



Piedmont Wildlife Center Annual Report

2021 - 2022 Fiscal Year

www.piedmontwildlifecenter.org | 919 - 489 - 0900



Our Mission

To encourage conservation and inspire people to build lifelong connections with nature through immersive outdoor education, citizen science, and wildlife stewardship.



Greetings Piedmont Community!

As we approach the anniversary of our 20th year, we have much to be thankful for and celebrate. We are fortunate to partner with schools and parks from Durham, Orange and Wake counties, Triangle Land Conservancy, and Umstead State Park to operate our programs. Our Conservation Team increased their programming and income by 30% this past fiscal year. Our Education Team ran full camps and were able to run after-school programs in schools again. Most importantly, we are grateful for all of you who support what we do, from staff sharing their love of nature with kids young and old, to our board, volunteers, and donors who believe in us and provide vital monetary and hands-on help.

Of course, there have been challenges, too. Like so many businesses, the impacts of the evolving COVID-19 pandemic continue to require us to adjust our protocols so we can provide a safe community and quality programming. We have had to hire staff throughout the summer instead of having all personnel secured pre-season. Training new counselors while in the middle of the camp season is hard for everyone. Learning our programs, lands, and expectations while on the job is extremely difficult for new counselors while seasoned staff try to maintain our camp culture and consistency. Thankfully, kids have been happy and parent feedback has been positive!

In early spring, we had to prepare for the threat of avian influenza to ensure our raptors remained healthy and able to safely participate in programs. We reinforced the roofs of our outdoor bird enclosure, adjusted our raptor training protocols by assigning one or two handlers per bird to prevent potential contamination, wore protective booties in each enclosure, and established larger buffer zones from the public. Fortunately, that threat has passed here without incident.

This coming year, we look forward to holding special events in celebration of #20YearsOfPWC, leading up to our big anniversary party on January 20, 2023! Please stay tuned for details. Your support through the years has made it possible for Piedmont Wildlife Center to help kids and adults build precious connections with nature that bring happiness and peace to their lives, inspire them to live more sustainably, and make the world a better place for humans and wildlife.

Thank you for helping us evolve and grow. Supporters like you are the reason we have made it this far. Your love and enthusiasm continues to push us forward so we can adapt to our community's needs, help our community members feel heard and valued, and make our environment a little more sustainable for the next 20 years - and beyond. Enjoy our highlights that follow.

With gratitude and love,

Karen McCall
Executive Director



Table of Contents

Ambassador Animals	6
Conservation	9
Education	11
Financials	14
Capacity Development	15
Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion	16
Vision and Core Values	17



Ambassador Animals

Piedmont Wildlife Center's educational animals serve as ambassadors for their individual species. All of our ambassadors have found a permanent home at PWC after being rescued or surrendered by their previous owners. Our raptors were all rehabilitated after sustaining extensive injuries, but deemed non-releasable due to their inability to fly or hunt.

Each Ambassador Animal has an important lesson to teach about wildlife conservation. Their stories inspire all who meet them to make changes to protect our environment and the animals that live in it.

Meet all 22 of our ambassadors!



Apollo
Barred Owl



Athena
Barred Owl



Otus
Eastern Screech Owl



Willow
Red Tailed Hawk



Bellatrix
Great Horned Owl



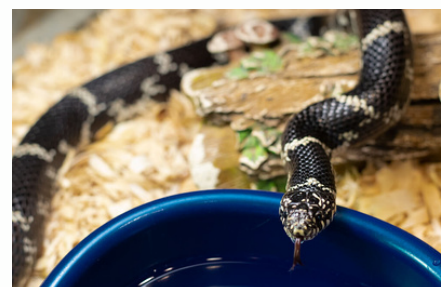
Katara
Red Shouldered Hawk



Edgar
Raven



Kellogg
Eastern Corn Snake



Reina
Eastern Kingsnake



Pepper
Virginia Opossum



Parsley
Domestic Rabbit



Miracle
Ring-necked Dove



Izzy
Eastern Milksnake



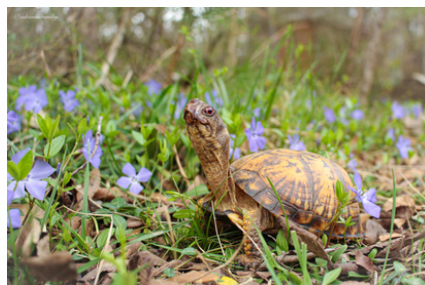
Jade
Greenish Rat Snake



Guacamole
Mole Kingsnake



Terra
Diamondback Terrapin



Shelly
Eastern Box Turtle



Legacy
Eastern Box Turtle



Bob
Eastern Box Turtle



Sheldon
Eastern Box Turtle



Vinny
Eastern Box Turtle



Guillermo
Crested Gecko

DID YOU KNOW?
SHELLY EATS
152 SUPERWORMS
A YEAR



In Memory of:

PWC Ambassador Animals who crossed the rainbow bridge this year



Jackson
Mississippi Kite



Ash
Eastern Screech Owl



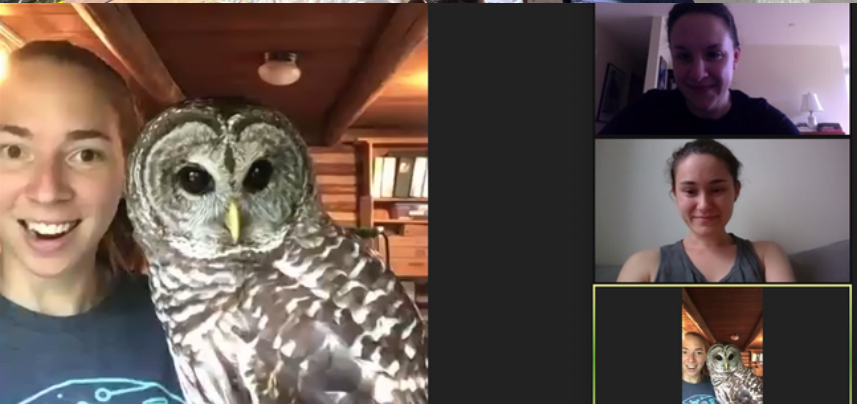
Scout
Eastern Gray Squirrel

Conservation

Over the years, Piedmont Wildlife Center has blossomed into a community dedicated to building nature connections in all people. Our conservation programs featuring our Ambassador Animals offer a unique, up-close experience with wildlife by bringing nature to the classroom, the workplace, special events, and more to teach people of all ages about the natural history of NC species and what we can all do to help protect them. By fostering this connection, we hope to encourage people to live sustainably and conserve our environment. None of this work could be done without our volunteers!

This year,

7,062 people participated in our conservation programs.



166 at-school visits

43 virtual programs

68 field trips and tours

3,549 volunteer hours

If volunteers were paid \$13/hour for their time, that would equate to one full-time person earning a \$46,137 salary!



Thanks to a grant from Duke's Doing Good in the Neighborhood, we received funding to bring our "Wildlife in the Classroom" program to Title 1 elementary schools in Durham, Orange, and Wake counties at no cost to them. As our world is changing, green spaces are shrinking, especially in underserved communities where few opportunities exist for children to make their own nature connections. When students have a connection to wildlife at a young age, their desire to live sustainably and conserve our environment grows.

So far, we have visited 275 students across 11 Title 1 schools.

Research & Citizen Science

We continue to study eastern box turtles at Leigh Farm Park using radio telemetry and mark-recapture. Since starting the project, we have marked nearly 250 turtles and are always finding more.

Our citizen science project, Triangle Turtle Trekkers, now has its own website thanks to the UC Berkeley School of Information. The new site makes it easier for people to share their turtle photos so that we can continue developing an analysis tool using FIT technology from WildTrack.

Additionally, we conducted a pilot Turtle Trekkers school program geared more towards citizen science and in-depth exploration of wildlife monitoring and conservation on an individual species level. We also started offering Turtle Treks at the park where people can gain first-hand experience using radio telemetry.



Education

Piedmont Wildlife Center runs outdoor education programs year-round, including summer and intersession camps, Homeschool in the Wild, teen leadership and skills camps, backpacking trips, and afterschool programs. Each program takes place entirely outdoors and is special in its own way. This spring, we were granted permission to run programs again at William B. Umstead State Park in Raleigh. This means we now operate camps at three sites: Umstead in Wake County, Brumley Forest Nature Preserve North in Orange County, and our main location at Leigh Farm Park in Durham. We are also running 4 backpacking trips this summer, beginner to advanced, in the North Carolina mountains.

Summer camps are currently in full swing. It is by far our busiest season, but it also marks a magical time when kids ages 5-17 can see old friends, make new ones, learn naturalist and survival skills, play games, and deepen their connection to nature while immersed in the woods.

This year, we welcomed

1,884

campers across all our locations - Durham, Wake, and Orange



We held **61** camp sessions,
served **202** homeschool students,
and awarded **\$10,721** in scholarship
funds to 32 campers.



Homeschool in the Wild

Composed of a diverse group of community-oriented families, Homeschool in the Wild is a wonderfully unique opportunity for children to engage with others and grow on their own terms. We follow a model for teaching and learning based on nature mentoring and the art of questioning. It is designed to engage the body and senses, inspire the mind, awaken curiosity, develop confidence, create community, and build nature connection.

