

Caring for wildlife
for 42 years!



Wildlife Matters

Quarterly Newsletter of the St. Francis Wildlife Association

St. Francis Wildlife is a local, nonprofit organization dedicated to the conservation of native wildlife through the rehabilitation of sick, injured and orphaned wildlife and public education since 1978.

Vol. 22, No. 3

Fall 2020

Oh, dear!

Does that fawn need your help? Probably not.

By Sandy Beck

It was lying so still, camouflaged in the dried leaves. You almost walked past it. Now you're afraid a predator will kill this vulnerable and impossibly adorable fawn. Should you take it home?

A fawn is not totally helpless. It instinctively knows to lie motionless while its spotted coat blends into the forest floor like specks of sunlight streaming through the tree canopy.

For the first few days a fawn is further protected by being odorless. Dogs have walked downwind of a newborn fawn without noticing it.

A doe would not abandon her young. She watches over her baby from a safe distance so that

her movement and scent do not draw attention. She returns to nurse a few times a day, when her acute senses of hearing and smell assure her the coast is clear.

As the fawn grows older it may wander off, but because every deer's interdigital glands — located between its hooves — produce a distinct scent, mama can quickly identify and track down her wayward youngster.

Fawns grow rapidly on their mother's rich milk, which has three times as much butterfat as cow's milk, so by the time it is three weeks old, it can keep up with her.

It's easy to understand why someone would want to raise a sweet fawn. But if a kidnapped, hand-raised fawn survives, it will grow into a deer with no fear of hunters or big dogs. So it's ultimately the wrong move, for your family and for the fawn.

If you find a fawn

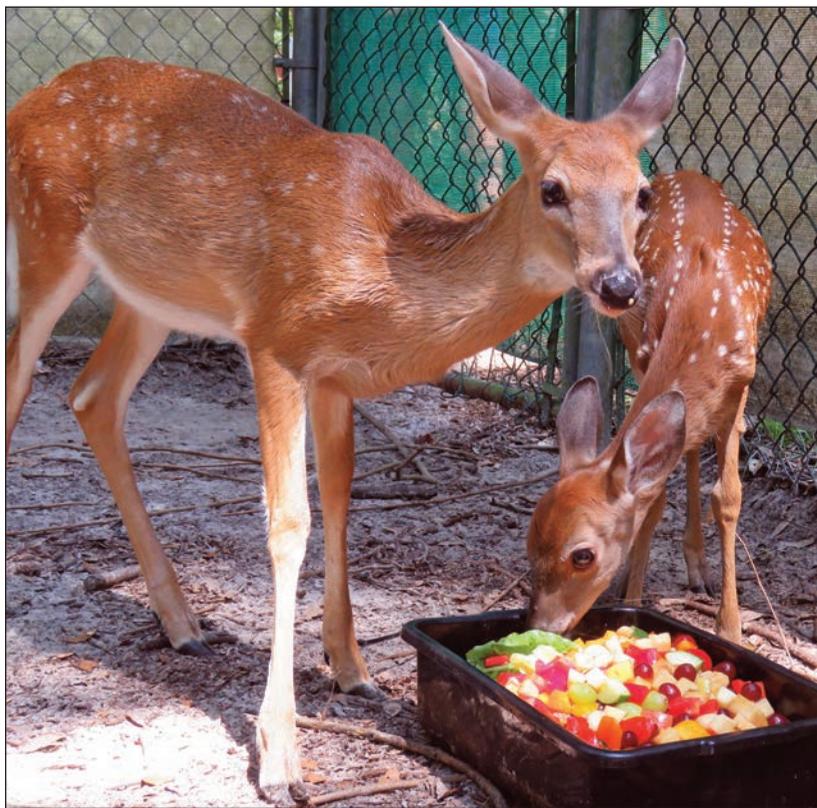
The only reasons to pick up a fawn are: It's injured, bleeding, or covered with insects; it's cold or weak; it was caught by a dog or other predator (even if you don't see wounds); it's crying nonstop; or you know the mother is dead.

But that doesn't mean you can take the fawn home. Keep it warm and quiet, don't feed it, and call St. Francis Wildlife, 24/7, at (850) 627-4151.



Wildlife rehabilitator Nicole Rivera feeds an orphaned fawn.

SANDY BECK



Growing fawns eat lots of fresh produce at St. Francis Wildlife. SANDY BECK

How you can help

We have 12 orphaned fawns now. Six were "rescued" by well-meaning people who thought they had been abandoned.

