

Rockfish Wildlife Sanctuary



A Semi-Annual Newsletter

Fall 2011

The Future is Getting Clearer!

We loved the idea of Miller School...but that didn't work out.

We loved the idea of a spot on the Nelson County Wilderness Trail...but that didn't work out.

We loved the idea of 6 acres of forestland in Schuyler...but that didn't work out.

But, we haven't lost hope!

In fact, these lessons have only served to clarify and confirm what Rockfish Wildlife Sanctuary's next step should be. We need some land to build permanent cages on, to house our industrious interns on, to expose our fragile animal friends to the great outdoors, to plan an education building for, and to create a lasting and sustainable system for rescuing and rehabilitating orphaned and injured wildlife.

So, we look. We surf real estate websites. We do slow, purposeful drive-bys. We climb fences and hike fence lines, and allow ourselves to imagine flight cages and squirrel cages and a place for recovering hawks and fledgling owls.

We are taking our time to find the perfect home for RWS. It is the right thing to do. And we want to make sure that the future RWS board has the best tools possible for operating, expanding and growing Rockfish Wildlife Sanctuary. In the meantime, thanks for your patient interest as we slowly turn the corner towards the future of Rockfish Wildlife Sanctuary! Stay tuned for our next step...

Talking Turkey

Its that time of year again—turkey time. Seems like a good time to talk some turkey.

Turkeys are native to Virginia. You've probably seen a group foraging together in a local forest or field. Benjamin Franklin thought they should be the national bird but the eagle won that battle.

The turkey is a large ground-dwelling bird with powerful legs. They live here year round and are a relative to the grouse family of birds. A group of them together is called a gobble, rafter or flock. The males have a wattle or snood hanging off their chins. The females provide all the parental care for babies but they don't dote. They only feed the babies for a few days, then, its up to them to fend for themselves, though they often stay together as a group. In fact, small groups sometimes band together to form large winter groups, some as large as 200 turkeys.

Now, that would be something to see on your daily walk!



Established in 2004, Rockfish Wildlife Sanctuary is a wildlife rehabilitation sanctuary in Central Virginia providing care for orphaned and injured wildlife from anywhere in Virginia. www.rockfishsanctuary.org

Sanctuary News

Wood for Sale

Animal Census: January 1, 2011— September 30, 2011

Bat, Brown	1	Bluejay	13
Bluebird	4	Canada Goose	19
Bobwhite, Northern	32	Carolina Wren	1
Cardinal	2	Chimney swift	1
Catbird	1	Crow	14
Cuckoo	1	Dove	3
Deer	1	Duck, Mallard	191
Duck	2	Finch	4
Duck, Wood	1	Fox, Red	1
Flicker, Northern	1	Grackle	2
Goldfinch	2	Hawk, Red-tailed	3
Grosbeak, Blue	1	Hummingbird	1
Heron, Green	1	Mockingbird	1
Killdeer	1	Opossum	28
Mouse	5	Owl, Barred	2
Owl, Screech	3	Rabbit	13
Pigeon	2	Snake, Green	1
Robin	2	Skunk	21
Snake, Black	1	Squirrel, Grey	31
Sparrow	4	Starling	2
Squirrel, Flying	2	Turtle, Box	3
Thrasher, Brown	1	Vireo	1
Turkey	1	Woodpecker	1
Vulture	1		
TOTAL	437		



Much to our surprise, a gracious donor gave us a batch of lumber last year! We are selling this batch via sealed bid. Here are the details:

Reclaimed Yellow Pine Lumber, medium clean, 2 lots, comprised of an equal number of boards and board feet. Each lot contains:

315 22' boards 8052 bd.ft.
632 13' boards 9595 bd.ft.
947 boards 17,647 board ft.

1,894 total boards for both lots
35,294 total board feet for both lots

All are 2.125" thick and 7.25" wide

Lumber was used on the roof of an old tobacco shed and could be great for several purposes.

Contact Becky Allen at thebeck6@gmail.com for info.

