a licensed wildlife rehabilitator near you: dwr.virginia.gov/wildlife/injured/rehabilitators/.

One Health Research

One Health, or working in a framework that integrates human, animal, and environmental health, is at the heart of what we do in our wildlife hospital. We were involved in 12 research projects at the Center in 2023, many of which are ongoing. All of the ongoing studies are important in One Health as they focus on zoonotic diseases—specifically those that impact humans as well as our native wildlife and oftentimes domestic animals.

La Crosse Virus (LCV)

One of our longer-term studies involves determining the prevalence of LCV in wildlife species. For his study, led by the entomology department at Virginia Tech, we have been collecting serum samples from primarily ground squirrel species (including eastern gray squirrels, ground-hogs, chipmunks, and southern flying squirrels), species known to be the primary reservoir for this virus, which causes encephalitis in humans. The collected data revealed that this virus is present in wild populations beyond the geographic range that was previously known and even in species not previously recorded.

In this study, the average prevalence rate in wildlife presented to the Center was 1.9% and rates were highest in red



Eastern cottontails were found to have the second highest prevalence of La Crosse Virus in our study at 2.29%, just slightly lower than red foxes (2.56%).

foxes and eastern cottontails. LCV is considered the leading cause of mosquito-borne encephalitis in children in the United States so understanding the reservoir species and prevalence rates in different regions is essential to prompt diagnosis and treatment.



As one of the few Wildlife Teaching hospitals in the U.S. that also performs research, students that rotate through our hospital have a unique opportunity to contribute to research and learn how to conduct research projects.



These results were published in 2023 in *Infectious Disease Report* and you can read the full article by scanning the QR code.



The primary reservoir for La Crosse Virus is thought to be ground squirrels, however, data from our hospital showed higher seroprevalence in eastern cottontails and red foxes!

Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI)

The current outbreak of HPAI started in early 2022 in the United States. While the virus circulates at low levels in wildlife all the time, outbreaks usually last just one migration season and do not have a huge impact on the wildlife population. This outbreak has had severe effects on wildlife and has been ongoing since 2022. Millions of birds have died as a result.

More recently, sporadic cases have been found in a wide variety of mammal species. At the time of publication, only 15 cases have been reported in humans, however, there is concern over the virus's pandemic potential as mutations allow it to move from birds, to a variety of mam-



Wild waterfowl are considered the main reservoir for Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza and they are often asymptomatic.

imals. From mammals, a few mutations could make this virus a big problem for humans. This is one reason why prevalence studies, like the research conducted at our hospital, are so important to public health.

SARS-CoV-2

Although most of us have accepted SARS-CoV-2 (covid) since the pandemic initially hit, this disease is ongoing and continuing to mutate in humans and wildlife. Some studies have shown up to 40% of free-ranging white-tailed deer in the U.S. have antibodies to covid. In Virginia, 30.9% of deer were found to have antibodies as reported by the USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service. Tracking prevalence and mutation patterns in wildlife is extremely important in predicting when and where these viruses and their newly-mutated variants may spill back over into the human population.



SARS-CoV-2 has now been identified in Virginia Opossums, foxes, mink, and other wildlife.



Skunks, foxes, raccoons, and other wildlife have been found to be infected with toxoplasmosis and our research will help to better describe the prevalence locally.

Toxoplasmosis

Our newest study involves testing wildlife for toxoplasmosis, a protozoan parasite spread by cats, who are the only definitive host. Infection with this parasite is often asymptomatic, but when animals become stressed or immunocompromised, the parasite can become lethal. We know that this parasite has been documented in a variety of wild animals and that an estimated 11% of the U.S. population over age 6 is infected. Knowing the prevalence in our area helps us to know the risk locally and

can help to make life-saving diagnoses in animals and people.

In addition to formal research projects, the diagnostics and patient data we collect daily is used to inform human healthcare professionals and protect human lives. For example, this autumn we had a record number of West Nile Virus (WNV) positive cases, mostly from Ashburn, VA. These were all reported (as required) to the state and local health departments. Data from facilities like ours and from reported human cases are compiled by ARBOnet, the National Arbovirus Surveillance System, which is managed by the CDC and state health departments. This data can help inform healthcare workers about the prevalence of WNV and other arboviruses in their area which can help humans to get to a diagnosis more quickly.