- **If you see a fawn on your property,** keep your dogs and children away and educate neighbors.
- **Fawn Replacement Milk.** The 12 fawns at St. Francis Wildlife are fed three or four bottles a day at a total cost of about \$900 per month. You can donate at stfranciswildlife.org or send a check with the Donation Form on page 7.
- **Fresh Produce.** Orphaned deer and our many other animals quickly devour the produce that COSTCO generously donates every week. We would appreciate donations of fresh fruits and vegetables, deer pellets, acorns and other raw nuts.
- **Wanted: release sites** for wildlife. Do you own a large tract of land? Would you like to release rehabilitated deer or other wildlife on your property? Learn more at StFrancisWildlife.org/ReleaseSite.pdf.



P.O. Box 38160
Tallahassee, FL 32315
850.627.4151
www.stfranciswildlife.org
stfranciswildlife@comcast.net

Board of Directors

President

Pat Simmons

Vice President

Barbara Barnett

Secretary

Kelly Craft

Treasurer

Ian Waldick, Esq.

Elenita Gomez, Esq.

Mitch Potter, DVM

Donna Hansell

Lorena Vollrath-Bueno, Esq.

Patty Ball Thomas, PhD.

Rhonda Shipley

Stephanie Morse, Esq.

Hope Keating, Esq.

Emily Brann

Laura Phipps, Emeritus

John L. Brennan III, Esq., Ex-officio

Staff

Director &

Wildlife Rehabilitator

Kayla Gainer-Edwards

Hospital Manager &

Wildlife Rehabilitator

Nicole Rivera

**Education Director,
Newsletter Editor & Media**

Sandy Beck

Full-time Wildlife Technician

Bailey Black

Baby Season Wildlife Technicians

Katharine Gossman, Shelby Boykin,

Tori Bakley

Wildlife Rescuers

Steven Wright, Morgan Kate Fox,

Nicholas Petryk, Brian Weinstein

Office Manager

Marietta Bitter

Office Assistant

Diane Watson

Part-time Maintenance

Bobby Edwards

Web Master

Robbie Estevez

We appreciate these thoughtful donations.

In Memory of

Fannie Malone

From
Ann Camp

Billie June Clark

From
Steve Clark

Dr. Robert Doherty

From
Ronald & Gisela
Kobetitsch

Sallie Teaf & Vickie

Heaton
From
Patricia & Christopher
Teaf

Annie Bella & Kurlie

From
Kris Shields

Ronald Quadagno

From
David Quadagno

Eloise Austin

From
Manning & Pat Miller

In Honor of

Traitor Jesse Bun

from
Ann & Jeff VanderMeer

Sandy Beck

From
The Jack Levin Founda-
tion on behalf of
Linda & Richard Hyson

**Donna Rance &
Heather Rizzo**

From
Kelly Craft

Pam Seaton

From
Richard & Betty
Simmons

Muriel Escop

From
Barbara Lida Palmer

Herb & Bertha Thiele

From
Richard Thiele

Muriel Escop

From
Barbara Lida Palmer

**The hawk entangled in
netting**

From
Trillium Gardens
Nursery

Red-shouldered Hawk

Anne Draper



Orphaned Red-shouldered Hawks. KAYLA GAINER-EDWARDS

Our hawks, owls, kites, osprey and eagles thank you!

By Sandy Beck

Many of you responded to our articles in the last issue of *Wildlife Matters* and in the *Tallahassee Democrat* about the hundreds of orphaned, injured and sick raptors we care for every year and their expensive appetites (\$9,000 a year!) by sending us generous donations earmarked for raptor food.

Thank you so much . . . **Dana Bryan, Kathy Hubbard, Virginia & Frank Charles, Anne Menard, Janet & John Yearty, Tallulah & James Whitesell, Suzanne Spivey, Lassie Lee, Mary Elliot, Iris Ahl, Doris Marsaglia, Spike Gram, Steven & Deborah Hults, Mary Lou Chenevert, Carol Skuthan, Anne & Jerry Draper, Michael & Lisa Recupero, Rodger & Marilyn Lewis and Fred & Ingrid Haines.**



Left to right: St. Francis Wildlife hospital manager Nicole Rivera, education director Sandy Beck and members of the Tallahassee Jewish Federation Teen Philanthropy Initiative. (Photo taken before the COVID-19 pandemic). AUDREY BYRNE

Our wildlife hospital kitchen has a new commercial two-door refrigerator!

Thanks to **Michael Sheridan and Judy Wilson Sheridan** and a grant from the **Tallahassee Jewish Federation Teen Philanthropy Initiative (TPI)** we were able to purchase a badly needed, huge, new refrigerator that can hold all the produce COSTCO donates every week for our wild patients!

