

ALABAMA WILDLIFE CENTER

WILDLIFE TIMES



LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The holidays are a time for reflection. A time to celebrate wins and accomplishments; a time to be thankful for loved ones, family, and friends; a time to rejoice another year completed; and a time to prepare and plan for what's ahead. This has been such a wonderful year, and I want to take a moment to share my gratitude to everyone that makes the Alabama Wildlife Center possible. Thank you to the generous donors for their continued love and support. Thank you to the AWC staff for working tirelessly to ensure the best care for our patients and educational birds. Thank you to our passionate volunteers for their dedication and hard work. If you are reading this, you too have played a critical role in shaping our organization, and for that, I am incredibly thankful for you as well.

This year, there is so much to celebrate at the Center. Here are just a few of our accomplishments: a change in organizational culture, the beginning phases of renovating our clinic, a more welcoming guest experience, and our newest program the Nature for All Initiative. These projects are just a shortlist of changes we've made to the organization, with even more planned for 2024. The future for wildlife is bright!

If you haven't been to the AWC in a while or have never visited, please consider visiting us on December 2nd for our Birdmas event. We hope to see you there!



Chris Sykes

Executive Director



UPCOMING EVENTS

BIRDMAS



DECEMBER 2, 2023
10 AM - 2 PM

MEET SANTA

10 AM - 12 PM

MEMBER MEETING

12 PM

CRAFT & BAKE

10 AM - 2 PM

RAPTOR CHATS

10 AM - 2 PM

BEHIND THE SCENES TOUR

10 AM - 2 PM

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NATURE FOR ALL INITIATIVE

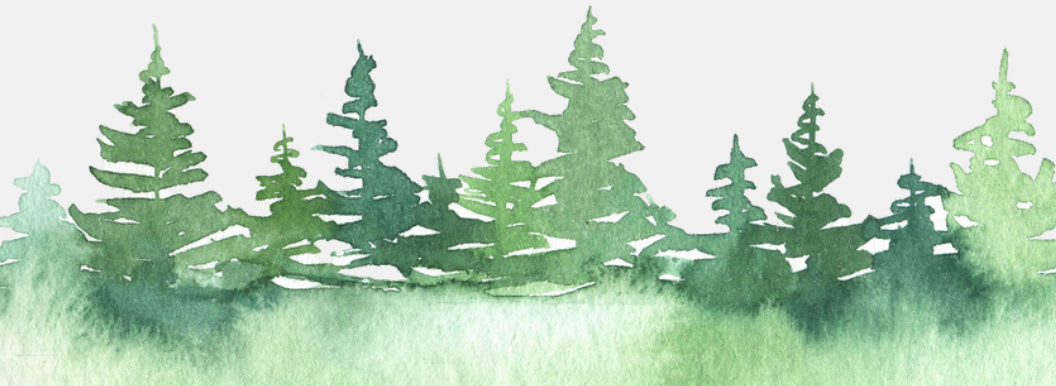
We Did It!

Thanks to the help of The Daniel Foundation, Vulcan Materials Company Foundation, Wild Birds Unlimited, and our supporters of Alabama Wildlife Center, we have raised \$50,000 for our Nature for All Initiative.

By empowering all communities and schools in Alabama to learn and experience nature, together, we can create a more compassionate and environmentally conscious world.

If you are interested in donating to our Nature for All Initiative, or if you'd like to know more information, please visit our website.

www.alabamawildlifecenter.org/nature-for-all-initiative



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

☆☆ JAYME & COLTEN MOORE ☆☆

Jayne began volunteering at Treetop Nature Trail in 2019 because to his sons interest in birds. At the time AWC didn't have a volunteer on Tuesday for TNT, so Jayme signed him and Colten up. Four and a half years later, he is still volunteering with AWC at TNT every Tuesday. Currently, he has started helping with our education bird program with Colten on Sundays. As the years have gone by, Jayme has gained a new appreciation and respect for our feathered friends, as he knew little about them prior to volunteering, and the new experiences he has gained.



Colten joined with his dad every Tuesday that he could. Now, in 2023, Colten has begun volunteering with AWC's education bird program on Sundays. His love and passion for nature & birds brought him and his dad to AWC. One of Colten's favorite things about volunteering, besides working with his dad, has been getting to know and working with Princess, our albino Turkey Vulture. However, Monty & Arthur are quickly making their way up to his top favorite birds at AWC.

A NEW FLOCK MEMBER

MEET ELISE!



Elise has been coming to Oak Mountain and the Alabama Wildlife Center since they were little, and they've always known that their career would involve animals. Elise interned in our songbird nursery in 2022, and has returned to the clinic after graduating from Whittier College with a B.A. in Environmental Science and French. Outside of work, Elise likes to make art and music, play video games, and spend time with their dog, Ruby.

WELCOME TO THE FLOCK!



MEET COOSA

OUR BARRED OWL

We have discussed many of our new avian ambassadors in our newsletters, but let's talk about the bird that started it all. Coosa. This special bird came to us as a nestling, still covered in soft gray down. He arrived with a deep wound extending from his thigh to his abdomen, and while it gradually healed, extensive loss of muscle tissue had weakened his leg too much for life in the wild. Thus, he was deemed our first glove trained 'education bird.'

As the oldest Education Bird on our team, Coosa is an impressive 22 years old. We hope to have many more years with this amazing bird! Coosa was the foundation for our Education Team, the first bird to do educational programs both on-site and off-site. Since 2001, our education team has reached thousands of people, teaching adults and children alike the importance of conservation efforts and the role our native birds play in the ecosystem.

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA!



HERE ARE SOME PHOTOS THAT YOU MAY HAVE MISSED



FOUND AN INJURED BIRD?

(205) 663-7930 | **EXTENSION 1**