American Crows are the species we most commonly diagnose with WNV at the center.

Training the Next Generation

In 2023, we hosted **13 rehabilitation interns** and **14 veterinary externs**, who combined contributed over **8,000** hours, mainly during our busy baby season from April to August.

These interns faced diverse species challenges, handling unique cases, from avian injuries to small mammal ailments. The hands-on experience, mentorship, and holistic approach they received at BRWC will prepare them for varied scenarios during their careers. Our interns are not only a huge help to us, but we hope that their experience at BRWC will inspire them to continue our important work for the next generation.



Veterinary students discussing radiographs with Dr. Hsieh.

Rehabilitation Interns



Kaelin Cruz helps assist Dr. Riley with an Eastern Ratsnake.



Colin Nelson with Bald Eagle patient.



Kristian Mahoney with raccoon patient.



Madison Smith helps feed our bird patients.

Veterinary Externs



Mary Frances Smith (l) and Dr. Hsieh examine an injured Barn Owl.



Students assist Dr. Riley with surgery on a Northern Watersnake.



Dr. Hsieh (center) is assisted by interns with surgery on Jasper, our Red Fox ambassador.

Education Interns

Additionally, we were fortunate to have the support of **two** summer seasonal **education interns** who contributed significantly to summer camp activities, daily husbandry, and programming. These hardworking interns collectively put in **350** hours supporting our center's educational efforts!

Through hands-on experiences and specialized training, interns actively assist in educating the public about native wildlife, leading programs, and caring for the animals under our stewardship. The skills and knowledge gained during their internship become valuable assets as they pursue careers in the animal care field. This practical experience not only enhances their resumes but also instills a deep understanding of wildlife conservation, making them well-equipped to make a meaningful impact in the broader realm of animal care and education.

Not pictured: Bella Barrerra



Education intern, Nashia Martinez and Gryllz, the Red-tailed Hawk.

Education Programs

In 2023, the BRWC Education Department achieved significant community engagement, contributing to native wildlife education and wildlife rehabilitation advocacy. Throughout the year, we presented more than **250** programs, both on and off-site, catering to various groups, including community groups, state parks, scout groups, private tours, and virtual audiences.

Our outreach efforts engaged an impressive **6,330** individuals, deepening their wildlife understanding through our programming. Our free Wildlife Walk and indoor Education Center, are open daily from 9 AM to 4 PM, providing an up-close experience for visitors to observe our non-releasable animal ambassadors including skunks, a fox, an opossum, a snake, vultures, and more. These ambassadors play a central role, challenging stereotypes, dispelling myths, and fostering connections across all age groups.

Through education, we aim to inspire a new perspective and encourage visitors to appreciate and advocate for the conservation of all native wildlife.



WildFest

On September 2nd, more than 600 people gathered from various locations to celebrate and learn about native wildlife at our annual, free "WildFest" event hosted at the State Arboretum of Virginia at Blandy Experimental Farm. Guests had the opportunity to stroll from one vendor to another, delving into a wide array of topics presented by organizations such as the American Chestnut Foundation, Human-Beaver Coexistence, Virginia Master Naturalists, K2C (Wildlife Encounters), Sky Meadows State Park, Virginia Department of Health, The State Arboretum, and the BRWC wildlife veterinary table.

Additionally, they could explore the BRWC ambassador mammal, bird, and reptile tables, as well as the Gift Shop and silent auction tables, which were set up to raise funds for the center.

The event's most popular attractions were the 30-minute education programs featuring BRWC's own ambassadors. These programs aimed to teach people about our ambassadors, how to appreciate wildlife, and provide proper assistance to animals in need.



CJ White, Education Director, presenting to a captivated group at WildFest.



Wildlife Educator, Alysa Everly, talks to WildFest attendees with Bear, the Striped Skunk, about his species.