Thank you, **Juan Ten**, owner and head chef at **Real Paella**, for donating 15% of all home delivery orders during the month of July to St. Francis Wildlife!



For their very generous support St. Francis Wildlife is grateful to

Valerie's Animal & Nature Foundation
Appreciation of Earth & Animal Foundation
Manning & Pat Miller Patsy Paschal
Margaret Smyly Susan Frisbee
Michael H. Sheridan & Judy Wilson Sheridan
Tallahassee Jewish Federation Teen
Philanthropy Initiative Betsy Cline
Susan Spivey Miller Butler
Dr. Robert & Lorelei Ennis Steve Clark
Ann & Jeff VanderMeer

Sincere thanks to our community for caring about wildlife.

- **COSTCO** for weekly donations of produce for our animals.
- **Panhandle Pet Supply** for donating squirrel food and deep discounts on other supplies.
- **Wild Birds Unlimited** for keeping a donation box for SFW Wish List items and including our newsletter with every curbside delivery.
- **Paws & Claws Veterinary Hospital and Allied Emergency Veterinary Hospital** for keeping donation boxes for SFW Wish List items.
- **Walmart in Quincy** for donating dog food and birdseed.
- **Donna Hansell** for her exemplary volunteer work.
- **Robbie Estevez** and **IMARCS-GROUP.COM (IMG)** for hosting our website.
- **Katharine Gossman** for her tireless work caring for hundreds of orphaned baby songbirds.
- **Stoney Thompson** of **Peaceful Pets** for cremation services.
- **Charities Aid Foundation of America** for their generosity.
- **Rachel Mathis** for bringing us buckets of her trees' sand pears for our fawns.
- **Donna Antolchick**, **The Fix-it Chick**, for fixing our sink and replacing a leaky pipe at no charge.
- **Max Deazle**, managing partner of **W.D. Gardner Professional Tree Surgeons**, who visited to assess damage from Hurricane Michael and also donated the cost of equipment and services for his employee and SFW volunteer **Adam Starling** to trim trees around our new employee and intern residence.
- **Chris Curry Plumbing** for generously donating all his services in our wildlife hospital.
- **Ann Lewis** for creating the spreadsheet with our January - June wild patient admissions for this newsletter. And for always being so pleasant and willing to help!



Staff and volunteers (pre-pandemic)
ROZLYNN HORTON

St. Francis Wildlife cared for 1,616 wild birds, mammals, and reptiles January 1 - June 30, 2020, including . . .



63 Owls: 51 Barred Owls, 5 Great Horned Owls, 7 Eastern Screech Owls

Above: Two orphaned Eastern Screech Owls
KAYLA GAINER-EDWARDS



1 Osprey

Flew into cell tower.
KAYLA GAINER-EDWARDS



202 Eastern Cottontail Rabbits

This photo shows two groups of orphaned cottontail kits that are the same age but have very different growth rates. The cottontails on the left were kept by a concerned citizen with the best of intentions. The cottontails on the right were brought to us right away and started on our special milk replacer. Please do not try to raise wild babies yourself, no matter what you read on the Internet.

KAYLA GAINER-EDWARDS

234 Opossums

This one was found in her injured mother's pouch.

Opossums clean up our gardens by eating snails, slugs, roaches, crickets, beetles, rodents, snakes, carrion, and overripe fruit. Rumor has it they even slurp up ticks. They also have a natural resistance to rabies and are immune to pit viper venom.

SANDY BECK



45 Turtles and Tortoises

This softshell turtle was hit by a car.
SANDY BECK



4 Ruby-throated Hummingbirds

This one flew into a window.
SANDY BECK



94 Raccoons

Leon County issued a county-wide rabies alert on September 1 after three animals, two raccoons and a fox, tested positive.

- Pets should have current vaccinations.
- Do not attract wild mammals with food.
- **Never handle rabies vectors** such as **raccoons, foxes, or bats** (even babies). **Call us.** While squirrels, opossums and rabbits are extremely unusual rabies vectors, it is still wise to use gloves. Birds and reptiles do not carry rabies.

DONNA HANSELL

Most frequent reasons for admission to St. Francis Wildlife, January 1 - June 30 2020

Orphaned: 323 Cat attack: 230 Hit by car: 192 Dog attack: 140 Nest or home destroyed: 194

It's raining baby squirrels

They're cute, clever and hundreds are landing at St. Francis Wildlife.

By Sandy Beck



KRIS PETERSON

Imagine its terror when a gust of wind whips a baby out of its snug nest to free fall through the air and then slam into the ground. If it's lucky, it lands on rain-softened earth or leaf litter, not asphalt.