WILD ABOUT ART 2012! - *Nope, its not too early!*



We had so much fun at last year's Wild About Art! silent auction , we are going to do it again! We are already busy thinking about where we should have it, what snacks you will find the tastiest and how best to showcase the art. We are looking for wildlife themed art in all forms so, let us know if you are an artist or know an artist who would like to contribute. In case you forgot the fabulous art of last year, we had a large format photograph of a spotted owl, a gorgeous photograph of fall leaves on the ground, a lovely print of an elk, a painting of a sleeping fawn, and a large painting of a sandpiper, among many others. Help us make this one even better!

Volunteer Profile—Becky Allen

How do you contribute to RWS? My official contribution to RWS is as board secretary. Aside from that, over the years I've fed baby squirrels, opossums, and birds, transported injured animals to the sanctuary and to the WCV. I've done a little fund-raising and taken on a few small projects, such as the one I'm presently working on—selling some reclaimed lumber that was donated to us.



How long have you been involved with RWS? I'm one of the original board members.

What is your dream for RWS? That we construct an entity that offers the best, most compassionate care possible for the injured and orphaned wildlife in Central Virginia, that offers an educational outreach program that is comprehensive and compelling, helping people of all ages understand and appreciate the need for balance in nature, for as long as it's needed.

What is the most important function of RWS? As our planet is letting us know things are extremely out of balance, it is in our own best interest to concede to the consciousness that recognizes all life as having equal value. As the human population increases, wildlife habitat diminishes, leaving more and more animals in harm's way. In this interdependent ecosystem, every time an injured or orphaned animal survives thanks to Rockfish Wildlife Sanctuary, our own chances for survival increase.

Favorite domestic animal? Cat. I'm pretty sure they're the ultimate superior species.

Favorite wild animal? Favorite wild animal—bear. I think it's in my DNA. My family has its origins in the mountains in Nelson County and I grew up hearing wondrous bear stories. Nothing makes my heart soar like the sight of a black bear.

What is your favorite native Virginia wild animal and why? This is difficult...having held and fed squirrel, possum, raccoon, skunk, and bird babies, I've come to love them all. My association with Nathou and animals has forever changed the way I feel about animals.

What do you do for fun? I come from a musical family and consequently music often plays a primary role in my fun, including singing with my sister and a friend as a trio. I love to read, and I love to watch TV. Yes, watch TV. I like road trips and I like to walk. I used to like to hike, now I like to walk.

Favorite place to see wildlife? Walking in the mountains.

Wise Words

The wilderness and the idea of wilderness is one of the permanent homes of the human spirit.

Joseph Wood Krutch

For in the true nature of things, if we rightly consider, every green tree is far more glorious than if it were made of gold and silver.

Martin Luther

In all things of nature, there is something of the marvelous.

Aristotle

Uniformity is not nature's way, diversity is nature's way.

Vandana Shiva

A Great Wildlife Rescuer ...

- ◆ Keeps orphaned or injured wild animal warm—baby birds maintain a body temperature of 104 degrees!
- ◆ Wears gloves when handling wild animals—they are scared and will defend themselves with claws, beaks and teeth.
- ◆ Provides rescued animals with a dark, safe and protected place to await a wildlife rehabilitator—cover boxes with pillow cases or napkins.
- ◆ Reduces stress on the animal by keeping voices and gawking to a minimum and keeping family pets away.
- ◆ Doesn't feed or provide water to an animal without advice from an expert—most baby birds don't drink water and can get water in their lungs easily.
- ◆ **Calls a wildlife rehabilitator for help immediately!**

Close-up on Mallards

You can find them almost everywhere—Mallards. They are eager to land in your pool, at urban lakes, in wild streams. They are chatty and social and adaptive. You may have noticed in our census to date that RWS treated 190 Mallards this year. We thought they deserved a closer look, given how much time we spent with them!



The Mallard is considered the most widely found duck on our planet! You can find Mallards at Boar's Head. You can find Mallards at the Bering Sea. You can find Mallards on the Aleutian Islands and you can find Mallards in Greenland. They are flexible, adaptive and omnivorous. This has helped them conquer such a wide range of territory. The males are called drakes while the females are called hens. The drakes have a distinctive shiny green head with yellow bill. The females have a brown and grey feathers which help them nest undetected by predators.



