



**Ohio Wildlife Center**



**2016**

**ANNUAL REPORT**





## Our Mission

Ohio Wildlife Center is dedicated to fostering awareness and appreciation of Ohio's native wildlife through rehabilitation, education and wildlife health studies.

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## Our Work

The Center operates the state's largest, free native wildlife animal hospital, which assessed and treated 4,525 wildlife patients from 54 Ohio counties in 2016. Now a statewide leader in wildlife animal rescue and rehabilitation, the Center includes a 20-acre outdoor Education Center and Pre-Release Facility in Delaware County. The free Wildlife Hospital is located in the lower level of Animal Care Unlimited at 2661 Billingsley Road in Columbus.

A focal point of the Education Center is the permanent sanctuary for 59 animals, ranging from coyote and fox to hawks, owls, raccoons, turtles and a turkey. There are 42 species represented and seven animal ambassador species listed as threatened or species of concern in Ohio.

The Pre-Release Facility is comprised of multiple flight enclosures, a waterfowl enclosure, a songbird aviary, and species-specific outdoor housing designed to support the final phase of rehabilitation for recovering hospital patients. Animals reside at the Pre-Release Facility with care and oversight as they acclimate to the elements. Last year, 1,684 animals were released back to the wild.

In 2002, Ohio Wildlife Center created SCRAM! Wildlife Control, a non-lethal, permanent exclusion service for problems with wildlife in homes and businesses. SCRAM! generates income to support the Center's mission by offering the public an alternative to lethal commercial trapping.

Ohio Wildlife Center is a trusted community resource to help children and adults understand wildlife issues and effective wildlife intervention strategies. Every year, an estimated 12,500 Ohioans seek guidance from the Center's InfoLine for accurate and effective advice in helping wild animals in need.





# Message from the Board Chair and Executive Director

Dear Friends,

On behalf of Ohio Wildlife Center's Board of Trustees, staff and volunteers, thank you for your support and advocacy of our mission. Reflecting on the accomplishments and challenges of 2016, we are reminded of the power of partnerships and how essential these are to the Center's growth and purpose within the community.

In 2016, our partnerships with volunteers, donors, community leaders, corporations, foundations, businesses and families enabled the Center to continue building programs and services across the organization. We approved a new three-year strategic plan and completed a wide range of capital improvements.

These include the opening of the Bonner Barn, an 1891 reclaimed barn from Marion County that was reconstructed on the grounds of the Education Center; the renovation of the Children's Aquatic Studies Pond; updated caging at the Wildlife Hospital; and, expanded parking and fencing improvements. The Bonner Barn has been a key component of the organization's efforts to increase financial diversification and produce new revenue streams for programs and operations.


At the Wildlife Hospital, admissions continue to grow, with 4,525 animals presented and assessed in 2016. Veterinarian Dr. Melinda Marks continues to build regional veterinary and state agency collaborations. As the population in central Ohio and surrounding counties continues to grow, altering habitats, the rehabilitation and rescue of native wildlife is more important than ever.

Our 2016 Annual Report delivers "by the numbers" progress as well as success stories made possible through our partners. We are deeply appreciative of all of the support offered to extend our work in rehabilitation, education and conservation.

With gratitude,



Jeff A. Walker  
Chair, Board of Trustees



Dusty Lombardi  
Executive Director



*Our 2016 Annual Report delivers "by the numbers" progress as well as success stories made possible through our partners.*



## **Ohio Wildlife Center Hospital (Animal Admissions)**

2661 Billingsley Road

Columbus, Ohio 43235

(614) 793-WILD

Mon-Fri 9am-6pm, Sat-Sun 9am-3pm

Holiday Hours 9am-12pm for:

New Years Eve, Memorial Day, July 4th, Labor Day, Thanksgiving and Christmas

## **Ohio Wildlife Center (Education & Administration)**

6131 Cook Road

Powell, Ohio 43065

(614) 734-9453

Mon-Fri 10am-3pm

**Wildlife Infoline: 614-793-9453**

# 2016 Fast Facts

## Wildlife Hospital

Since its creation in 1984, Ohio Wildlife Center has continually provided a community service to offer free, direct care and treatment for injured, orphaned, abandoned or abused native wildlife. Our ultimate goal is care, treatment and release back to the wild. The hospital is staffed with professional veterinarians, veterinary technicians and trained volunteers who work seven days a week to assess patients and provide wildlife animal care.