St. Francis Wildlife is caring for more than 200 of these babies now, with more arriving every day. This is peak baby squirrel season. Every afternoon storm blows baby squirrels from their treetop nests. Tree trimmers also unknowingly cut down their homes.

Squirrels are a paradox. They can be destructive, annoying pests. But they are also intelligent, curious, agile, and yes, valuable. Because all the little nut and seed treasures they squirrel away are never dug up, squirrels provide us with free gardening services and invaluable timber resources.

With a little effort and ingenuity, we can learn to live in harmony with these resourceful little neighbors that have managed to survive on this continent for 36 million years.

If it's their love of bird seed that aggravates you, simply place baffles on feeder poles that are located at least eight feet from any tree or fence they can leap from. Splurge on a larger raccoon baffle to also keep the nocturnal freeloaders away from your sunflower seed.

Squirrels have a single pair of chisel-like incisors in each jaw that grows continuously. These incisors must be worn down by gnawing hard nutshells, tree bark or your home's cedar siding.

To keep their incisors trimmed and for the extra minerals they crave, St. Francis Wildlife provides orphaned squirrel babies with slices of deer antler and bones.

To deter the squirrels that were making Swiss cheese of our cedar siding, I tied a deer skull with antlers to the deck rail beneath their favorite gnawing spot. Now the little guys are queued up for the antlers, and we haven't heard a single nibble on the house.

When one chewed a hole in the fascia at the edge

of our roof to construct a cozy nest, we evicted it, ensured there were no babies, and then patched the hole with quarter-inch steel mesh hardware cloth.

In Tallahassee, most squirrels begin their courtship in early summer when a receptive female calls from a tree top. Several males gather to argue about who is "mas macho." Soon the female is racing madly through the trees with all the males in noisy pursuit.

If he can catch her, the dominant male mates with her. During copulation, he secretes a wax plug to prevent further breeding. Then he splits. No second date. No child support.

If the female cannot find a tree cavity, she will gather sticks, moss and dried leaves to create a big, leafy nest or "drey." After a gestation period of approximately 45 days, two to eight babies, about the size of your thumb, are born. Their nest is surprisingly strong, comfy and roomy, although often no match for powerful wind gusts and thunderstorms.

Baby squirrels that fall to the ground will perish unless their mothers find them in time or wildlife lovers step up to save their lives.

If you find a baby squirrel . . .

If the baby is injured or bleeding, covered with insects, or caught by a cat or dog (even if you don't see wounds), please take it to St. Francis Wildlife. Please see page 8 for our address and addresses of the Tallahassee vets that accept wildlife for us.

If the baby squirrel is unharmed, please do not take it to St. Francis Wildlife immediately. Just because it fell from its nest doesn't mean it's orphaned. Mom is out there. She did not abandon it, and she doesn't care that you touched it.

- Dry it with a towel if it is wet.
- Put it in a small cardboard box lined with a t-shirt (toe nails get caught in towel loops). Warm a bottle of water or bag of rice in the microwave, wrap it in another t-shirt, and place it in the box. The baby should feel warm, not hot or cold. Do not feed it or give it water.
- Place the box at the base of a tree near where you found it. If possible, google "baby squirrel distress call," and play it loudly from nearby to help attract the mother. Keep people and pets away so mom feels comfortable approaching. It may take a few minutes or all day.
- If mom hasn't returned by dark, bring it inside, keep it warm, and call St. Francis Wildlife.

Recently, Lori Peel found two baby squirrels on the ground and called us for advice. Later she reported, "I did what y'all told me to do and waited and watched. Within thirty minutes the mama squirrel retrieved her babies and had them in her nest. Thank you so much! I love happy endings!"

We do too.



These newborn grey squirrels were reunited with their mother after they fell from their treetop nest. ROBERT SCEARCE

How you can help

We would appreciate donations to help care for the hundreds of orphaned and injured baby squirrels we are receiving. Please mail or drop off these items to the wildlife hospital at 5580 Salem Rd., Quincy, 32352.

- Raw, hard-shelled nuts such as pecans and acorns and sunflower seeds
- Fresh vegetables and fruits
- Fox Valley baby formula 32/40 and Miracle Mini Nipples at squirrelsandmore.com or foxvalleynutrition.com
- Rodent Blocks or Katee Forti-Diet for rodents at pet stores, such as Panhandle Pet Supply, and online.