Mallards pair up in mostly monogamous couples in the fall though courtship may occur all winter. Paired mates will migrate to the northern end of their territorial range to breed. Females lay 12 creamy buff-green eggs at a time and incubate them for about 28 days in nests lined with down and vegetation in small ground depressions. As soon as incubation has begun, the drakes abandon the nest to join flocks of other males. Babies are born with the ability to swim right away but stay close to the mother to learn where to find food, how to migrate and for protection. They leave the nest at 13 days. At

two months, their fledgling period ends with the onset of permanent feathers. At three or four months, they can fly. At six months, the drakes have all their wonderful colors. Mallards live about 10 years in the wild with an average height of two feet and weight of 2.5 pounds.

Mallards can frequently be seen with their butts aimed straight up in the air. Despite this underwater foraging, they generally do not dive, rather dabble at the surface, poking about for greens, fish, amphibians and the like. They live and eat in both fresh and salt water areas with a strong preference for water less than 3 feet deep and full of vegetation.

Mallards are the ancestors for most all duck breeds in the world. (The native Muscovy duck is the other ancestor though claims a smaller percentage of the family tree.) While they do make a traditional quacking sound, most of their vocalizations are hisses and growls. A bunch of Mallards together is called a raft, team or paddling. They are completely waterproof thanks to a complicated and elegant feather structure and a waxy substance coating their feathers which is applied via their beaks while preening.



Like Rabbits...



We took care of a lovely little rabbit who had been hit by a car this year. After her recovery, we tried to re-release her...but she just didn't want to go. So, we took her back to RWS and, two days later, much to our surprise, she gave birth to two perfect little babies! After everybody was safe and healthy, we released all three in Nelson County, and, this time, she was ready to go!

How You Can Help RWS

We need a lot of things to keep Rockfish Sanctuary humming. Please let us know if you can help with any of the following:

- Paper towels
- Kleenex
- Animal transport
- Hay
- Blue pads from the drugstore
- Cash donations—most of Rockfish Sanctuary's funding comes from donors, animal-lovers just like you.
- Please contact us if you can help! 434-962-7429 or 434-831-2900

Hugs & Roses: Our Gratitude

Wildlife Rehabilitator

Nathou Attinger, Founder

Wildlife Staff

Jessie Cole—lead

Sanctuary Board Members

Nathou Attinger	Erla Hagan
Becky Allen	Mary Huey
Beverley Butler	Dede Smith
Kaki Dimock	Patty Wallens

Rockfish Sanctuary Supporters**Patient Transporters**

Cindy Davis
Ron Fanditti
Erla Hagan
Susan Hastings
Brenda Lambert
Dolly Prenzel
Nancy Uvanitte

Accounting services

Huey & Bjorn

Payroll & tax services

Huey & Bjorn

Legal Services

Edward Bain

Financial Support

J & E Berkley Foundation

Pajeau Wildlife Foundation

Proceeds from 2012 Calendar

Ann Strober

Paper Supplies & Blue Pads

Cindy Snyder & A.T. Stevens, III

Mr. & Mrs. Jim Snyder

Trees

Southern States

Launching pad for geese & ducks

Marta Keane

Membership list

Judy Heyde

Animal care

Kaki Dimock

Susan Hastings

Erin Plews-Ogan

Newsletter

Kaki Dimock

Website

Dede Smith

Veterinary Expertise

Cedarcrest Animal Clinic

Woodworth Animal Hospital

Virginia Wildlife Center

Thank you!!

Special Real Estate & Procedural Consultation Services

Ed Bain

Alan Hale

Jim Peterson

Deborah Rutter



Rockfish Wildlife Sanctuary
 P.O. Box 3
 Charlottesville, VA
 22902

To:

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<p>Eastern Tiger Salamander Typically 6-8 inches long, this native salamander is usually gray green with black spots. They live in burrows 2 feet from the ground's surface, returning to water only to breed. They are loyal to their birthplace and will travel great distances to reach it.</p>	<p>Rockfish Wildlife Sanctuary is a private, nonprofit organization whose mission is to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide care for injured and orphaned wildlife while they are being prepared for release back into the wild; • Inform our fellow citizens about what to do when they find an injured or orphaned wild animal, and who to contact for help with the animal; and, • Educate the citizens of Central Virginia about the habitats and needs of native wildlife.
	<p>ROCKFISH WILDLIFE SANCTUARY</p>