

Antler Ridge Wildlife Sanctuary | 2014



## Message from the Director

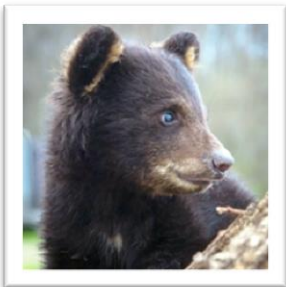
Year-end is always a good time to reflect on what we have accomplished and to mark the path for where we hope to be this time next year. It is one of the few times during the year when we can take a deep breath and think beyond daily feedings, treatments, rescues and releases.

Antler Ridge Wildlife Sanctuary's first goal has always been to help animals—to provide the best possible care which will ensure them a second chance to thrive in their natural environment. We have never forgotten that care must also be supported by education and conservation in order to achieve great things long-term.

As we move into our 8<sup>th</sup> year we are able to measure the positive results of this 3-part approach. 2013 and 2014 are the first years since our inception that the number of animals admitted and the number of phone calls received have reduced from the previous year's totals. Not only are the total number of animals reduced, but those reductions are in each of the major species we handle. During the same time frame we have increased the number of public education programs and conservation activities, and public participation in these events is at an all-time high.

It is not just coincidence that these two facts go hand in hand. An educated and inspired public can make much better decisions. And in the case of wildlife issues being 90% result of human intervention, understanding normal animal behavior, ways to avoid human/animal conflict and methods to preserve natural habitat means less animals in need of our help.

Other news that occurred in 2014 is the addition of two new species cared for at ARWS; bears and bats. Both of these species have faced unique challenges over the last several years and we are pleased to be a part of conservation efforts on their behalf.



Our fundraising efforts in 2014 have been a huge success and, as always, we try hard to make sure these events are fun, educational and supportive of the work we do. Thank you to the foundations and grant givers who provide the funds to expand our programs and offer more services to the public. Appreciation also goes out to our corporate supporters like Brook Hollow Winery who have allowed us to use their facilities for fundraising events. To help guarantee those events are successful, there are many other businesses who contribute items and their expertise. And, of course, there are our donors who generously open their hearts and their wallets to support the work ARWS does.

We are thankful for our well-trained volunteer staff which this year included the addition of 3 new interns. Also unique to ARWS are our Parent/Child volunteer teams which provide young children the opportunity to safely participate in our volunteer program.

ARWS is also thankful for our veterinary team, including Dr. Karen Dashfield working on-site and outside resources including The Animal Clinic of Morris Plains who are all willing to offer up their services without hesitation.

As a new year begins, ARWS looks forward to continue to evolve and change and grow. We are on track with our mission, and with your ongoing support we will continue to achieve great things.

*Signature*

Kelly Corless Simonetti, Executive Director



## Mission Statement

The mission of Antler Ridge Wildlife Sanctuary is to: provide care and treatment to sick, injured or orphaned wild animals; rehabilitate them back to their healthy, wild state so they can be returned to their natural habitat, actively educate the public to care and support for the ecosystems and the environment in which they share with wildlife, and; to protect and preserve our native lands.

## Our Wildlife Patients

One of the few species ARWS received in 2014 that increased in numbers admitted over the previous year is the Northern Flying Squirrels (genus *Glaucomys* which is Greek for gray mouse). This may be due to the fact that the public in general has very little knowledge of these shy and nocturnal mammals. Referred to sometimes as night gliders, these creatures are active a few hours after sunset to just before dawn.



The northern flyer is small, weighs 75 to 140 grams when fully matured, has incredibly soft brown fur and large eyes equipped for seeing in low light conditions. They do not fly, they glide through the air from one tree branch to another and have a gliding membrane that attaches to the front and back legs on each side. When these membranes are extended, the aerodynamics are similar to that of a hang glider. The Northern Flying Squirrel has a flat tail that serves for balance in the air like the tail of a kite. Flying squirrels glide an average of 20 ft. to 65 ft. but distances as long as 299 ft. have been documented.

Northern Flying Squirrels usually live in colonies with an average of 6 to a den. Young are born in late spring and unlike the gray squirrel which bears young in the spring and again in the fall, flyers only have one litter. Life span in the wild is 4 to 5 years, however because of their small size; they are prey for hawks and owls. Though not often seen because they are active at night, Northern Flying Squirrels are one of nature's true treasures.