The Wildlife Hospital is a unique Columbus resource as well for research and training. In 2016, staff veterinarian Dr. Melinda Marks coordinated a veterinary externship with Ohio State and a research internship with Otterbein University. Ohio State veterinary student Ariel Minardi investigated intracellular hematozoa of raptors during her Wildlife Hospital externship. Her research was funded by the Montei Foundation.

Otterbein student Rachel Dalton conducted research examining how causes of hospital admissions co-vary with seasonal and annual ecosystem patterns and she assessed fluctuations in wildlife admissions as a monitoring technique for population and ecosystem health. The research was presented at a poster session at the Wildlife Society's 22nd Annual Conference in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada.

The Wildlife Hospital also completed the conversion to electronic medical records for the Center's permanent Animal Ambassadors housed at the Dempsey Animal Building.



**54** of Ohio's 88 counties served

**12,500** Callers assisted by volunteers on Wildlife InfoLine

**1,684** Animals released back to the wild

**4,525** Animals treated from 143 species

**280** Volunteers donated 15,600+ hours

**1,220** Neotropical migrants treated at the Wildlife Hospital



# 2016 Fast Facts

## Education

From the inception of the Education Department at Ohio Wildlife Center in 2001, the department has focused on educating the public about conservation and native wildlife. Through community outreach, youth summer camps, public lectures, tours with school field trips and presentations, Ohio Wildlife Center continually raises awareness about wildlife among people of all ages.

Building appreciation and understanding of habitats, conservation practices and wildlife animal behaviors is a key goal, accomplished through hands-on and service learning activities, live animal exhibits and expert speakers.

To advance education for those seeking a career in wildlife care or conservation, Ohio Wildlife Center also partners with colleges and universities throughout Ohio to place students in internships both at the Education Center and the Wildlife Hospital. Through a partnership with Otterbein University's Zoo and Conservation Science Program, 24 undergraduate students logged 3,120 practicum hours in 2016 at Ohio Wildlife Center. They provided care for pre-release and Animal Ambassadors, assisted with presentations and conducted research.

**16,286** Ohioans educated

**289** Day campers enjoyed 1,482 hours of outdoor wildlife education

**229** Education programs presented about native wildlife across the community

**59** Animal Ambassadors from 42 species greeting guests at the Center



A focal point of the Education Center is its permanent sanctuary for 59 animals. There are 42 species represented and seven animal ambassador species are listed as threatened or species of concern to Ohio. These animals have permanent or irreparable injuries that have rendered them incapable of successfully returning to the wild. The Center's animal ambassadors are important partners in outreach, teaching and informing the public about protecting and sustaining habitats so Ohio's native wildlife can flourish.

**20** **Raptors:** Red-tailed Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, Broad-Winged Hawk, Northern Harrier, Red-Shouldered Hawk, Rough-Legged Hawk, American Kestrel, Merlin, Peregrine Falcon, Eastern Screech Owl, Saw-Whet Owl, Barred Owl, Barn Owl, Great Horned Owl

**19** **Mammals:** Raccoon, Red Fox, Coyote, Woodchuck, Southern Flying Squirrel, Virginia Opossum, Eastern Cottontail Rabbit, Big Brown Bat

**14** **Reptiles:** Woodland Box Turtle, Red-Eared Slider, Map Turtle, Painted Turtle, Common Snapping Turtle, Blanding's Turtle, Eastern Fox Snake, Gray Rat Snake

**5** **Birds:** American Crow, Wild Turkey, Wood Duck, Ring-Billed Gull

**1** **Amphibian:** Gray Tree Frog



## Foundation Grants and Partnerships

Ohio Wildlife Center received grants in 2016 to support education programs, capital improvements and hospital operations from the following funders:

All Life Foundation - *hospital operations and rescue support*

Barbara and Bill Bonner Family Foundation - *capital improvements and hospital operations*

The Columbus Foundation - *programmatic and operational support*

Columbus Zoo and Aquarium Conservation Committee - *operational support and project support for Neotropical migratory bird awareness*

