

MISSISSIPPI WILD & FREE

Mississippi Wildlife Rehabilitation, Inc.

Winter 2014



The morning dawns with a crystal blue sky, soft wakes lapping on the lake shore, the sounds of the surrounding woods waking up with sleepy bird chirps and squeaky squirrel conversations. Behold, it is the perfect day at Arkabutla Lake for the Eagle Fest 2014!

As the moments pass, the US Army Corp of Engineers roll in with grins and volunteer reinforcements. As they begin to pitch their exhibition tent, fellow exhibitors appear and soon the Dub Patton area is buzzing with busyness. The Hernando Trustees come into view with a trailer full of hay bales,

courtesy of Jimmy Sneed Farm. Then, the most handsome Fire Engine of the Eudora Volunteer Fire Department joins in the activities.

Gourmet Grillers finds its spot and parks its delightful vending truck in just the right place. Everyone works in tandem to bring the Eagle Fest to life!

Finally, all is ready and the shuttle service starts bringing in the attendees from the parking area. And what do they find when they step off the shuttle and walk down to Eagle Fest?

They are greeted by Danni the tortoise roaming the grounds to make new friends. Danni has other friends there that live with her at the Natural History Educational Company of the MidSouth. Then, as they continue to stroll, they see live educational birds which include hawks, owls and even eagles!!!

There is a choice of four presentations to attend up at the pavilion to find out more about wild animals and how we can all protect them and keep their habitats safe.

Smokey Bear was there to give out hugs, along with Bobber the Water Safety Dog and Buddy Beaver.

Thanks to the educators, the partners and sponsorships, it was a wonderful and delightful day with hundreds and hundreds of kids of all ages strolling, watching, interacting and learning with awe about the fantastic world of wildlife in Mississippi! - Bonny Groce

Presented By:

DeSoto County Greenways,
Entergy,
Jim Keras Subaru,
Robert & Jeune Wood,
Longview Heights Church,
United States Army Corp of Engineers at Arkabutla Lake

Wild Birds Unlimited
MS Museum of Natural Science
DeSoto County Museum
Wolf River Conservancy
Strawberry Plains Audubon Center
TN Ornithological Society
MS Department of Environmental Quality
USFWS/MS Bat Working Group
TWRA State Ornithologist
Mississippi Wildlife Rehabilitation, Inc
Alabama 4H Raptor Trek
Natural History Education Company of the Mid-South
Eudora Volunteer Fire Department





Is Rudolph The Red-Nosed Reindeer Actually A Female?

Posted on Thursday, December 11, 2014 by eNature

EACH CHRISTMAS SEASON WE HEAR THE STORY OF THE EIGHT FLYING REINDEER THAT PULL SANTA'S SLEIGH ALL OVER THE WORLD IN ONE NIGHT. AND DON'T FORGET RUDOLPH TOO! BUT WHAT MADE SANTA CHOOSE REINDEER TO HELP HIM ACCOMPLISH THIS FEAT? WOULDN'T ELEPHANTS, WITH THEIR HUGE FLAPPABLE EARS, MAKE A BETTER CHOICE? OKAY, THERE'S THE WEIGHT FACTOR, BUT WHAT ELSE MAKES REINDEER THE RIGHT CHOICE FOR THE JOLLY NORTH POLE TOYMAKER ON HIS ANNUAL VOYAGE? READ ON TO LEARN SOME OF THE SECRETS OF THE WORLD'S MOST FAMOUS DEER.



ARE REINDEER FOR REAL?

WHILE PRANCER AND DANCER AND THE GANG ARE THE STUFF OF LEGEND, REINDEER ARE NOT. THESE LARGE DEER LIVE IN NORTHERLY CLIMES, IN NORTH AMERICA, EUROPE, ASIA, AND THE ARCTIC. IN EURASIA (AND THE NORTH POLE) THEY ARE CALLED REINDEER AND IN NORTH AMERICA MORE COMMONLY CARIBOU, BUT THEY ARE ALL THE SAME SPECIES. THE WILD HERDS OF ALASKA AND CANADA ARE KNOWN FOR THEIR MASS MIGRATIONS, WHILE LARGE NUMBERS OF THOSE IN EURASIA ARE DOMESTICATED, RAISED FOR FUR, MEAT, MILK, AND AS WORK ANIMALS. WHETHER YOU CALL THEM REINDEER OR CARIBOU, ONE THING IS CERTAIN: THEY ARE PHYSICALLY WELL SUITED TO PULL A SLEIGH FULL OF TOYS AND A RIGHT JOLLY OLD ELF.