Owl-o-Ween

This past Halloween season, “Boo Ridge Wildlife Center” hosted its first “Owl-o-Ween” a unique and exciting event that combined the fun of trick-or-treating with an educational twist. This sold-out event gave animal and candy lovers a chance to learn about our wildlife ambassadors while celebrating Halloween in their fantastic costumes. Kids were able to test their skills with jelly beans that either tasted like buttered popcorn or rotten eggs, moldy cheese, or caramel corn to highlight how well a skunk can smell to eat the right foods. Sour Toxic Waste candy served as a fun example of a vulture’s extremely acidic

stomach acid that helps get rid of bacteria, viruses, and diseases in the environment. Even eyeball gumballs were used to talk about how well hawks and other raptors are able to see to catch their prey. The event even ended with kids creating their own spooky bat craft! Stay tuned because next year will be even bigger and better!

Wildlife Wonderland

In December we hosted two Wildlife Wonderland programs focused on how wildlife navigates their habitats during the winter months. Thank you to all who so generously donated funds and supplies at these events. In exchange for a donation, guests were able to take home a one-of-a-kind ornament made by the resident ambassadors!



Upcoming Events

Join us for one of our weekly programs to learn about native wildlife!

On “Turtle Talk Tuesdays,” dive into the realm of native turtles and discover their vital role in the ecosystem.

“Wild Wednesdays,” where each week unveils a new focus, from foxes to skunks, opossums, and snakes, or other environmental concerns and topics.

“Talon Talks,” to learn about raptors behavior and their importance to the health of our environment.

For more details and the schedule, check out the Events Calendar on our website.



Moira Rose, the Turkey Vulture, paints wooden ornaments for the holidays.

Meet Reptile Ambassador, Freddy Cooter

Blue Ridge Wildlife Center’s newest reptile ambassador arrived on January 2, 2023, after being spotted swimming in tight circles at Audubon Lake in Reston, Virginia. Freddy Cooter, a Northern Red-Bellied Cooter, was suffering from pneumonia which caused his right side to sink and left side to float up in deep water. Although the infection was successfully treated, he was left with permanent changes to the lungs that caused the tilted swimming to continue permanently (though at a greatly improved and much more manageable degree). Any flowing water current would easily flip him upside down, leaving him at risk of drowning and making it challenging to get food. Given these conditions (and the fact that he was very tolerant of humans) he was deemed non-releasable but appropriate for captivity. During the warmer months, Freddy can be seen sunning or swimming in his custom-built enclosure or the pond in our wildlife walk. Although he cannot be released back into the wild, we are thrilled to have this species as an ambassador, inspiring mindfulness and respect for our waterways and emphasizing the importance of clean water for both people and the animals.



BRWC Volunteers

In 2023, we had **45** volunteers working with us, some brand new and some who have been with us **5+** years! Volunteers contributed to over **7,000** hours in our wildlife hospital and education department.

Hospital Volunteers

As a nonprofit organization, volunteers are the lifeblood of our hospital! They allow us to extend our limited resources, help feed babies every **15-30 minutes** to every **2+ hours or more**, keep our enclosures clean and safe for new patients, help us get our recovered patients back home, and so much more! Without our volunteers, we'd be incredibly limited in the work that we do. We're so appreciative of the commitment and dedication of these amazing people who are giving back to our native wildlife!



Hospital volunteers observe Dr. Riley (l) and Alix Badley, LVT (r) perform an imping procedure on a Black Vulture.



Alex Brewer (l) and Alix Badley, LVT with a Black Vulture in our flight cage.



Christina Livingston helps care for our turtle patients.

Would you like to get involved?

We rely on volunteers in numerous ways to help us care for native wildlife. From animal care, administration, maintenance, to education.

Visit our website to learn more!

blueridgewildlifectr.org

Education Volunteers

In 2023 we maintained a consistent group of **15 education volunteers** who dedicated their time to assisting with on-site programming and daily husbandry tasks. Our volunteers collectively contributed over **1,200 hours** of their time, and we deeply appreciate their commitment to helping us teach the public about the importance of preserving native wildlife.



Miranda McCleaf speaks with visitors about Tugboat, the Wood Turtle.



Ollie McClenny feeds Mocha, the Striped Skunk.



Lisa Zeff and Wednesday Addams, the Black Vulture.

Volunteer Spotlight: Ike Eisenhauer

Ike Eisenhauer, our longest-standing volunteer, builds amazing birdhouses you can find in our gift shop. These "unique avian abodes" are made of reclaimed wood and Ike generously donates all proceeds to BRWC. Ike has done a bit of everything at the Center, and these days he is one of our most knowledgeable docents!