St. Francis Wildlife has also received seven orphaned flying squirrels so far. They are nocturnal, much smaller, and share their grey cousins' habitats. KAYLA GAINER-EDWARDS

Living and learning with Chimney Swifts

With patience and an open mind one woman learned how to live in harmony with her helpful but noisy neighbors.

By Pat Simmons

Shirley Brown, a Cairo High School English teacher, and her grandchildren awoke to a strange sound emanating from the chimney in her Northeast Tallahassee home. Her grandson located the source of the sound, a small bird making sharp turns and rapid dives as it flew over their roof — a Chimney Swift.

It wasn't long before they discovered it was not one bird, but a whole colony that flowed into their chimney at dusk in an undulating cloud of birds.

As the colony thrived and grew larger, their chirping and beating wings made sleeping near the chimney on the second floor a challenge.

Shirley called a critter removal company and a chimney sweep. They explained that disturbing an active nest was illegal, and the chimney could not be capped until the birds migrated in the fall.

She called St. Francis Wildlife. A volunteer arrived at her house and gave her the same news: They need to live rent free until they fly south for the winter.

Shirley learned that the swifts, like all animals, have a clear purpose. Theirs is to swoop together in a careful dance, catching and eating their weight in gnats and mosquitoes every day. This welcomed information compelled her to find ways to live with the colony in as much harmony as she could muster.

Following our advice, she purchased plywood to board up the fireplace so they wouldn't enter the house and Styrofoam to stuff up the flue to dampen the noise. It worked.

In early September, the colony simply vanished. All except one that found its way into her living room. The SFW volunteer returned, captured the wayward young bird and released it into a well-established colony at, appropriately, a local high school. It was immediately taken in and within a week, that colony also disappeared.

And Shirley has a new teaching unit: Every Animal Has a Purpose. Her students will focus on literature that explores positive interactions that lead to cooperative relationships between humans and wild animals. Thanks to her summer guests, Shirley, of course, has the perfect story to introduce this to her new class.



Chimney Swifts returning to their chimney to roost at dusk.

Chimney Swifts need your help

- **If you have a stone or brick fireplace**, keep the top open and the damper closed from March through September.
- **During nesting season**, push a piece of Styrofoam above the damper to protect any babies that may fall and also to muffle the babies' calls. The nests won't damage your chimney. The babies' begging calls last only two weeks, until they can fly and just use the chimney for roosting at night. During the day, they'll reward you by eating thousands of flying insects around your home!
- **Please call St. Francis Wildlife if you have an active Chimney Swift nest** next summer and don't mind us releasing orphaned babies into your colony so they can follow the adults back to South America in the fall.
- **If you have a metal chimney**, keep it capped all year. Birds and animals that enter are unable to climb the slippery walls and can fall into your fire place.

❤ Special thanks to **Donna Legare and Jody Walthall** (retired co-owners of **Native Nurseries**) for inviting St. Francis Wildlife to their house to release the orphaned Chimney Swifts we raised this summer!

Give a snake a break

By Sandy Beck

Gracie Hale rescued this grey rat snake (photo below) from a bin in a pool area. Because a large, unnatural lump concerned her, she took it to St. Francis Wildlife. Dr. Kevin Brumfield at Northwood Animal Hospital surgically removed a plastic Easter egg.

After several weeks of TLC at our wildlife hospital, Gracie's husband Paul had the honor of releasing the snake. Gracie also successfully incubated and released 25 eggs the snake had laid in the bin.

Some people plant wooden, plastic or ceramic eggs in their chicken coops to encourage hens to lay. Some plant them to foil snakes. Whatever the intent, a snake that ingests one won't be able to digest or discharge it and will die a painful death.

Most farmers appreciate the snakes' natural rodent control, but, unfortunately, there are a few "bad eggs" out there.

How to help snakes

- If you use fake eggs in your chicken coop, make sure they are screwed or glued down.
- A coop covered in quarter-inch mesh hardware cloth that is also buried 18 inches around the perimeter will exclude snakes and other predators.
- Collect any undiscovered plastic eggs after your next Easter Egg hunt. Obviously, a hungry snake isn't *eggsactly* picky about what it eats.



This grey rat snake's big bulge turned out to be a plastic Easter egg. GRACIE HALE



We love our volunteers and interns

To keep everyone safe and healthy during this very busy Baby Season, our small staff is working around-the-clock, with only limited volunteer assistance.

We know they don't do it for the recognition, but we want to offer our sincere thanks to these wonderful volunteers who are working with us during the pandemic:

Vanessa Larsen, Pat Finelli, Gena Smith, Stephanie Morse, Brian Weinstein and Stephanie Sunderman-Barnes.