## Education and Outreach Programs

Antler Ridge Wildlife Sanctuary has developed several community education programs in addition to establishing an on-site school house for indoor and outdoor classroom studies through the Discover Nature Program. This exciting partnership program is a combine effort between Kelly Simonetti, Director of ARWS, Nicole Rose of Discover Nature and Allan Barlow of the Nature Conservancy. Children learn about our natural world through hands-on exploration, nature hikes, discussions, live animal educational presentations, games, nature crafts and much more. This collaborated effort is designed to foster respect for the natural environment and teach about the interdependence of all things in nature.



ARWS engages in community outreach programs for wildlife conservation, environmental awareness and seasonal awareness initiatives annually. In 2014, ARWS provided several programs including presentations on Bat Education and on Animal First Aid. In addition, ARWS helped initial the KLAW (kids learning about wildlife) Club for High School Students who are pursuing careers in animal care, wildlife conservation and environmental opportunities.



## Farm Companions

Antler Ridge Wildlife Sanctuary is located on a 120-acre farm in Warren County, New Jersey. The farm owners and founders of ARWS, Jim and Kelly Simonetti, have rescued and adopted several farm animals in addition to the work they do through the wildlife sanctuary. While these animals are benefiting with a safe, permanent home, their presence also has a meaningful contribution to the education programs offered through ARWS. Our on-site veterinarian teaches pre-veterinary education for both children and High School students interested in veterinary practice as a career option. These lessons are enhanced through observation of and hands-on care provided to these barnyard companions.



## ARWS Board of Directors

President: James Simonetti  
 Chief of Police, Roxbury, NJ Police Department  
 Term: Class of 2016

Executive Director: Kelly Corless RN, Certified Animal Control  
 Officer, NJ Licensed Wildlife Rehabilitator  
 Business Service Sales, HiTouch  
 Term: Class of 2015

Treasurer: Kathleen Cruickshank  
 Retired  
 Term: Class of 2017

Secretary: Melissa Rowe  
 Self-employed Real Estate agent  
 Term: Class of 2016

Director: Sue Scherer  
 Retired  
 Term: Class of 2015



## Program Impacts

The following chart is a Year-to-Year review of the Animal Summary Report and Telephone Calls Received for Antler Ridge Wildlife Sanctuary from 2005 to 2014.

ANTLER RIDGE WILDLIFE SANCTUARY		YEAR TO YEAR REVIEW								
ANIMAL SUMMARY REPORT	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005
SPECIES										
RACCOON	129	136	189	171	100	93	67	58	28	12
OPOSSUM	80	130	68	40	69	69	28	24	11	2
RED SQUIRREL	3	5	12	6	5	1	0	0	0	0
FLYING SQUIRREL	13	8	16	16	2	8	0	0	0	0
GREYSQUIRREL	227	326	396	296	178	77	77	29	58	18
RABBITS	196	202	186	130	19	7	12	21	26	12
CHIPMUNK	20	18	5	9	1	1	8	0	3	0
GROUND HOG	11	12	10	5	7	7	8	2	2	0
FAWN	81	109	86	90	76	30	58	33	22	0
MOUSE	10	37	26	17	2	0	0	4	5	0
SKUNK	19	25	35	19	12	19	7	7	0	0
Other, avian	31	42	75	25	24	19	8	0	0	0
fox	2	2	2	6	0	0	0	0	0	0
bob cat	5	2	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0
mink	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
weasel	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
bear	5	4								
bat	16	2								
<b>TOTAL ANIMALS</b>	<b>849</b>	<b>1061</b>	<b>1106</b>	<b>834</b>	<b>496</b>	<b>331</b>	<b>273</b>	<b>178</b>	<b>155</b>	<b>44</b>
<b>TOTAL NUMBER OF CALLS</b>	<b>3275</b>	<b>3675</b>	<b>3596</b>	<b>2750</b>	<b>1823</b>	<b>1158</b>	<b>859</b>	<b>685</b>	<b>468</b>	<b>100</b>



ARWS Education Programs have reached approximately 500 students and Outreach Programs have reached an additional 2,000 to 2,500 persons in the year 2014.

## Financial Management

Antler Ridge Wildlife Sanctuary is an all-volunteer, tax-exempt, non-profit organization. Our services are provided free. We are licensed by the State of New Jersey as a certified wildlife rehabilitation center; however we do not receive any funding from federal or state governments. Our financial support comes from private sources, the majority being individual contributions in addition to foundations and corporations. In fiscal year 2013 (6/2013 to 6/2014) our operating revenue was as follows:



Grants	\$ 5,500
<u>Contributions</u>	<u>97,762</u>
Total	\$103,262

(Note: We are grateful for our In-kind donations which account for approximately \$10,000 additional saving in supplies and labor).