QUESTIONS AND ANTLERS

WE'VE SEEN THE PICTURES AND WE KNOW THAT SANTA'S REINDEER—DASHER AND DANCER AND BLITZEN AND THE REST—SPORT ANTLERS. DOES THIS MEAN THAT ALL OF THEM (EVEN VIXEN?) ARE MALES? NOT EXACTLY—IN FACT, IT ALMOST MEANS THE OPPOSITE. REINDEER AND CARIBOU ARE UNIQUE AMONG DEER IN THAT THE FEMALES GROW ANTLERS, TOO. AND EVEN MORE INTERESTING IS THE FACT THAT THE FEMALES RETAIN THEIR ANTLERS FROM ONE SPRING TILL THE NEXT, WHILE MATURE MALES SHED THEIR ANTLERS IN THE FALL—AND ARE UNADORNED ON CHRISTMAS EVE. SO RUDOLPH AND ALL THE REINDEER PULLING SANTA'S SLEIGH MUST BE FEMALES OR YOUNGSTERS. OF COURSE, IT'S ENTIRELY POSSIBLE THAT A MALE REINDEER WITH THE POWER TO FLY ALSO HAS THE POWER TO KEEP HIS ANTLERS THROUGH THE HOLIDAYS.

ALL-TERRAIN FEET



THE ALL-TERRAIN VEHICLE ENABLES HUMANS TO TRAVERSE ROUGH, MUDDY, SNOWY, OR ICY TERRAIN. THE CARIBOU OR REINDEER HAS IT BEAT: IT HAS AN ALL-TERRAIN FOOT. THE ANIMAL'S REMARKABLE HOOF ACTUALLY ADAPTS ITSELF TO THE SEASON—BECOMING A SORT OF ICE SKATE IN THE WINTER AND SNEAKER IN SPRING. THE CARIBOU OF NORTH AMERICA CAN RUN AT SPEEDS OF ALMOST 50 MILES PER HOUR AND MAY TRAVEL 3,000 MILES IN A YEAR. LUCKILY, THE ANIMAL IS HELPED ALONG BY ITS AMAZINGLY ADAPTABLE FOOTPADS. IN THE SUMMER, WHEN THE TUNDRA IS SOFT AND WET, THE FOOTPADS BECOME SPONGY LIKE THE SOLES OF TENNIS SHOES AND PROVIDE EXTRA TRACTION. IN THE WINTER, WHEN SNOW AND ICE COAT THE NORTH, THE PADS SHRINK AND FIRM UP, WHILE THE RIM OF THE HOOF, LIKE AN ICE SKATE'S BLADE,

BITES INTO THE ICE AND CRUSTED SNOW TO KEEP THE ANIMAL FROM SLIPPING. SOUNDS LIKE THE PERFECT FOOTWEAR FOR AN ANIMAL THAT NEEDS TO COME TO A FLYING STOP ON AN ICE-ENCRUSTED ROOFTOP IN THE DARK OF THE NIGHT! FUR FLOAT GIVEN ITS GEOGRAPHIC PREFERENCES, A REINDEER HAS TO HAVE A PRETTY WARM COAT. IN FACT, THE COAT HAS TWO LAYERS OF FUR, A DENSE WOOLLY UNDERCOAT AND LONGER-HAIRED OVERCOAT. THE OUTER COAT CONSISTS OF HOLLOW, AIR-FILLED HAIRS THAT GIVE THE ANIMAL SUCH BUOYANCY WHEN IT ENTERS WATER THAT ONLY THE LOWER TWO-THIRDS OF ITS BODY SUBMERGES. A CARIBOU OR REINDEER SWIMS WITH EASE AND GOOD SPEED, AND MIGRATING HERDS WILL NOT HESITATE TO SWIM ACROSS A LARGE LAKE OR BROAD RIVER. IF SANTA EVER DECIDES TO TAKE TO THE SEAS RATHER THAN THE AIR, HE IS IN GOOD HANDS! SO NEXT TIME YOU SEE SANTA AND HIS SLEIGH, REMEMBER THAT THE STORY BEHIND HIS REINDEER IS JUST AS INTERESTING AS SANTA.