Montei Foundation - *education support*

Honda of America Manufacturing, Inc. - *wildlife summer day camp support*

Cardinal Health - *operational support*

Foren Family Foundation - *hospital operations*

Dublin Foundation - *education programming and Wild About Ohio Lecture Series*



In 2016, Ohio Wildlife Center held collaborations service-agreements and partnerships with the following organizations and community groups for our mission-based services and activities:

Animal Care Unlimited

Columbus and Franklin County MetroParks

City of Columbus Recreation and Parks

City of Dublin

Columbus Zoo and Aquarium

Delaware Area Career Center

EarthShare Ohio

Grange Insurance Audubon Center

Ohio Division of Wildlife

Ohio State University

Ohio Wildlife Rehabilitators Association

Otterbein University

Pet Cremation Services

Preservation Parks of Delaware County

Stratford Ecological Center



## Volunteer Impact

Since its creation, Ohio Wildlife Center has partnered with thousands of volunteers who have committed their time, talents and compassion to making the center's mission possible. In 2016, more than 280 volunteers contributed 15,600+ hours of service in wildlife care and rehabilitation, education, InfoLine guidance, special events and community outreach.

Nearly 40 student volunteers and interns from high schools in Columbus and surrounding suburbs and Ohio colleges and universities brought their dynamic energy and passion to the Center last year to experience hands-on learning beyond the classroom.

Whether they are based at the Wildlife Hospital, the Cook Road Education Center or throughout numerous community locations, volunteers are tireless in sharing their expertise, wisdom and passion for wildlife and conservation.

Ohio Wildlife Center is truly grateful for the efforts of each valued member of the volunteer team, the service hours they devote to the Center and the contributions they make every day to advance the critical work protecting wildlife and the environment. To learn more about volunteer opportunities go [here](#)



*"There is something about being here that feels almost magical. Spending time up close to these animals, seeing them on a regular basis, gaining their trust, helping them grow and have enriching lives is so very special to me. When I'm at the center I know I'm home, this is where I belong."*

**-Victoria Pfening-Smith**



*"I've never been associated with an organization and a staff that is more dedicated to their mission and more passionate about what they do daily to help our wildlife."*

**-George Bleimes**



*"It's hard to put into words the feeling you get when you know you played a small part in helping rehabilitate an animal that might not have survived if Ohio Wildlife Center hadn't been there for it."*

**-Dave Wood**



*"Volunteering with the Center's raptors especially has allowed me to care for an often unseen group of highly intelligent and exceptionally beautiful animals. I am so grateful for the opportunity to be involved with the work of an organization that cares so deeply for these creatures."*

**-Caitlin McNaughton**



# The Barbara and Bill Bonner Family Foundation Barn

In 2016, a new, multi-purpose event and learning center was completed at the Cook Road Education Center after four years of planning and two years of preparation work and construction. In collaboration with the Mt. Vernon Barn Company, a historic 1891 reclaimed barn from Marion County was rebuilt on-site to provide dedicated indoor/outdoor space for education programming, children's camps, field trips, special events and outreach.

The barn has tripled the capacity for the Education Department to welcome school and community groups, host presentations and conduct trainings and classes. It has also allowed students to experience hands-on wildlife and conservation education combining nature, live wild animals and technology for exploration and discovery. The Wildlife Hospital animal stories can now be shared with even greater numbers of people of all ages in a unique gathering space designed for 21st Century learning.

The addition of the barn is also enabling Ohio Wildlife Center to advance its strategic plan to increase financial diversity and generate additional revenue to support programs and hospital operations.

Ohio Wildlife Center is grateful to all the donors and supporters who contributed the funds, expertise, and volunteer hours that made it possible to open the Bonner Barn doors in the fall of 2016.



## A special thanks to our leadership donors:

**The Barbara and Bill Bonner Family Foundation**

**All Life Foundation**

**The Columbus Foundation**

**City of Dublin**

**Honda of America Manufacturing, Inc.**

**Victoria Pfening-Smith**

**Kenneth A. Scott Charitable Trust**

**Montei Foundation**

**John Dragoo in Memory of Diana Dragoo**

**Moody Nolan, Inc.**

**Rosati Windows**

**Frank Swiatek (In-Kind Contractor)**



## The Power of Partnerships

### Columbus Foundation Social Enterprise Grants Build Sustainability for Ohio Wildlife Center and SCRAM!

It's been a success story with mutual goals: apply social enterprise grant funding to an entrepreneurial nonprofit to generate sustainability and income for the organization. During the last six years, Ohio Wildlife Center and the Columbus Foundation have partnered to achieve not only financial outcomes, but useful experience in what works to build a nonprofit revenue stream.