ARWS is thankful for our all-volunteer staff which helps us to maintain high quality services and allows us the ability to stretch every dollar received to support our mission. As you can see, ARWS continues to operate in a financially responsible manner. Our administrative/operating costs are at 12.6% of our overall expenses with Program Services accounting for 54%. Expenses for the Fiscal Year 2013 included the following:

Program Services (Medical, food & supplies)	\$ 55,944
Admin/Operating (Rent, utilities, insurance, maintenance, computer & conference fees)	12,166
<u>Fundraising</u>	<u>12,946</u>
Total	\$ 81,056

Fiscal Year	2013
<b>Assets</b>	\$80,457
<b>Liabilities</b>	46,587
<b>Total Net Assets</b>	33,870



## ARWS Special Thank You

While Antler Ridge Wildlife Sanctuary's all-volunteer staff is the heartbeat of our organization, our lifeline is our supporters and we are grateful for every contribution no matter how small. We cannot list each gift we have received this year, however we would like to recognize the following major contributors:

Community Foundation of NJ, Hudson Farm Foundation  
 Judson Traphagen  
 Best Friends Animal Society  
 Petco  
 Goldman Sachs, Stadler Foundation Grant  
 Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund  
 Honeywell International Charity Matching  
 First Giving  
 The Neel Foundation  
 Kathleen & Robert Cruickshank  
 JP Morgan Chase Foundation  
 Martha Carson  
 Lynn Perlmutter  
 Razoo Foundation  
 The Prudential Foundation Matching Gifts  
 Starlight Foundation, Inc.  
 Scranberry Coop, LLC  
 Teel Auctions  
 Main Street Bazaar  
 Johnson & Johnson  
 UBS Employee Giving Programs



## Recent Challenges

Response to our fundraising events has always been a Godsend; this is especially true when unexpected challenges have presented themselves. One such challenge this year is the need to replace many of our outdoor caging units due to the severe weather conditions in the last several years. Two hurricanes and the heavy snow and ice conditions recently experienced have forced an urgent need for the completion of this project. ARWS has applied for several foundation grants earmarked for this project and we are currently running a capital campaign in order to make sure our animals will continue to have safe, secure and quality housing.

## Your Donation is More Important than Ever

As ARWS moves forward, we need your support even more than ever before so together we can provide services that enrich the lives of animals and people for generations to come. That support can be accomplished in many ways; whether it is a monetary donation, volunteering your time or services, assisting at one of our fundraising events or simply spreading the word about the good work we do.

Donations may be mailed to: **Antler Ridge Wildlife Sanctuary, 52 County Road 661, Newton, NJ 07860**

Or you may contact us by phone: **973-800-2420**; email: [kcorless@aol.com](mailto:kcorless@aol.com), website: [www.antler-ridge.com](http://www.antler-ridge.com)

Or on Facebook: **Antler Ridge Wildlife Sanctuary**.

## Wish List

ARWS is always in need of supplies such as paper towels, garbage bags, laundry soap, Q-tips, bleach, rubber gloves and many other household and food items. This list changes based on our needs at the time so please check our website or call to see what items would help us the most.

We are always in need of appropriate release sites for our animals once the time comes to return them to their natural habitat. Please call if you can assist with this need and we will provide you with the necessary criteria for release locations.

## Looking Forward

Keeping an all-volunteer, non-profit wildlife sanctuary running smoothly is not always an easy journey. If we have 50 infant patients on a given day, that translates weekly to 1,750 feedings, 40 volunteers, 35 loads of wash, 2,000 pairs of exam gloves, 5,250 ounces of formula, lots of dirty feeding bottles and the list goes on. Behind the scenes of the daily caregiving duties are fundraising activities, volunteer recruiting and training, education program scheduling and, well I think you're getting the picture.

What puts these responsibilities into perspective and keeps us balanced are the animals and the circumstances that caused them to need our help. In addition to physical injury, many haven't eaten for days. They have lost their home and family members. And then they arrive at the Sanctuary where everything is foreign to them: sights, sounds, smells and the huge "predators" who now are constantly handling them. Yet in spite of all this, they heal and grow strong.

We are always in awe of the courage and will to survive that comes with these frightened and broken creatures. Each one has its own story and in an unexpected moment can offer us a new perspective on life. As caretakers, we are taught many lessons that apply to our own lives. It would be easy in a State where wildlife is abundant to dismiss the importance of saving an injured wild animal. But what we learn through our contact with these temporary guests that travel through our doors is priceless. Unexpected lessons of life that help keep our own lives in balance.

As ARWS continues to travel forward, we would like to thank you for being a part of this journey.