Brian Weinstein with an injured gopher tortoise. SANDY BECK

Brian Weinstein, 'Critter Guy'

Brian calls himself a 'critter guy.' He has been working with – and advocating for – Florida wildlife since he moved to the Florida Keys over 25 years ago to work at Dolphin Research Center. He has since worked with various nature centers and environmental organizations, including the Florida Park Service.

He started volunteering at St. Francis Wildlife early in 2020 by transporting injured and orphaned animals from Allied and Northwood veterinary hospitals to our wildlife hospital. He gradually became more involved, and is now also part of the wildlife rescue team.

"Brian is the kind of dedicated volunteer that St. Francis Wildlife relies on," said director Kayla Gainer-Edwards. "Whether we need him to rescue an injured animal, chop up fruits and vegetables to feed our patients, fold laundry, or clean out some cages, Brian is always happy to help."

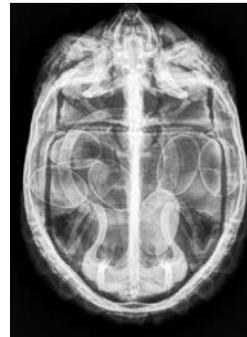


Tiana Smith with an injured box turtle. KAYLA GAINER-EDWARDS

Tiana Smith, FAMU Vet Tech Program intern gets a surprise

Tiana Smith, one of our summer interns, took a box turtle to the Florida A&M University Animal Healthcare Complex just north of Quincy for radiographs. The turtle had been hit by a car. The radiographs showed a fractured beak and radius, and surprise — she had eggs!

The turtle has since recovered and was returned to her habitat. The eggs proved to be unfertile. But now this box turtle will have many more chances to produce baby turtles.



Gabriella Trujillo and an orphaned Mississippi Kite. SANDY BECK

Summer intern Gabriella Trujillo

With a biology degree under her belt from Northern New Mexico College, she traveled across the country to spend three months at St. Francis Wildlife.

Gabriella lived on-site in our new staff and intern residence and experienced every facet of wildlife rehabilitation during our busiest time of year, Baby Season. We call that "trial by fire"!

OWLS

ARE THE
TIGERS OF THE SKY
(THE MOVIE)

Four native owls — our Great Horned, Barred, Barn, and Screech Owl ambassadors — help explain the unique adaptations that make them spectacular nocturnal hunters, the challenges they face and how we can help them.

Produced by Kris Bass-Peterson

Schedule our virtual owl program for your classroom, home school or organization.

with
Sandy Beck
Education Director
The Wild Classroom
St. Francis Wildlife Association
wildclassroom@comcast.net

What is included?

1. Our 35-minute, professionally produced movie, featuring Sandy Beck with all four of our native owls.
2. A 15-minute Q&A session.
3. Engaging multi-disciplinary, post-program lesson plans and activities.

Give a hoot about wildlife

by Pat Simmons

GIVING TUESDAY is Dec. 1

Since 2015, St. Francis Wildlife has taken part in Giving Tuesday, whose mission statement is “To build a more just and generous world.” They accomplish this by encouraging generous giving on a global scale.

During the current COVID crisis and disconnection, we need to preserve the rituals that connect us, which includes charitable annual giving.

Without places like St. Francis Wildlife, there would be no one to help you with injured or orphaned wild animals. No one to help educate children and adults about living alongside wildlife, and no one to respond to wild animals that may be infected with diseases such as rabies and distemper.

Please include SFW in your annual donations this fall by using the **Donation Form below** or by making an online donation with **PayPal at www.stfranciswildlife.org** and be a part of the Giving Tuesday efforts on December 1 to build a more just and generous world right here in our own backyard. Thank you!

COVID-19 stimulus package (CARES ACT) provides new incentives for charitable donations in 2020

• Standard Deduction

If you take the standard deduction and give \$300 to charity, you will get a \$300 tax break in addition to the standard deduction. The 2020 Standard deduction is \$12,400 for individuals and \$24,800 for married couples filing jointly.

• Itemized Deductions

The CARES ACT allows you to deduct up to 100% of your Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) for contributions. The new law temporarily lifts the limits on charitable giving from 60% of a taxpayer’s AGI to 100% for 2020.

• Corporate Donations

A corporation can deduct up to 25% of their Adjusted Tax Income for contributions. This law temporarily lifts the limits from 10% of adjusted taxable income to 25% for 2020.



Wildlife technician Shelby Boykin and this injured bunny at St. Francis Wildlife love the Traitor Jesse Bun mask.

Those who contemplate the beauty of the earth find reserves of strength that will endure as long as life lasts. There is something infinitely healing in the repeated refrains of nature — the assurance that dawn comes after night, and spring after winter.

