

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

~ *Be a Part of the Legacy* ~



BLUE RIDGE WILDLIFE CENTER'S



Silver in the Wild GALA

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2025

SALEM FARM SHOWGROUNDS
UPPERVILLE, VIRGINIA

*Celebrating 25 Years
of Wildlife Conservation and Education*





"For 25 years, BRWC has been educating and inspiring the next generation to lead in wildlife medicine, conservation, and ecosystem health."

Building our Legacy

"Fuel the Future of Wildlife Education and Conservation"

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Blue Ridge Wildlife Center is a 501(c)3 organization (EIN-54-1996991). The Center relies on private donations exclusively. Contributions are tax-deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law.

Dear Patrons and Friends, Past, Present, and Future,

Over the last 25 years, the Blue Ridge Wildlife Center has grown from a single wildlife hotline into a premier wildlife veterinary teaching hospital, with far-reaching impact. Whether you've been with us from the beginning or are considering becoming a patron for the first time, you are part of a growing legacy that is changing lives, landscapes, and the future of our planet.

This 25th-anniversary milestone is a powerful reminder of what your support makes possible. From shaping future conservation leaders to protecting ecosystems and advancing critical care for native wildlife, your generosity has made a lasting difference. Here are a few examples of our progress this past year, made possible by those who believe in our mission.

- Your contributions have impacted every aspect of our mission. We've purchased several new pieces of state-of-the-art medical equipment, allowing us to expand treatment options, accelerate patient healing and rehabilitation, and strengthen our professional training and research capabilities.
- We have replaced, expanded, and improved numerous rehab enclosures and ambassadors' living areas.
- We now offer year-round housing for students, expanding the depth of their preparedness for careers in wildlife care.
- We have partnered with Shenandoah University to develop an online, immersive, and bilingual curriculum for middle school students that will dramatically expand our educational reach, with the potential to add additional grade levels.

This year's Gala will feature native garden displays created by top landscape professionals and native plant nurseries. These living exhibits, each representing a different wildlife habitat, will showcase how native plants support animals and improve ecosystem health. Our ambassador animals will be featured throughout the displays, bringing these habitats to life.

You make each of these accomplishments and every step forward possible. We invite you to support this special evening as a Gala Patron by sponsoring a table or one of our garden displays. Your partnership drives our progress, and we're honored to have your support.

With gratitude for the past, excitement for the future, and appreciation for your support today,

Iara Lacher, PhD
Board Chair

Annie Bradfield
Executive Director

Trish Carter
Director of Development

Sponsorship Opportunities

BLAZING STAR

\$5,000

- Reserved table for 10 guests with premium placement.
- Listed in the event invitation, program, event signage, and annual report.
- Spotlight in the winter edition of *The Ridgeline*, BRWC's quarterly publication.
- Wildlife Guardian Membership for one year.
- **Exclusive Wildlife Benefit:** Invitation to a private wildlife release event with BRWC staff.
- Invitations to special events.



BIG BLUESTEM

\$3,500

- Reserved table for 8 guests with select placement.
- Listed in the event invitation, program, event signage, and annual report.
- Wildlife Guardian Membership for one year.
- **Exclusive Wildlife Benefit:** "Coffee & Conversation" Group Q&A with BRWC staff and an ambassador animal.



FIRE WEED

\$2,500

- Reserved table for 6 guests.
- Listed in the event invitation, program, event signage, and annual report.
- Wildlife Guardian Membership for one year.
- **Exclusive Wildlife Benefit:** Custom Ambassador Art Print.



LARKSPUR

\$1,500

- Reserved table for 4 guests.
- Listed in the event invitation, program, event signage, and annual report.
- Wildlife Guardian Membership for one year.
- **Exclusive Wildlife Benefit:** Recognition as a species sponsor for one month.



ASTER

\$500

- Reserved seating for 2 guests.
- Listed in the event invitation, program, event signage, and annual report.



Additional Sponsorship Opportunity

SILVER MEADOW GARDEN SPONSOR

\$2,500 *Four Opportunities* \$1,250 *Each Co-Sponsor*

- Reserved seating for 6 guests.
- Listed in the event invitation, program, event signage, and annual report.
- Wildlife Guardian Membership for one year.
- **Exclusive Wildlife Benefit:** A signed Native Plant Guidebook for each guest.



Help Us Celebrate 25 Years!

2000

Founding

BRWC was founded as a wildlife hotline by Dr. Belinda Burwell and Beatrice Busch von Gontard, offering guidance on wildlife emergencies and rescue efforts.

2004

First Patient

BRWC admitted its first wildlife patient at "The Cottage," an 18th-century, 800 sq. ft. Overseer's cottage on Burwell-van Lennep Island Farms. That year, a total of 117 patients were treated.

2005

The Ridgeline

BRWC published the first issue of *The Ridgeline*, its official newsletter, sharing wildlife stories, patient updates, and educational resources with the community.

2015

New Facility

With patient admissions reaching 1,883 that year—nearly ten times the initial intake—BRWC had outgrown "The Cottage". To meet the increasing demand, a capital campaign was launched to build a full-service hospital and education center. Thanks to the Burwell van Lennep Foundation and generous donors, we broke ground on a state-of-the-art wildlife hospital and education center.

2016

Dr. Jen Riley Hired as Full-Time Veterinarian

Dr. Jen Riley joined BRWC as the organization's full-time veterinarian. That year, BRWC admitted 1,639 patients, all of whom were treated on-site for the first time.

2017

Professional Veterinary Training Begins

BRWC launched a formal externship program for veterinary and wildlife students, providing hands-on training in wildlife medicine and rehabilitation. An important step in ensuring the future of the field.

2020

Annie Bradfield Hired as Executive Director

The COVID-19 pandemic led to a spike in patient admissions, with a record 2,864 patients treated—likely due to people being home and noticing injured wildlife. That year also marked the first time in 20 years that BRWC was unable to hold its annual gala. To help navigate this challenging period, Annie Bradfield was hired as Executive Director to lead a five-person team, diversify funding sources, and grow BRWC's programs.

2021

Wildlife Walk

BRWC officially opened the Wildlife Walk, an educational exhibit allowing the public to observe non-releasable ambassador animals while learning about native wildlife conservation.

2022

Expanded Medical & Research Capacity

To meet growing patient care needs, BRWC hired a second full-time veterinarian and a second full-time rehabilitator, ensuring appropriate coverage every day of the week. That year, BRWC also published its first research paper, documenting the first known case of a *Cryptosporidium parvum* outbreak jumping from wildlife to humans.

2025

Leading the Way in Wildlife Conservation

BRWC now operates with a 15-person team, is actively involved in nine One Health research studies, cares for nearly 4,000 patients each year, has trained hundreds of students in its Professional Training Program, and reaches 10s of thousands through our education programs! With a commitment to innovation in wildlife rehabilitation, research, and public education, BRWC continues expanding its impact, ensuring the protection of native wildlife for generations to come.



BLUE RIDGE WILDLIFE CENTER

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