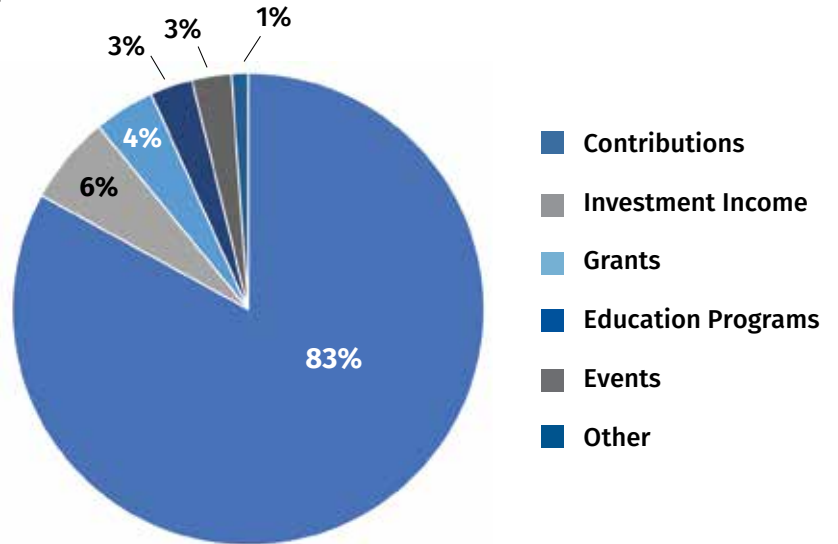


Financials FY2023

Blue Ridge Wildlife Center operates on a fiscal year.
 Financials reflect fiscal year 2023 from July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023.

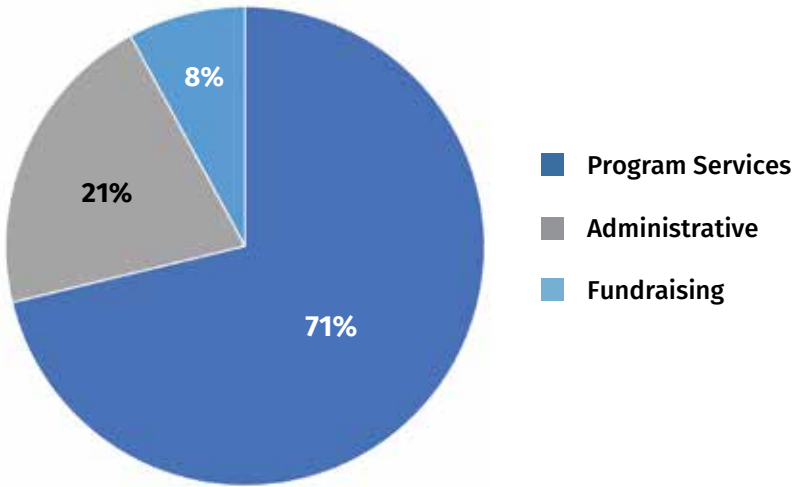
REVENUE

Contributions	\$2,112,082
Investment Income	\$154,504
Grants	\$106,663
Education Programs	\$73,858
Events	\$68,515
Other	\$29,132
Total	\$2,544,754



EXPENSES

Program Services	\$760,504
Administrative	\$222,419
Fundraising	\$84,909
Total	\$1,067,832



Revenue less expenses: \$1,476,922
 Net assets at end of year: \$6,164,342



Blue Ridge Wildlife Center is very grateful for the supporters that help us provide life-changing services to the native wildlife in our community.

On the following page, we have included a list of our **Wildlife Guardians** who have invested **\$1,000 or more** during 2023.