— Rachel Carson, *Silent Spring*

In these unprecedented times it’s too easy to be sucked into a quicksand of worry about the pandemic and politics and to forget that, even in our isolation, we are surrounded by a beautiful, natural world and so many wild, beating hearts that whisper in the trees.

For more than four decades, St. Francis Wildlife has helped this community connect with and live in harmony with the wild lives that share our homes and assist when one of them needs help. Thank you for your continued support that makes our work possible.

Sandy Beck ❤️

VanderMeer Creative teams up with a wild bunny to raise money for St. Francis Wildlife

Jeff VanderMeer (NYT-bestselling author of the *Southern Reach Trilogy*) and Ann VanderMeer (Hugo-Award-winning editor), known for their widely popular books as well as their conservation efforts, have spent the last year re-wilding their Tallahassee backyard.

One of their daily visitors is #TheTraitorJesseBun, an adorable cottontail rabbit, who has attracted thousands of his own virtual admirers on Facebook and Twitter.

Artist Jeremy Zerfoss, who illustrated Jeff’s latest book *A Peculiar Peril*, designed the artwork for the high-quality masks, t-shirts, hats, mugs and more being sold by VanderMeer Creative, which manages the literary power couple. 100% of profits benefit St. Francis Wildlife!

This summer, VanderMeer Creative and #TheTraitorJesseBun have already raised \$1,200!

Get your own bunny t-shirts, masks, and other good stuff at <https://vandermeercreative.threadless.com>.

St. Francis Wildlife Donation Form: Please renew your annual support.



Mail your check to: St. Francis Wildlife Assoc., P.O. Box 38160, Tallahassee, FL 32315. Or donate online with PayPal at www.stfranciswildlife.org.

Name _____ Date _____ E-mail Address _____

Home Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

How would you prefer to receive our quarterly newsletter, *Wildlife Matters*? Mail a printed copy to my home. I prefer to read it on-line.

To make this donation in honor of someone (for a special occasion, memorial, etc.) please include a note with the honored person’s name and the name and address of the person to receive acknowledgement of the gift. Your gift will also be noted in our next “Wildlife Matters” newsletter.

Please check the appropriate box and return this form with your tax-deductible donation.

Donor Levels: Angel \$35 Hero \$50 Friend \$100 Sponsor \$250 Guardian \$500 Steward \$1,000 Patron \$2,000 Saint \$5,000 Other _____

Please contact me about: Volunteering Your “Wild Classroom” wildlife education programs.

A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING TOLL-FREE (800.435.7352) REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE. St. Francis of Assist Wildlife Association, Inc. Registration #: CH4537.

Sincere thanks to these veterinary hospitals and their doctors who help us provide the highest quality care for wildlife.



**Dr. Cavell (above),
Brumfield & Baumgartner
Northwood Animal Hospital**
1881 N. MLK Jr. Blvd.
Tallahassee



**Dr. Mitch Potter
Allied Veterinary
Emergency Hospital**
2324 Centerville Rd.
Tallahassee



**Dr. Steve Stevenson
Bradfordville
Animal Hospital**
6714 Thomasville Rd.
Tallahassee



**Dr. Kim Kocel
Paws & Claws
Animal Hospital**
3819 Bradfordville Rd.
Tallahassee



**Dr. George Simmons
North Florida
Animal Hospital**
2701 N. Monroe Street
Tallahassee



**Dr. Lynn Hagood
North Florida
Animal Hospital**
2701 N. Monroe Street
Tallahassee



**Dr. Kitty Remington
Capital Circle
Veterinary Hospital**
1826 Capital Circle NE
Tallahassee



**Dr. Cindy West
Alternative Veterinary
Medicine**
2431 Florida Georgia Hwy.
Havana

Wildlife Matters

Contributing Editor and Layout
Sandy Beck

Writers and Photographers

Sandy Beck, Kris Bass-Peterson, Audrey Byrne,
Donna Hansell, Kayla Gainer-Edwards,
Pat Simmons, Robert Scarce

Proofreaders

Louise Barker, Bob Beck, Judy Gillan, Craig Shaw

Printing

Post Searchlight Printing, Bainbridge, GA

Mail Processing

Target Print & Mail, Tallahassee, FL

This newsletter of the St. Francis Wildlife Association is mailed to our supporters and is also available at local businesses and online at www.stfranciswildlife.org. Send letters to the editor to stfranciswildlife@comcast.net.

Wildlife Wish List

Wish List also online at: www.stfranciswildlife.org/Donate.html. Please take items to **St. Francis Wildlife** or **Allied Veterinary Emergency Hospital**. Call us about large items.

