

Caring for wildlife for 31 years!



Wildlife Matters

Quarterly newsletter of the St. Francis Wildlife Association
Route 159 / P.O. Box 38160, Tallahassee, FL 32315 - (850) 627-4151
www.stfranciswildlife.org

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.

v.7, No. 1 Winter 2009

Our last baby of 2008 is his own best friend.

By Teresa Stevenson



The baby barn owl checks out his "roommate" in the mirror.
PHOTO/Teresa Stevenson

In Pennsylvania, where I was a wildlife rehabilitator for 10 years, the animals know the rules. They know wildlife rehabilitators need the wintertime to recover from the busy baby season that starts in March and ends in October.

Apparently, Florida's wild animals don't know this rule or prefer to ignore it. I learned this when a baby was admitted at the St. Francis Wildlife hospital on December 14. This fuzzy white ball with two skinny legs and big feet was an orphaned baby barn owl.

Barn Owls, *Tyto alba*, breed any time during the year in mild climates, depending on food supply. In a good year, a pair may breed twice.

"Love" at first sight

Raising wild baby birds alone can be a challenge. If, when he first opens his eyes, the baby sees humans instead of his own species, he will identify with people for the rest of his life, never

learning the skills necessary to survive on his own in the wild. This is known as "imprinting."

Fortunately, when he arrived, this orphan was three to four weeks old, already eating on his own and past the window of time when imprinting is possible.

He knows we are not his parents, that he doesn't look like us, and, luckily, he doesn't even like us. I say "luckily" because it wouldn't be pretty if, during mating season, this large raptor with two inch-long razor-sharp talons would "come courting."

Baby finds a friend

Not all animals

can see their own image on mirrors, but birds can. This makes it easy to provide an instant friend for a solitary baby bird. So we placed a mirror in our lonely barn owl's cage to keep him company.

This baby was not sure about the new bird who suddenly came to share his space.

He stood in the opposite corner of the cage swaying from side to side (a behavior typical of wary barn owls), watching every move that guy made.

After a couple of days, when the baby realized that the new guy didn't bother him or eat any of his food - and was quite handsome, he decided to check him out.

He moved closer, admiring him, eye to eye. They became best

friends and now cuddle together.

Please see BARN OWL, Page 5

The amazing barn owl

- Like most owls, barn owls don't build a nest. They lay their white eggs on bare wood in old buildings, barns or hollow trees.
 - The barn owl is also known as the monkey-faced owl, ghost owl and sweetheart owl - because of her heart-shaped facial disc.
 - A barn owl's right ear is higher than her left ear. Using asymmetrical ears to triangulate, a barn owl can pinpoint a mouse's heartbeat or tiny footsteps within one degree of accuracy.
 - Studies have shown that a nesting pair and their young can eat more than 3,000 rodents each year.
- Have a rodent problem? Forget the d-Con, which also kills owls and other predators that feed on the poisoned rodents; build an owl box!
- For owl nest box plans, on our web site, www.stfranciswildlife.org, select "Create a Backyard Refuge."

It was a very busy year.

By Sandy Beck

In 2008, St. Francis Wildlife rescued 3,415 of your wild neighbors.

At one time or another, almost every family has dropped off a baby bird or a baby squirrel to us at Northwood Animal Hospital or called us to rescue an owl or fox that was hit by a car.

In 1990, St. Francis Wildlife cared for 1,520 wild animals. In 2000, that number jumped to 2,588. Last year, St. Francis Wildlife rescued 3,415 animals.

Over the last 31 years, St. Francis Wildlife has become the largest and busiest wildlife rehabilitation center between Jacksonville and Pensacola.

Shrinking natural habitats, increased confrontations with humans, vehicles and pets and St. Francis Wildlife's good reputation has resulted in a steep increase in the number of calls we receive about wildlife that need our help.

St. Francis Wildlife is not immune to the hard times faced by businesses and organizations across the nation. We need your help now more than ever.

Just as your own transportation and food bills have skyrocketed, ours have too.

St. Francis Wildlife depends on your donations in order to provide our critical services.

Now you have a new way to help local sick, injured and orphaned wildlife; make a secure online donation with PayPal at www.stfranciswildlife.org.

Please also consider volunteering. Beginning in March, we need many volunteers to help feed orphaned babies in our wildlife hospital.

In 2008, we cared for 1,002 songbirds, from common mockingbirds to spectacular cerulean warblers! It's a dream come true for birders. Where else can you see birds so close without a spotting scope!

Please turn to Page 5 for a rundown of some of the animals St. Francis Wildlife cared for in 2008.

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- Northwood Animal Hospital
- Quincy Animal Hospital
- Seminole Animal Health Clinic
- Shannon Lakes Paws & Claws
- **Modern Mailers** for their invaluable mailing services!
- **ElectroNet** for hosting our Web site and email.
- **Durra Quick Print** for printing.
- **Cornell Lab of Ornithology** for a subscription to *Birds of North America Online*.
- **Bill Armstrong Tree Service** for helping us rescue wildlife in trees!
- **10,000 Villages** for hosting a community shopping fundraiser for St. Francis Wildlife.
- **Capital City Woman's Club** for providing the homemade desserts for our fundraiser at 10,000 Villages.
- **Tallahassee Junior Woman's Club** and **Capital City Woman's Club** for their help at the Borders gift wrapping fundraiser.