For the foundation, the social enterprise grant model was brought from the West Coast during the height of the U.S. economic recession to aid struggling nonprofit organizations, according to Emily Savors, director of grants management at the foundation. Ohio Wildlife Center received an initial grant from the foundation of \$39,900 in 2011 for SCRAM! Wildlife Control. A second multi-year grant followed three years later for \$47,250 that has enabled SCRAM! to build capacity and momentum.

"Ohio Wildlife Center was one of the earliest grantees," Savors said. "SCRAM!'s success is that it is mission related, it does generate revenue and gives the public an option not otherwise available to them in the commercial marketplace."



For SCRAM!, the Columbus Foundation grants enabled them to obtain critical branding and marketing expertise. The grants also provided funding for additional staff, training, and equipment, including a second dog for contract work in geese mitigation. Building capacity for SCRAM! has resulted in the division now earning almost a quarter of Ohio Wildlife Center's annual operating budget for 2016.

"It was Ohio Wildlife Center's founder Dr. Donald Burton's vision 15 years ago to bring a non-lethal, permanent wildlife exclusionary division to the community because there was a need for it," according to Dusty Lombardi, executive director. "This work reinforces our core mission in providing citizens with biologically-sound, permanent solutions to address unwanted wildlife and help the animals safely relocate," Lombardi added.

Savors noted that Ohio Wildlife Center was strategic in its SCRAM! business plan in pricing services, understanding the market and utilizing board members to help guide the process.

"One thing we learned is that the foundation thought creating a revenue stream was the only criteria for social enterprise, but there is so much more to scaling fees and business decisions that create sustainable models for the organizations," Savors said.



### SCRAM! Wildlife Control

In 2002, Ohio Wildlife Center established SCRAM! Wildlife Control, the community's only non-lethal, permanent exclusion service for problems with wildlife in and around homes and businesses. This unit of the organization is a social enterprise initiative that provides income to support the Center's mission and offers the community an alternative to traditional lethal commercial trapping often used for wildlife-human conflict situations. SCRAM! also contracts with municipalities and private landowners to conduct year-round geese mitigation services in parks, golf courses and public lands.

**420**

Residential service visits made to assist homeowners with wildlife conflicts

**22%**

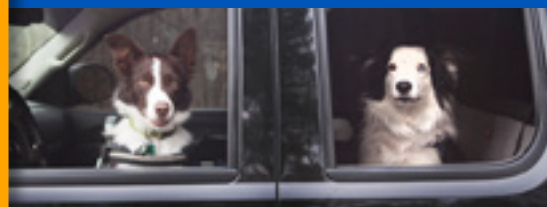
of the Center's operating revenue generated by SCRAM!

**2,160**

Hours of goose mitigation coordinated at sites across Central Ohio

**2**

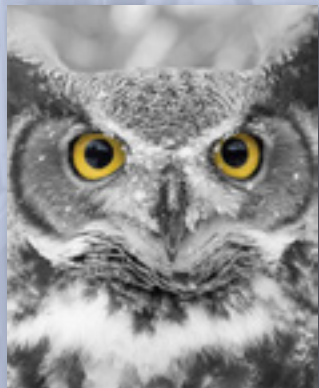
Amazing working dogs on duty for SCRAM! goose mitigation services





## 2016 Events Help Fund Our Mission

Four main events highlighted the 2016 giving year for Ohio Wildlife Center. Funding for free Wildlife Hospital care, conservation education and outreach is accomplished through the generosity and dedication of hundreds of people who run races, sponsor animals, bid on auction items and celebrate the “back to the wild” moments when hospital patients are released to their natural habitats. We are grateful for the dedication, passion and involvement of all those who make these events successful.