Gift Certificates

- Native Nurseries
- Wild Birds Unlimited
- Panhandle Pet Supply
- COSTCO, Stone's, Home Depot, Walmart
- squirrelsandmore.com
- foxvalleynutrition.com
- armstrongcrickets.com
- rodentsontheroad.com
- amazon.com

Food/Feeding

- Unsalted peanuts in the shell
- Raw, hard-shelled nuts, like walnuts, pecans, acorns
- Black oil sunflower seed
- Wild bird seed
- Keet seed
- Baby food: fruit, vegetables, beef, and chicken (no noodles)
- Eggs
- EXACT powder (baby bird formula)
- Plain and fruit yogurt
- Live or dried mealworms and crickets (live is more nutritious)
- Waterfowl maintenance pellets
- Waterfowl starter mash
- Plant pot saucers, plastic
- Heavy stoneware food bowls
- Latex-free exam gloves

Cleaning Supplies

- Laundry detergent, unscented

- Bleach, unscented
- Heavy-duty 39 & 55 gallon trash bags
- Paper towels
- Dawn dish soap
- Odoban, Mr. Clean, Fabulosa
- Scotch-brite heavy duty scrub sponges
- Rakes
- Heavy duty hoses

Animal Housing

- Baby blankets
- T-shirts, pillowcases, top sheets
- Soft toilet paper or soft tissue

Office

- Sticky notes
- Letter-size printer paper, white
- Dry erase boards and pens, Sharpies, pens and pencils

Misc.

- Non-toxic insect repellent for staff such as "Natrapel" (at Native Nurseries & Amazon)

Big Wishes

- A 2' X 4' stainless steel table for our hospital kitchen.
- A long-term goal is to move St. Francis Wildlife to Leon County. If you have acreage you would like to donate, please contact board president, Pat Simmons, (850) 339-5625.

Help wildlife when you shop at Amazon

Begin your shopping at the **Amazon Smile** page, smile.amazon.com, and choose "**St. Francis of Assisi Wildlife Association**" (our official name) as your charity.

And please check out our Amazon Wish List:
<http://bit.ly/stfranciswildlife>

Yep! We can do that.

850.671.6600

www.targetprintmail.com



**St. Francis Wildlife
Association
P.O. Box 38160
Tallahassee, FL 32315**

**Non-Profit Organization
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Tallahassee, Florida
PERMIT NO. 329**

If you find injured, orphaned or sick wildlife (New COVID-19 safety procedures)



Call us so we can help you assess the situation.

- **8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. :** (850) 627-4151
- **After 5 p.m.:** (850) 933-2735

If it is injured, sick or truly orphaned, please do the following, and then choose one of the three options:

Get a box, and punch air holes in the lid. Place a t-shirt or pillowcase in the box (not a towel — claws or teeth get caught in the loops). Put the animal in the box and tape securely. Keep babies warm with a sock filled with rice or water bottle heated and wrapped in a t-shirt. Do not give it food or water.

Keep it quiet, in the dark, and handle as little as possible. Do not blast AC or play the radio in your car.

1. 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. Take it to St. Francis Wildlife, 5580 Salem Rd. Quincy, FL (4 miles NW of Havana), directions at: www.stfranciswildlife.org. Call us at (850) 627-4151 when you are on your way (cell service is spotty at SFW). There is a table on our covered front porch. Fill out a form on the table, and then knock on the front door. A staff member, wearing a mask and maintaining her distance, will come outside to pick up the animal and your form.

After 5 p.m., we lock our gate on Salem Rd., so please call us, and then leave your box in the metal drop box next to the gate.

2. 24/7, take it to Northwood Animal Hospital, 1881 N. Martin Luther King Blvd., Tallahassee. Call (850) 385-8181 when you arrive. Someone will come out to get your box and give you a form to fill out. Please have your own pen.

3. 24/7, take it to Allied Emergency Veterinary Hospital, 2324 Centerville Rd., Tallahassee.

Call (850) 222-0123 when you arrive. Someone will meet you at the door. Please have your own pen.

If you call us about a large, injured animal or a rabies vector, please stay nearby to monitor its movement until we arrive. If possible, we will send a rescuer who will wear an ID badge and remain six feet away from you.

Never handle rabies vectors such as **raccoons, foxes, or bats** (even babies). **Call us**. Birds and reptiles do not carry rabies. Squirrels, opossums and rabbits are rarely rabies vectors; it is still wise to use gloves.

For more information about wildlife rescue:
www.stfranciswildlife.org