Donor Appreciations

\$10,000 and above

Anonymous (1)
 American Donkey Trust
 Bob Wiser Charitable
 Foundation Trust
 Linda Case
 Mark and Susan Galbraith
 Karin Gander Estate
 Good Shepherd Fund
 W. Cabell and Susan Grayson
 Elizabeth and William Ingham
 The Luminescence Foundation, Inc
 Valley Dale Fund
 OnSite Wastewater Service LLC
 Nancy L. Randall Trust
 William Rigg
 Patricia Thomas
 Adalbert and Beatrice von Gontard
 The Wise Foundation

\$5,000 and above

Anonymous (1)
 Appreciation of Earth and
 Animal Foundation Inc
 Gregory and Cheryl Ayres
 Tim and Stephanie Bates
 Frederick and Nancy Lee Boos
 Scott Campbell
 Linda Cook
 Theodore and Sandra Guarriello
 H.O. Peet Foundation
 Danny and Leslie Hazel
 James Knowles Family Fund
 Kathryn J. Clark Foundation
 Jeff and Erika Kelble
 Bethann Laign-Beeman
 Russell McKelway and Laura Dabinett
 Lori Moulden
 Helen Noyes
 Lee & Jimmy Classic, NVVA Volleyball
 The Pruitt Foundation, Inc.
 Emily Ristau
 Patricia Robinson
 Matthew Sheedy and Victoria Bendure
 Michael and Wendy Smith
 Kristi Titus
 United Bank, Winchester
 Valley Health
 Vern's Plumbing
 Laurie Volk
 The John W. Warner, IV Foundation, Inc.
 Galbraith/Winer Family Trust

\$2,500 and above

Bruce and Debbie Anderson
 Frank and Sandra Armstrong
 Bank of Clarke Foundation
 Christopher Bell

Robert Bragg
 Peter Coppolino and Janet Hensley
 Crescent Cities Charities, Inc.
 Dianne Dukette and David Cornish
 F&M Bank Winchester
 Andrew and Barbara Ferrari
 Dun Foundation
 The Musser Family Fund
 Lisa Goshen
 Page Groseclose
 Gregg Johns
 Donald Ruschman and
 A. Elizabeth Jones
 John and Lynn Kessler
 Gregory and Lana Leggett
 Loudoun Mutual Insurance
 Company
 Christopher Lumpkin and
 Stanley McCulloch
 Andrea Lutz
 McColgan Family Foundation
 Meadow Branch Animal Hospital
 Marcelo Melivilu, DVM
 Mark H. and Therese S. Merrill
 Jason Paterniti and Nicole Watson
 Perry Engineering Company, Inc.
 Peterson Family Foundation
 Jessie and Dan Pickard
 David and Marilyn Pickett
 Cheryl and Rick Reynolds
 Jerelyn Schantz
 Brian Andrews and
 Heather Shank-Givens
 Virginia Warner
 Priscilla Whittaker

\$1,000 and above

Anonymous (1)
 Ellen Aders
 Aders Insurance Agency Inc
 Christopher and Laurie Ambrose
 Battelle Foundation Fund of
 The Columbus Foundation
 Jane Beidler
 Richard Bell and Sarah Adams Bell
 Richard Boucher and Carolyn Brehm
 Judith Brocksmith
 M. David and Marti Bryant
 Keith Harrington and Beverley Byrd
 Julie Christian
 Linda Colgan
 Roberta Comrie
 Julia Connell
 Daniel and Donna Courain
 Bill Crisp
 Drs. John W. Smith and
 Kathryn D. Crossland

Robinson and Reagan Duncan
 Allen Ervin
 Rebecca Faeder
 Greg and Candy Fazakerley
 Brian Ferrell
 Kathryn Finniff
 Gabriele Fry
 Michael and Cleo Gewirz
 Lawrence Gilpin
 Tyson Gilpin, Jr. and
 Anne Randolph
 United Capital Personal
 Financial Management -
 Winchester
 Kevin and Karen Greene
 Roberta Hanks
 Jeanne and Russell Hayward
 John Hopkins
 Ronald and Gwen Hougham
 Mark Huber
 Lisa Jawer
 Mark and Janet Jenkins
 Joseph Kanahele
 Laurie Karnay
 Terrence Giroux
 and Barbara Keebler
 John Kerns
 Kinloch Farm
 Abigail Kois
 Kysela Pere et Fils
 Iara Lacher and Eric Morgan
 Michael and Rachel
 Foreman LaManna
 Judith Landes
 Nick Lapham
 Darcy S. Cors Foundation
 Reid Leatzow
 Jeffrey and Sondra LeHew
 Heidi Lesinski, Realtor, Berkshire
 Hathaway Penfed Realty
 John and Betty Lumpkin
 Sarah Maas
 Julie Matheson and
 Jacob Schmitt
 William and Anne McIntosh
 Sarah and David McLellan
 Katherine McLeod
 Ward Melhuish
 CSM Accounting Associates