This past fiscal year, our Homeschool in the Wild program ran at full capacity in Durham 2 days a week. We also returned to Umstead State Park in Raleigh for 1 day a week this spring. Registration for our fall 2022 homeschool program opens in August. We have already received many inquiries from families who have heard about us through word of mouth and are eager to join this special community.



Earthkeepers

Since 2011, our Earthkeepers Afterschool program connected kids to nature at public elementary and middle schools across the Triangle. Our afterschool students explore tracts of woods at their schools and gain insight into how much goes on around us in the natural world, even in small spaces. After a long day of indoor learning, Earthkeepers is a magical opportunity for kids and young teens to learn about native flora and fauna, connect with each other, hone their awareness and naturalist skills, and build confidence and focus while spending time outside.

It is important to us that all students have opportunities to connect with nature. Thanks to our donors and partnerships with local school districts, we have been able to help underserved students participate in Earthkeepers without the worry of transportation by operating at their own schools and awarding need-based scholarships.

This became challenging in 2020 and spring 2021, when COVID-19 closures and the shift to online learning prevented us from running Earthkeepers at schools. While we ran a large and successful afterschool program at Leigh Farm Park and Blackwood Farm Park during the 2020-21 school year, lack of transportation to our locations meant many families could not get their kids here or take advantage of scholarships.

Once in-person school resumed in fall 2021, we continued to run afterschool at our Durham location one day a week. Starting spring 2022, we returned to schools and brought Earthkeepers to all afterschool students enrolled at public Orange County middle schools. We also provided programming to Carrboro students at school day camps during teacher workdays. In 2022-23, we hope to bring Earthkeepers back to Carrboro Elementary, and acquire a van so we can provide transportation to students attending our on-site afterschool.



Financials

2021 - 2022 Fiscal Year Revenue

Conservation Programs	\$64,646
Education Programs	\$603,149
Nature Store	\$5,645
Special Events	\$10,500
Grants	\$13,500
Donations	\$94,586
Total Revenue	\$792,513

2021 - 2022 Fiscal Year Expenses

Staff payroll, taxes, benefits	\$469,392
Conservation expenses	\$26,899
Education expenses	\$48,149
Special events	\$3,017
Buildings & grounds	\$16,364
Overhead	\$47,200
Total Expenses	\$611,021



Capacity Development

New Staff Members



Katie Disharoon
Durham County
Coordinator



Christy Korzen
Homeschool
Coordinator



Alyssa Jayne Maynor-Tan
Wake County
Coordinator



Jenna Williams
Conservation
Assistant



Kaitlin Saxton
Research & Husbandry
Coordinator

We also welcomed:

- 4 new contractual educators
- 18 new camp counselors
- 17 new volunteers
- 7 seasonal interns

New Board Members



Kiah Wells



Adrian Driggers

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

We honor and acknowledge the indigenous and enslaved people that came before us shaping the lands we use today as we work for a just, equitable, and inclusive community now.

Diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) is a priority for our board and staff. As we continue to grow our programs and reach more people in our community, we strive to provide safe opportunities for all people to connect with nature. We are working to ensure that Piedmont Wildlife Center reflects the diversity of our community in the Triangle in all aspects of our organization, from our board to our staff, program participants to volunteers. We are proud to say that the new board members we have welcomed over the last two years have helped move us in this direction, and that our 2022 summer camp is more diverse than ever.

Over the past year, some of our core staff participated in training through the Diversity and Equity in Environmental Programs (DEEP) collaborative at Duke University's Nicholas School of the Environment. Others took an online course in Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (JEDI) in Environmental Education offered by Environmental Educators of North Carolina. These and other trainings offered valuable lessons in having difficult conversations, partnering with local Black and brown organizations, and creating a welcoming environment for all. Those who attended shared their knowledge with the rest of staff and added resources to our website, including our new Land Context page. We are in the process of scheduling DEI training for our board, and are forming a board committee to work with our staff DEI task force.

We continue to work on our land acknowledgement statement to recognize the indigenous people who lived on the land we use today and honor the cultures who came before us. We regularly share the history of Leigh Farm Park and the other sites we operate on with staff, campers, and visitors so they will honor, respect, and work to include people from all backgrounds equally in our community.





PIEDMONT WILDLIFE CENTER
CONNECTING PEOPLE AND NATURE

Our Vision

A world where all people are united by a love and respect for nature, and are committed to the health of the planet and one another for generations to come.

Our Core Values

Gratitude, Respect, Curiosity, Inclusivity, Awareness



If you would like a hard copy of this report please contact us at
admin@piedmontwildlifecenter.org

Piedmont Wildlife Center is an IRS designated 501(c)3 non-profit organization. Our Federal Tax ID is 47-0890261.