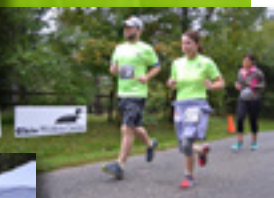
### WildNite for Wildlife

In May, 2016, the Center's signature event, WildNite for Wildlife, was held at the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium's Activity Pavilion. More than 350 guests attended and 37 corporate and individual sponsors led the leadership giving efforts. With a buffet dinner donated by Catering by Scott, visits from the Center's Animal Ambassadors, plus live and silent auctions and Fund-a-Need, the event raised \$183,570 for the Wildlife Hospital. The Dr. Donald L. Burton Legacy Award was presented to the City of Dublin in recognition of the city's longtime support for Ohio Wildlife Center and nationally-recognized conservation efforts.



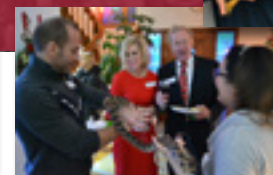
### Red Tail Run

In October, 2016, more than 180 runners suited up for the 3rd annual 5K Run & Walk through Shawnee Hills. Adults, children and families tackled the rolling hills of Northwest Columbus to raise funds for the Center. Lead sponsors Animal Care Unlimited, Columbus Fair Auto Auction, CSNS Relocation Services and Sunbury Veterinary Clinic helped raise more than \$9,000. The run wrapped up with the release of two turkey vultures.



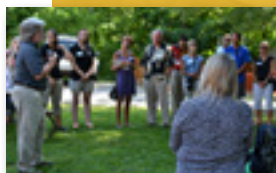
### Holiday Open House

At year's end, Board Treasurer Valerie Swiatek and her family hosted more than 60 guests at the annual Holiday Open House for supporters, staff and board members. This event closes the calendar year to introduce new friends to the Center's mission and thank donors and supporters.



### Back to the Wild

In August, 2016, 66 guests were welcomed to the Education Center for the Back to the Wild event with a champagne brunch to celebrate Wildlife Hospital success stories. Patients representing five different species got their second chance at freedom: American Robin, Eastern Cottontail Rabbits, Cooper's Hawk, Mallard Ducks and a Red-tailed Hawk. A special raffle featured a chance for guests to participate in an animal release.





## 2016 Financials

Ohio Wildlife Center is a 501(C)3 organization that operates through funding from charitable contributions. Ohio Wildlife Center receives no annual tax or state or federal government funding and relies on donations to support its Wildlife Hospital, Education Center, programs and services. The Center is committed to efficient and effective use of all resources and donor gifts while continuing to develop and diversify revenue sources for operations.

### OHIO WILDLIFE CENTER STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES For the Year Ended December 31, 2016

	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Total
Revenue, Gains and Other Support:			
Support:			
Donations and membership	\$ 329,485	\$ -	\$ 329,485
Grants	41,376	282,552	323,928
Net assets released from restrictions	580,040	(580,040)	-
Total Support	<u>950,901</u>	<u>(297,488)</u>	<u>653,413</u>
Revenue:			
Animal care contributions	391,675	-	391,675
Educational programs	93,646	-	93,646
In-kind contributions	74,310	-	74,310
Other income	13,448	-	13,448
Interest income	246	-	246
Total Revenue	<u>573,325</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>573,325</u>
Total Revenue, Gains and Other Support	<u>1,524,226</u>	<u>(297,488)</u>	<u>1,226,738</u>
Expenses:			
Program services	631,107	-	631,107
Management and general	136,474	-	136,474
Fundraising	184,205	-	184,205
Total Expenses	<u>951,786</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>951,786</u>
Change in Net Assets	572,440	(297,488)	274,952
Net Assets - Beginning of Year	1,767,462	519,657	2,287,119
Net Assets - End of Year	<u>\$ 2,339,902</u>	<u>\$ 222,169</u>	<u>\$ 2,562,071</u>

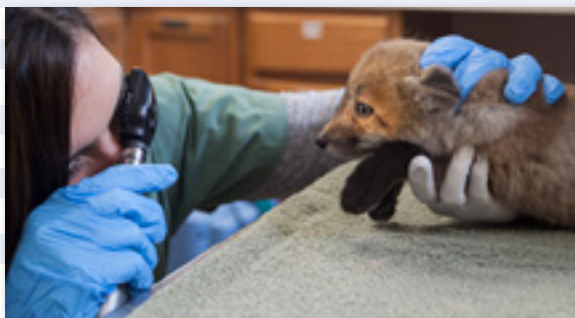
# Ohio Wildlife Center's Wildlife Hospital

