

# Reconnect to Nature.



RESIDENT BIRD CARE ○ REHABILITATION ○ EDUCATION ○ RESEARCH  
The Edna S. Moretti Environmental Education Center ○ The Raptor Trail ○ The Jim Arthur Raptor Medical Center

# Making Connections.



Letter to the Community  
Executive Director  
Jim Warren

Dear Friends,  
Fiscal Year 2014 was a memorable year at the Carolina Raptor Center. We reached many milestones: 30 years in Latta Plantation Nature Preserve, the Jim Arthur Raptor Medical Center admitted its 18,000th patient, and received the opportunity to host the 2015 International Association of Avian Trainers and Educators (IAATE) Conference.

While celebrating achievements, CRC's been inspired to think BIG and focus on changes to expand the organization. For educational programs, CRC developed new partnerships with organizations such as Discovery Place. To enhance visitor experience, "A Day in the Life of the Raptor Hospital" debuted. On top of it all, a larger flight cage was acquired – allowing the medical team to enhance the recovery and enrichment of injured raptors.

One of our biggest endeavors for 2015 is to improve the volunteer experience. We have begun to tackle this with the help of Ann Parker, a new member of the CRC family. She manages our volunteers while restructuring the current volunteer program with major goals for the future.

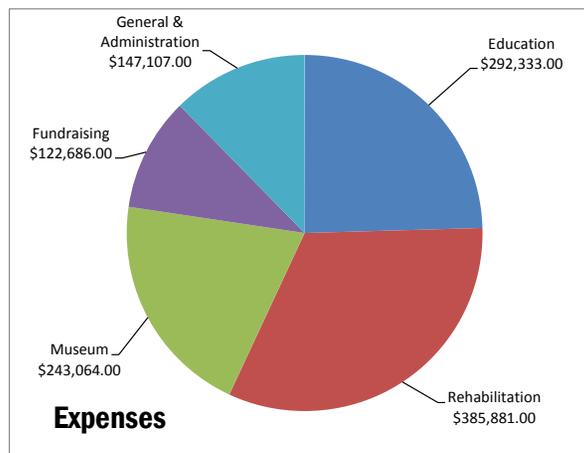
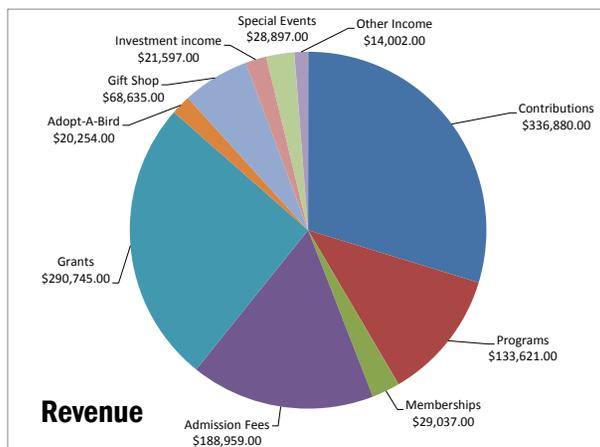
*Great things are happening in Latta!*

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim Warren".

# Breathing Room.

FY 2014 Financial Performance  
Carolina Raptor Center

Financial Statements audited by Goldberg & Davis, CPAs.





**Dudley, the Great Horned Owl**  
**1984-2014**  
Photo by Edward Payne

Long-time resident of Carolina Raptor Center, Dudley, the Great Horned Owl, passed away November 16th due to complications of a tumor.

The tumor was found during a routine exam, resulting in an emergency surgery performed by Dr. Dave Scott. Although CRC's medical staff observed signs of improvement, Dudley's health began to decline shortly after. He was 30 years of age and lived long past the expected life span of a Great Horned Owl in the wild (5-15 years according to National Geographic).

For over 20 years, Dudley captured the hearts and minds of audiences old and young. He was featured in video presentations and TV appearances, on billboards, and in other information pieces about the Center. In recent

years, he was rarely seen without his "alter ego," Executive Director, Jim Warren.

"Dudley was a great ambassador for Carolina Raptor Center," said Executive Director, Jim Warren. "He accompanied me to many presentations for donors, friends and the media. He was central to many of the public programs we presented. It is inevitable when I see school aged kids (and many times, adults), they will

# A Connection Lost in 2014.

ask me 'How's Dudley?' I will miss him."

Dudley came to Carolina Raptor Center after a well-meaning family had taken him in as a

baby causing him to be imprinted on humans. After developing rickets from an improper diet, Dudley broke a wing and was taken to a local vet who transferred him to Carolina Raptor Center. (The Migratory Bird Act deems it illegal to be in possession of wild birds including Great Horned Owls unless permitted by US Fish and Wildlife.)

"It is with a heavy heart that I tell you that Dudley, the Great Horned Owl, passed away

this morning at 30 years of age. ...Goodbye to our sweet old man; you will be missed," said Programs Director, Natalie Childers in an email to staff and volunteers.

# Back to Nature.



photos by Phil Fowler

## *Written by Clyde Kiser*

It began on a sunny April morning; I was scheduled to assist with a Carolina Raptor Center (CRC) off-site event that included the display of two education birds. When the van arrived, I was informed there was a third bird on board. It was a beautiful young hawk. This bird had been brought to CRC, completed rehabilitation, and was to be returned to its natural environment.

This also brought a time for reflection. I thought of watching the efforts of the many caring people at CRC who work to save these magnificent creatures. I recalled watching the care, feeding, and exercising of birds to enable

the recovery of their strength and allow them to once again live free. I was also reminded of bringing an injured bird to the care center only to find the injuries it sustained were too severe for the bird to survive.

This hawk had made it! Passing all the required tests to prove it was physically ready for release with “flying colors.” Finally, all the photographers were in place and it was the moment of truth. The transport enclosure was opened and the hawk leaped into the air. It flew in a semi-circle over the field as the cameras clicked. To participate in this release and see the outcome desired for all birds coming to CRC was truly a warm and rewarding feeling.

## SENIOR STAFF

**Executive Director:** Jim Warren

**Assoc. Exec. Director:** Michele Miller Houck

**Programs Director:** Natalie Childers

**Staff Veterinarian:** Dr. Dave Scott

**Development Director:** Robert Touchstone

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