Kathie Menuet
 Nicholas Miller
 Michael and Jeanne Morency
 Doreen Moss
 Francis Murphy
 Joseph and Grace Nixon
 Christopher and Lilla Ohrstrom
 Jack Parrack
 Kevin and Carla Passarello
 Charitable Fund
 John Pelkey and Lynn Berry
 Joelle Pence
 Mike and Susan Perry
 Tammy Prescott
 Paula Rabkin
 David and Catherine Rochester
 Tonia Schnarr
 Jennifer Schultz
 Sue and R. Graham Setliff
 Seven Bends Nursery
 Linda Shepherd
 The Shockey Companies
 Slater Run Vineyards
 Jesi Smith
 Timothy Spitzer
 Clare Staveley and Jon Colburn
 Sidney Stern, II
 William and Claudia Stiebel
 Andrew T C Stifler and
 Nicole Perry
 Mark Strand
 Teagues Run Veterinary Care LLC
 Mary Tedrow
 Donald L. Trump and
 Kristina Debye
 Van Metre Family Foundation
 Ebalinna Vaughn, DVM
 Terry Wallace
 Ms. Janice Wamstad
 Denise and Michael Wilkerson
 Winchester Printers, Inc.
 Melissa Winchester
 Alan and Irene Wurtzel

Every effort has been made to provide an accurate listing of supporters.

Please contact Trish Carter (trish@blueridgewildlifectr.org) with any errors or omissions.

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Thank you to everyone who provides us with food, medical supplies, blankets, newspaper, and more each year! Although we were unable to list everyone, your contributions make a significant impact on wildlife rehabilitation.

We are truly honored to be the chosen recipient these heartfelt donations.

TRIBUTE GIFTS

In memory

Sylvie Bisbee
 Richard "Ricky" Bragg
 Angela Christman
 Jane Glenn
 Harbin Hall

Jason Hill
 Mary Jane "Janie" Jenkins
 Elizabeth Morris
 Vivian Christy Sansoni
 Coda Udall
 Wendy Webb

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Thank You Marsi and Rocket

With animal care comes both the joy of gaining new team members and building relationships with those individuals and the loss of cherished ambassadors; it's the hardest aspect of working with animals. Whether they are veterinarians, vet techs, assistants, trainers, educators, interns, volunteers, etc., everyone in the animal care field understands this reality.

While these animals are not pets, we care deeply for them and about them, providing everything they need, including food, water, shelter, healthcare, and protection. Animals that cannot be released, yet are in a position to be taught and trained without long-term pain or illness, may stay with a facility for the duration of their lives.

Unfortunately, 2023 brought two significant losses to our ambassador team. Marsi, the Virginia Opossum, spent just under three years with us. In that relatively short time, Marsi contributed to programming at our center and traveled throughout Virginia, educating tens of thousands of people about the importance of this commonly misunderstood animal.

Rocket, the Southern Flying Squirrel, was a pint-sized superstar who educated countless people about