ARE YOU SEEING DEER THIS HOLIDAY SEASON IN YOUR NECK OF THE WOODS?



Above: Volunteer Holden Gillespie helping roof a cage.

Left: Volunteer Brandy Lynn with a fawn in rehab.

THANK YOU!

Volunteer Pam Griffin raised 50 Virginia Opossums this year. 30 of those all at one time and this year being a record for her to take in. Pam works a full time job, takes care of an elder parent and still finds the time to have an uncommon care for a specie that most people turn their noses up to as she serves MWR with such a beautiful, caring attitude.—Petra May, MWR Volunteer Coordinator

These opossums are a perfect healthy weight (about 2 lbs) to be released. Most of Pam's possums develop white fuzzy tails. An Opossum's diet has to be monitored to prevent over feeding and obesity while in captivity and exercise is important . Pam has plans to build a nice large opossum cage so her rehab patients will gets lots of exercise and climbing experience while they are in her care.

Didelphis virginiana

Lifespan: 4 years (In captivity)

Weight: 0.7 - 8.2 lb (Female) · 1.8 - 14 lb (Male)

Biological classification: Species

Belongs to: Didelphis

The Virginia opossum, commonly known as the North American opossum, is the only marsupial found in North America north of Mexico. In the United States it is typically referred to simply as a possum. A solitary and nocturnal animal about the size of a domestic cat, and thus the largest opossum, it is a successful opportunist. (Wikipedia)



Their clean and shiny coats speak of receiving the best nutrition and cleanest housing possible. Pam takes pride in her rehabilitation work and it shows!



Let it Go, Let it Go....

The Disney's song from the movie Frozen is the song that Nancy Fachman, MWR Rehabber, heard as she was out completing her holiday shopping. As the song quickly entered her mind and she couldn't help but to start and sing along to the catchy tune, she thought to herself that "Let it Go" is exactly what MWR rehabbers do with the precious animals that they take in and care for..... Let it Go!

Once the injured animal has reached a certain level of health provided by the rehabbers then it is time to release them back to wild where they belong Let it Go!

Most of the time the animals are released back close to where the animal was rescued from or in some cases relocated to an area that has food, water and shelter closes to its natural habitat so that the animal has a chance at survival and a long healthy life being free.

So the next time you hear of that catchy "Let it Go" song, remember your Mississippi Wildlife Rehabbers and the animals that they rescue, rehab and release or Let it Go!



MWR IN THE NEWS!

Birds of a Feather

Center to educate, rehabilitate

By BOB BAKKEN
Staff Writer

DeSoto Times Tribune

Published: Tuesday, November 4, 2014 7:22 AM CST

A non-profit organization passionate about wildlife is making a concerted push to build a new center set to rehabilitate animals and educate people about wildlife.

Mississippi Wildlife Rehabilitation Inc. (MWR) Executive Director Valery Smith talked about her program and the dream of a new center to the Southaven Rotary Club on Thursday.

MWR started in 1995 to meet a growing need to assist injured and orphaned wildlife. Their work is licensed by the state Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS).

Smith said the dream of the organization is to have a center built on 154 acres of land along Highway 304 in the Eudora area. The land has already been given to it by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

But now, the challenge is to raise the \$6 million needed to make it happen.

"We are just now starting our fundraising campaign," Smith said. "We'll be doing a lot of programs and visits to get the word out."

Smith said the aim of MWR is "rehab and education," meaning rehabilitate the approximately 800 animals that come to the center each year, and educate people about the animals' importance to the area.

"We go to schools, churches, civic organizations and just try to raise awareness," Smith said. "We'll go as far as we can and when we can."