Ohio Wildlife Center operates the state's largest, free native Wildlife Hospital and is permitted by the State of Ohio's Division of Wildlife. With more than three decades of experience in assessing and caring for injured and orphaned animals, the hospital continues its focus to treat and release back to the wild. Each year brings increasing numbers of patients to the hospital as habitats in Central Ohio diminish and population growth accelerates wildlife-human conflict situations.

## 2016 Animal Patient Admissions to the Wildlife Hospital

### MAMMALS

- 989 Eastern Cottontail Rabbit
- 548 Squirrels (Eastern Gray, Eastern Fox, Red and Southern Flying)
- 326 Raccoon
- 307 Virginia Opossum
- 75 Bats (Big Brown\*, Little Brown\*, Eastern Red\*, Silver-haired\*, Hoary\*)
- 59 Rodents (House, White-footed, Deer \*) (Norway)
- 45 Striped Skunk
- 33 Eastern Chipmunk
- 22 White-Tailed Deer
- 21 Woodchuck
- 5 Red Fox
- 4 Vole (Meadow, Pine, Prairie\*)
- 1 Eastern Mole
- 1 Coyote
- 1 American Mink



### NEOTROPICAL MIGRANTS

#### Raptors

- 110 Hawks (Red-Tailed, Cooper's, Red-Shouldered, Broad-Winged, Sharp-Shinned\*, Osprey)
- 17 Vultures (Black, Turkey)
- 10 Falcons (Peregrine, Kestrel)

#### Shorebirds

- 299 Ducks (Mallard, Wood, Ruddy\*)
- 123 Canada Goose
- 8 Heron (Great Blue, Green)
- 7 Loon (Common, Red-Throated)
- 5 Ring-Billed Gull
- 3 Other (American Coot, Great Cormorant, Virginia Rail\*)
- 3 Belted Kingfisher
- 2 Grebe (Horned, Pied-Billed)
- 1 Killdeer



#### Songbirds

- 293 Thrushes (American Robin, Hermit, Swainson's, Eastern Bluebird)
- 106 Mourning Dove
- 41 Wrens (House, Carolina, Winter\*)
- 31 Cedar Waxwing
- 21 Ruby-Throated Hummingbird
- 19 Sparrows (Chipping, White-Throated, Song, American Tree)
- 18 Goldfinch
- 18 Brown-Headed Cowbird
- 16 Swallows (Barn, Purple Martin)
- 12 Red-Winged Blackbird



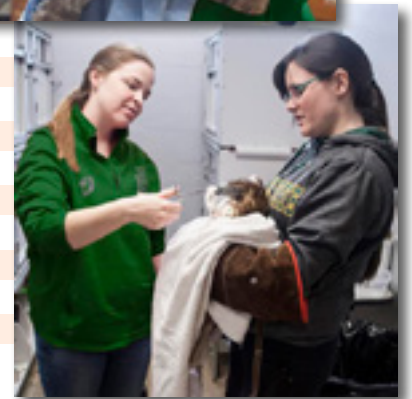


- 9 Warblers (Nashville, Black-Throated Green, Pine, Blackburian\*, Yellowthroat, Yellow, Ovenbird)
- 8 Gray Catbird & Northern Mocking Bird
- 7 Woodpeckers (Yellow-Bellied Sapsucker\*, Northern Flicker)
- 6 Chimney Swift
- 5 Flycatchers (Willow, Great Crested, Eastern Phoebe)
- 5 Common Nighthawk
- 3 Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher
- 3 Yellow-Billed Cuckoo
- 2 Vireos (Red-Eyed, Yellow-Throated)
- 2 Golden-Crowned Kinglet\*
- 2 Brown Creeper
- 2 Indigo Bunting
- 1 Eastern Kingbird
- 1 Rose Breasted Grosbeak
- 1 Scarlet Tanager