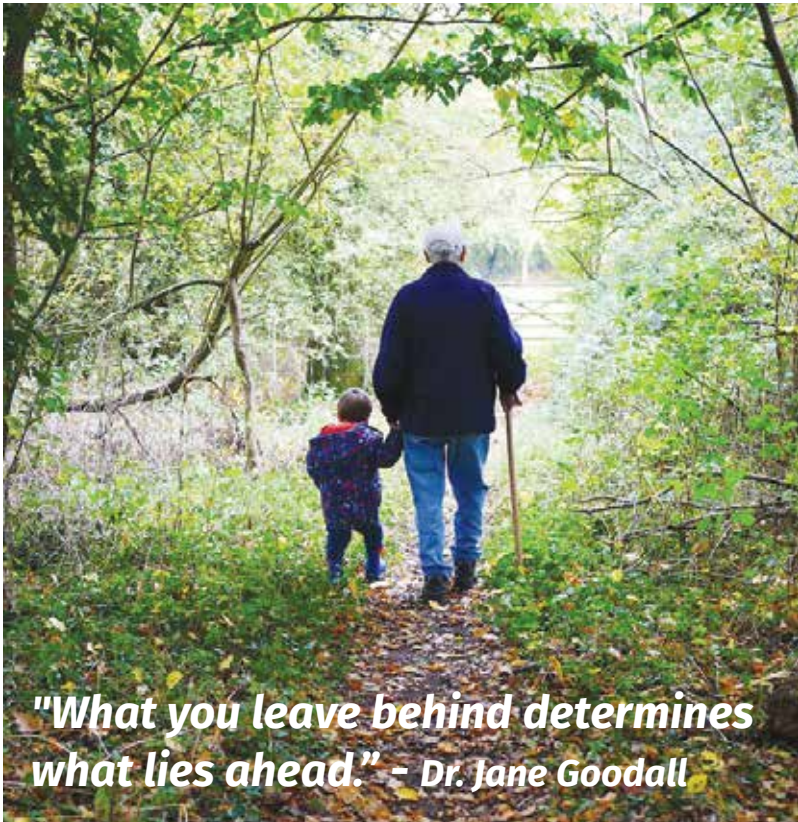
Marsi, the Virginia Opossum, was a favorite among gala attendees.



Rocket, the Southern Flying Squirrel, taught many people about her species.

her species for just over 11 years. She was often met with surprise—"they live around here?"—as she helped people realize that Southern flying squirrels are very common throughout the eastern United States, we just never see them because they are very elusive small nocturnal animals that jump and glide from tree to tree in search of bugs, fruits and nuts.

Despite both Marsi and Rocket passing away from age-related health issues, their memories, pictures and legacies will live on.



"What you leave behind determines what lies ahead." - Dr. Jane Goodall

Like most people, you've probably contributed to causes that are close to your heart over the years. Now imagine making a **bigger** contribution than you ever thought possible, without using any of the money you need during your lifetime, or significantly taking away from your loved ones. You can have the best of both worlds with a charitable gift in your Will.

Consider this example of an estate valued at \$500,000. You probably want to leave the majority of your estate to your loved ones. But what if you left a small portion of your estate—10% of it—to the **Blue Ridge Wildlife Center**? That small percentage translates to a **\$50,000** donation, a bigger impact than most of us would ever be able to make during our lifetime. **Imagine what could be accomplished with a donation that size!**

A bequest is a powerful and meaningful way to ensure that your commitment to BRWC endures, leaving a lasting impact for generations to come.

Please contact Trish Carter, Director of Development at (540) 837-9000 for additional information.

ABOUT BRWC

Address: 106 Island Farm Lane, Boyce, Virginia 22620
Wildlife Hotline: (540) 837-9000
E-mail: info@blueridgewildlifectr.org
Web: blueridgewildlifectr.org

BRWC protects and conserves native wildlife by integrating veterinary medicine, rehabilitation, public education, professional training, and research.

BRWC is a 501(c)3 organization (EIN 54-1996991) and relies on private donations exclusively. Wildlife Centers may not receive payment to treat animals, nor do they receive state or federal funding. Contributions are tax-deductible.

BRWC is located on the Burwell-van Lennep Foundation (BVLf) property in Boyce, Virginia. The mission of the BVLf includes preserving the diverse ecology of this land, protecting wildlife, and environmental education. BVLf generously provides the land to BRWC at no cost.

THE RIDGELINE

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Join our Monthly Donor Program TODAY:

Blue Ridge Wildlife Center's VIP Program – where you become a Very Important Protector of Virginia's native wildlife!

The VIP Program is not just a name; it's an invitation to stand proudly as a protector of our remarkable wildlife and a recognition of the vital role you play in preserving the natural beauty and biodiversity of Virginia.

All VIPs enjoy the following benefits:

- VIP Sticker to show off your support.
- Subscription to *The Ridgeline*, BRWC's quarterly newsletter.
- Invitation to our Annual VIP Open House Event to celebrate your commitment.
- The Knowledge that you are protecting our native wildlife year-round from the many threats they face.



Scan the QR code or visit our website to learn more about the VIP program.

FEBRUARY ONLY

The first 100 new VIPs will receive a fun surprise from one of our ambassadors!