While outreach is the focus now, Smith is excited that the new center will be a location people can come to and learn more about wildlife.

"When we have the center, the kids will be able to come to us and we'll be able to take them on trail walks and do hands-on education," Smith said. That's what our kids need these days."

The proposed location will also have three miles of trails to explore.

Smith noted that MWR works to return injured animals to the wild and has a 75 percent success rate, much better than the average 40 percent success rate.

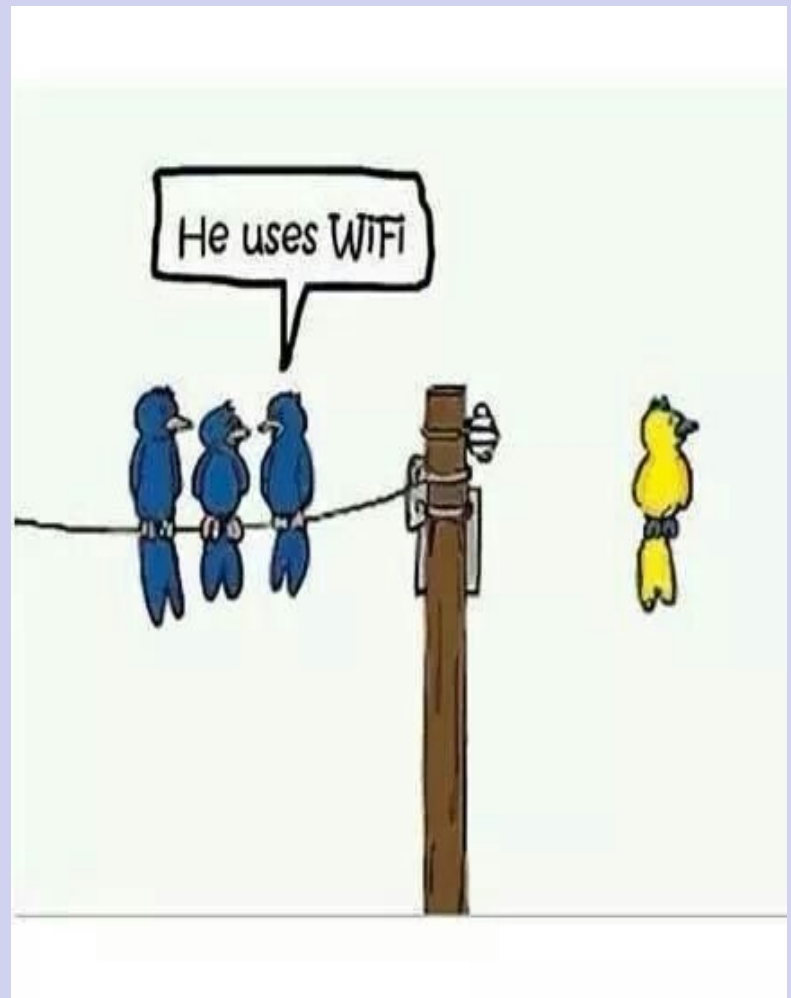
Bob Bakken is a staff writer and may be contacted at 662-429-6397, Ext. 240.



Mississippi Wildlife Rehabilitation Inc. Executive Director Valery Smith holds Sundance, a Broad-wing hawk as Smith answers a question from Southaven Rotarians during a recent meeting at the Holiday Inn. The artist's conception of the Rehabilitation and Nature Center planned for the Eudora area off Highway 304 is to Smith's right. Bob Bakken|DTT

Program update:

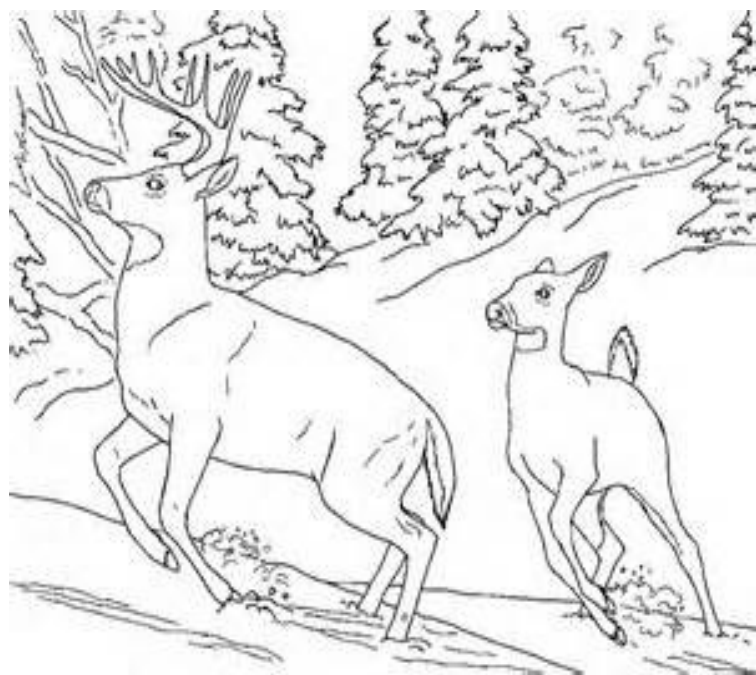
It's already the end of the year! "Baby Season" has definitely slowed down here in our part of Mississippi for most species!. We are busy doing releases, education programs and making plans to recruit new wildlife volunteers locally to help us rehabilitate Mississippi's wild babies in 2015! An "Introduction to wildlife rehabilitation, Is it for you?" presentation is planned for some time in February, a time still to be decided. I will post the date soon so stay tuned. This class is for adults only 18 and over in keeping with state and federal laws. This will be an in-depth look at what wildlife rehabilitation is, what is involved and what you can do to help. If you know of someone who might be seriously interested in helping us in 2015, please tell them about our plans! Thanks so much!- Val Smith,



Homeschoolers visit the ARK for a field trip!



Kids Corner!



Hockey Word Search

H	A	D	L	S	R	E	Y	A	L	P	F	F	N	B
F	O	N	W	A	P	U	C	K	V	A	A	O	L	Y
C	A	C	E	O	O	U	X	I	S	C	I	U	E	S
E	E	N	K	R	R	G	B	T	E	S	E	S	P	C
N	E	M	S	E	A	C	P	O	S	L	R	O	U	H
T	R	R	O	B	Y	E	F	I	I	E	R	C	N	E
E	E	E	B	O	N	F	M	N	J	T	Z	K	I	E
R	F	C	D	A	R	R	E	P	S	B	E	N	F	R
I	E	I	L	H	E	R	E	F	E	K	X	I	O	I
C	R	T	C	T	T	S	E	C	O	R	A	R	R	N
E	Y	A	N	E	T	I	E	K	N	R	I	T	M	G
G	O	I	M	I	T	E	A	M	C	E	W	O	E	Y
C	S	L	C	W	I	N	T	E	R	O	F	A	D	S
U	E	K	S	L	A	P	S	H	O	T	L	E	R	S
H	S	I	H	K	C	E	H	C	Y	D	O	B	D	D

ARENA
BLUE LINE
BODY CHECK
CENTER ICE
CHEERING
COACH
CROWD
DEFENCE
FACE OFF
FANS
FAST
FORWARD
GOAL
HELMET
HOCKEY
ICE

INTERMISSION
JERSEY
LOCKER ROOM
PENALTY
PERIODS
PLAYERS
PUCK
REFEREE

RINK
SKATES
SLAP SHOT
SPORT
STICKS
TEAM
UNIFORM
WINTER

Dear Friends,

THANK YOU for another successful year of rehabilitation and release! Your support has helped us intake a record amount of injured wildlife this year, over 800 patients! Without you, we would not have been able to fund the mammal, songbirds, water birds, reptile and raptor patients we admitted into care this year.

What's new from Mississippi Wildlife Rehab?

Mississippi Wildlife Rehabilitation, Inc. is happy to welcome the following people to new positions on our board:

Bonny Davis, President

Wayne Spell, Vice President

Mark Jordon, Treasurer

We look forward to working together to make our dreams of a nature center a reality!

