



Happy Holidays

This year in particular, please consider us on your gift giving list. It has been a difficult fund-raising year which looks to continue into 2021. A special donation beyond your Circle of Supporter renewal can assist us with food, medical, caging and maintenance costs. These expenses have not gone away with the pandemic. We are looking at a bleak winter and spring season without your help. We are hoping that pandemic numbers will start to decrease by April or May to the point where, with modifications, we can try to have an Open House. We will send out a special announcement if this event takes place.

Amazon Smile

Also don't forget to list us as your charity of choice on Amazon Smile, a way to help without it costing you anything. To select us as your charity go to [Smile.Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com/smile) and you will be asked to pick a charity—search for Animals for Education. Pick us as your charity and Amazon then donates a portion of your purchases to us—Animals for Education—Critter Creek Wildlife Station. It costs you nothing extra to use AmazonSmile, but for us there is a reward of a monetary donation each month.

Time to Renew

In an effort to save money, we need to drop names from our mailing list of those whom we have not heard from for over a year. This may be your last newsletter so please renew today.

CIRCLE OF SUPPORTERS MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name _____

Street _____

City _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____

Membership Categories	Annual Dues
Student	\$ 15
Senior	\$ 15
Individual.....	\$ 25
Family	\$ 50
Sponsor	\$ 100
Patron	\$ 250
Corporate or Life	\$ 1000

Make checks payable to:
Animals for Education

Mail to:
Critter Creek Wildlife Station
36710 Sand Creek Road
Squaw Valley, CA 93675

Members receive our quarterly newsletter
Visit [CritterCreek.org](https://www.crittercreek.org) to see back issues of the Chronicle



Not Albert but Alberta

As the days have fewer sun lit hours and the temperatures have become cooler, our turtles and alligators have come into the reptile house for warmth. This provides us the opportunity to clean up their outdoor enclosures. What we

discovered surprised us. In the corner of the alligator enclosure was a pile of grass with alligator eggs. We're guessing that Albert, the smaller of the two alligators, is, in fact, Alberta. The eggs were not fertilized and this is her first year laying eggs. The males are generally larger than the females. The average size of the male is 11.2 feet and the females is 8.2 feet. They start reproducing at 10-12 years of age. The female builds a nest of loose vegetation, lays her eggs, and then covers them with more vegetation. Females can lay generally 30-50 eggs. Alberta only had a few. Sexing alligators involves a lot of handling and some probing neither of which we have tried. Alberta had her own way of telling us.

Tick Tock was brought to Critter Creek in November of 2003. He was quite young and had been confiscated by a Calif. Dept. of Fish and Wildlife warden. A man had the alligator in the back of his pick-up truck feeding it crawdads he was collecting at Pine Flat Dam. Eight years later, Calif. Dept. of Fish and Wildlife was called to Madera Cemetery to respond to a young alligator walking among the headstones. We named it Albert (obviously mistakenly).



Alberta's egg compared to a Walnut



Above: Alligators in their first years.



Tick Tock and Alberta when first introduced to enclosure and Tick Tock today



Our educational Great Horned Owl, Galileo, is rather small, so we assumed he was male. Suddenly we were surprised to discover an egg in his enclosure. At left is the egg compared to a walnut.

Some 2020 Releases

One of the most rewarding times in rehabilitation work is when we get to release animals that would not have survived had it not been for Critter Creek. This year these releases had an even greater meaning. Here are some pictures of a few of these moments.



Red-Shouldered Hawk Release



Raven Release



Sea Gull Release



Red-Shouldered Hawk Release



Grey Fox Release



Raccoon Release