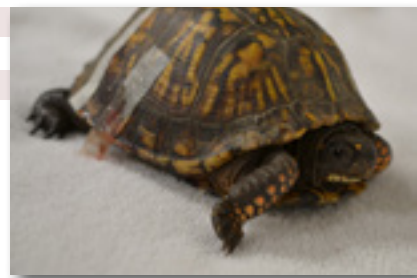
### NON-MIGRATORY BIRDS

- 255 House Sparrow
- 144 European Starling
- 71 House Finch
- 62 Owl (Barred, Great-Horned, Eastern Screech)
- 52 Northern Cardinal
- 52 Rock Dove
- 46 Grackle
- 28 Blue Jay
- 22 Woodpecker (Red-Bellied, Hairy, Downy, Pileated, Red-Headed)
- 13 American Crow
- 11 Carolina Chickadee
- 11 Woodcock
- 8 Dark Eyed Junco\*
- 6 Domestic, Muscovy, Pekin
- 5 Nuthatch (White-Breasted, Red-Breasted\*)
- 2 Bald Eagle
- 2 Tufted Titmouse
- 2 Wild Turkey
- 1 Northern Bob White Quail\*



### REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS

- 51 Turtles (Common Snapping, Common Map Turtle, Midland Painted, Woodland Box\*, Three toed, Common Musk, Red Eared Slider)
- 9 Snakes (Common Garter, Brown)
- 9 Frogs (Gray Tree, Northern Leopard, American Bullfrog)
- 5 American Toad
- 1 Salamander (Common Mudpuppy)



\*Species of concern, threatened or endangered

# Board of Trustees

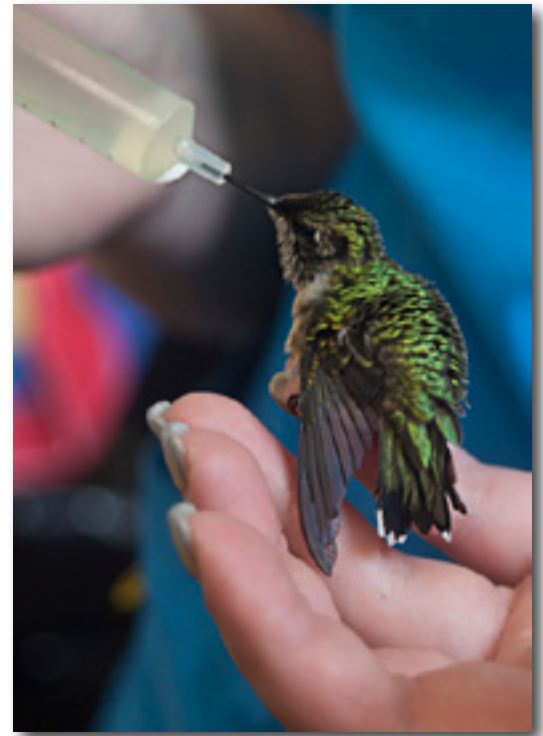


## Officers

Jeff Walker, Chair  
Valerie Swiatek, Vice Chair & Treasurer  
Scott B. Birrer, Esq., Vice Chair  
Jay Boone, Secretary

## Trustees

Aaron Ansari  
Michael Barrie, DVM  
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Peter Meuse, DVM  
Rustin Moore, DVM  
Andrew Morbitzer  
Tracy Murnane  
Steven Shepard  
Dusty Lombardi, Executive Director  
Jack Hanna, Honorary Trustee





**59**

Animal Ambassadors in residence at Ohio Wildlife Center that help teach about wildlife and conservation

**25 Years**

Donors have supported Ohio Wildlife Center through the WildNite for Wildlife fundraising event

**\$183,571**

Raised in one night for the Wildlife Hospital in 2016 at the WildNite event

**33**

Years of service to the community

# Thank You

**888...**

Donors made gifts to the Ohio Wildlife Center 2016 Annual Fund

**100,000**

Number of wildlife animals that have been cared for at the Wildlife Hospital in the past 30 years

**\$12,438**

in corporate matching gifts were designated for Ohio Wildlife Center in 2016

**1,684**

Animals released back to the wild in 2016

**15,600**

Volunteer hours donated in 2016 for the Wildlife Hospital, Education Center, animal care and events