What can you do?

*Purchase or renew an annual membership for yourself or as a gift!

*Better yet, Sponsor a Raptor or mammal as a holiday gift!

*Take advantage of our "Honors/Memorial" program and honor someone who loved/loves wildlife by donating in their name.

*Make a donation to the ARK Building Fund or Ben's Eagle Fund!

*Check out our Need List- simple things such as donating a few rolls of paper towels or boxes of Kleenex will really help during spring "baby season". All roads lead to www.mswildliferehab.org and Like us on Facebook

*Please join Desoto Eaglefest on Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/DeSotoEagleFest>

Our many thanks to volunteers Natalie Bright, Event Coordinator for Desoto County Greenways, and Jamie Richmond with the United States Army Corp of Engineers at Arkabutla Lake for helping President Bonny pulling off this year's Eaglefest event!

Our heartfelt thanks to the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers at Arkabutla Lake, Desoto County Board of Supervisors, the Desoto County Excellence in Education, the Desoto County Economic Development Council and the Desoto County Greenways for their support and commitment to helping MWR enrich the lives of adults and children in Desoto County and surrounding areas.

Merry Christmas to you and your family in the coming New Year! Good health and Blessings to you all!

Valery Smith, Executive Director

Missy Flanagan

Bonny Davis, President

Petra May

Wayne Spell, Vice President

Lee Caldwell

Karen Brown, Secretary

Elaine Adams

Mark Jordon, Treasurer

MWR, Inc. Advisory Board:

Dr. Johan Steenkamp, DVM

Dr. Danielle Steenkamp, DVM

Andi Y. Lehman

Mark Aquadro

Larry Jarrett

Lewis Rogers



Postage

Mississippi Wildlife Rehabilitation, Inc.

9865 Green River Road
Lake Cormorant, MS 38641

Phone: (662) 429-0044
E-Mail: wltrehab@earthlink.net

Insert Address Here

We're on the web! Visit us at
www.mswildliferehab.org
Like us on Facebook!

"Dedicated to the successful rehabilitation and release of injured and orphaned wildlife back to their natural habitat"

Help us save on postage and printing. Receiving this newsletter by email allows us to feed one small owl for three days or one raccoon for one day. Please send us your email address at subscribe@mswildliferehab.org to save these costs and feed an animal instead!

Tear Here

Mississippi's Wildlife Needs Your Support!

Become a member and help save an animal at Mississippi Wildlife Rehabilitation, Inc!

- | | | | |
|---|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual \$15/yr | <input type="checkbox"/> Friend \$50/yr | <input type="checkbox"/> School \$250/yr | <input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor \$1000/yr |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family \$25/yr | <input type="checkbox"/> Patron \$100/yr | <input type="checkbox"/> Corporate \$500/yr | <input type="checkbox"/> Gold \$5000/yr |

Donation \$ _____ In Memory / Honor of _____

Please make check payable to Mississippi Wildlife Rehabilitation, Inc. MWR is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and is the only state-licensed rehabilitation facility in North MS. Your 100% tax-deductible donation goes directly to the rehabilitation of Mississippi wildlife and / or development of the Arkabutla Lake Wildlife Rehabilitation and Nature Center.

I would like to volunteer! You can use my talents in the following area(s):

- | <u>Building Trades</u> | <u>Public Awareness</u> | <u>Animal Care/Rehab</u> | <u>Support</u> |
|---------------------------------------|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Electrical | <input type="checkbox"/> Advertising | <input type="checkbox"/> Small Mammals | <input type="checkbox"/> Bookkeeping |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Carpentry | <input type="checkbox"/> Fund Raising | <input type="checkbox"/> Songbirds | <input type="checkbox"/> Database Mgt. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Masonry | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Speaking | <input type="checkbox"/> Large Mammals | <input type="checkbox"/> Mailing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Painting | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Reptiles | <input type="checkbox"/> Web Design |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Plumbing | <input type="checkbox"/> Writing | <input type="checkbox"/> Veterinary Service | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ | | | |

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____



An American kestrel fledgling that was rehabilitated and released in 2006