Our community cares about wildlife

Pack 109 adopts in '09

By Teresa Colvin

What do a red-tailed hawk, screech owl and great horned owl have in common? Each of these great birds was adopted December 15, 2008, by Maclay Cub Scout Pack 109.

With parental assistance, the Scouts collected \$246 to adopt the birds and also collected items on St. Francis Wildlife's Wish List (Page 4).

These three permanently disabled wild birds will be financially sponsored for one year. The adoption fee covers care, food and medical treatment for the birds.

Also, during the pack meeting held at Faith Presbyterian Church, the Scouts watched a short video about the animals St. Francis Wildlife cares for and got up close with St. Francis' Sandy Beck and her raptors.

The Scouts discovered that one way to help owls and other animals is by not throwing food onto the roadsides. Rodents are attracted by the apple cores and other food items people throw from their car windows. At night, owls swoop low across the



Pack 109 – First row, left to right: Bert Fletcher, Grant Christian, Preston Dailey, Alex Metzger, Jayden Haedicke, Dylan Burhans. Second row: Tyler McLanahan, Andrew Colvin, Alex Shaftel, Darin Meeker, David Saff. Third row: Alec Lourenco, Joel Ferst, Aneesh Rahangdale. Top: Red-tailed hawk, Jamaica, and Sandy Beck.

PHOTO/Tara McLanahan

road to prey upon the rodents. Many owls are injured or killed each year in this manner.

The Scouts also learned about the birds' migration patterns and habits.

Way to go Pack 109! "Think globally, act locally: Take a wild thing under your wing."

To adopt an animal, please see Page 7 of this newsletter.

St. Francis Wildlife is grateful for these thoughtful gifts

Wildlife Matters

The quarterly newsletter of the St. Francis Wildlife Association is mailed to our supporters. It is also available at local businesses and online at www.stfranciswildlife.org.

To place a business ad, please see Page 6.

Please send questions, comments and letters to the editor to sandybeck@stfranciswildlife.org.

Editor and Layout
Sandy Beck

Many thanks to our writers, photographers and artists

Sandy Beck, Brian Bryson, Teresa Colvin, Donna Cross, Haylee Cross, Leah Ennis, David Kampf, Estella Gray, Donna Legare, Tara McClanahan, Stewart Nelson, Teresa Stevenson

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IN MEMORY OF

Diane Ohlhaber
From

Barbara and Mel Shapiro
Lee and Arlene Fagelson
Carl and Rita Collins
Wilson O. Edwards

Daisy Sniffen
From

Robert and Ashley Sniffen
and their children

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From

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Sandy and Bob Beck
From

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From

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Mary & Bill Haynes
and Paul & Barb Johnson
From

Shirley and Bruce Gaver

B.B.
From

John and Bety Hernandez

ANIMAL ADOPTIONS

Maclay Cub Scout Pack 109:
the Webelos, Wolves and Bears

Gerald and Alice Honea

Kathleen Hubbard

Native Nurseries enriches wildlife habitat at St. Francis Wildlife.

By Donna Legare

I had always wanted to visit the St. Francis Wildlife hospital and property in Havana, having sent a variety of sick and injured wild animals there over the years.

Wildlife rehabilitator Teresa Stevenson contacted me this fall to see if we could plant some native plants in their new songbird aviary and give her some ideas for planting in a newly cleared area in front of the hospital.

When my husband Jody and I visited for planning in November, we noticed several deer and knew right then that landscaping here would be a challenge; these deer browse on just about everything!

In December, Native Nurseries employees Tim Hovan, Seth Dunaway, Vanessa Walthall, Brian Bryson and I returned and spent a morning planting native plants on the property.

In the songbird aviary, we planted Ocala anise and arrowwood viburnum to provide perching places for the birds, as well as shade tolerant ferns to "green- up" the habitat.

We planted a needle palm and three coonties as a welcome garden in the parking lot island directly in front of the hospital and more Ocala anise to provide screening for the water tank out front.

Our crew planted needle palms, a saw palmetto, cabbage palm, blue beech tree, steephead sedge and rosin weed directly around the cement turtle pond. Brian Bryson built a ledge in the pond and planted a native aquatic plant called golden club and also added hornwort and tape grass, which will provide habitat for five mosquito fish that he turned loose to eat mosquito larvae.

We recommended that St. Francis use the clearing for a small amphitheater overlooking the pond. Boy Scouts provided the benches and picnic tables.

As volunteers, we were allowed to venture inside the hospital and quietly observe the patients. At first, I was disappointed that the raccoons I had seen on my first visit were no longer there; I had told the staff how cute they were. But that's the idea - they had been released!

We are very fortunate to have a facility of this quality in our community with such dedicated staff and volunteers. Thank you to all who donate to support the work of St. Francis.

Donna Legare and her husband Jody Walthall are co-owners of Native Nurseries at 1661 Centerville Road in Tallahassee and longtime supporters of St. Francis Wildlife.



Native Nurseries generously donated a professional landscape plan, a truckload of native plants and several hours of labor to provide native habitat for recovering wild patients.

Above, left to right: Brian Bryson, Seth Dunaway, Vanessa Walthall, Donna Legare and Tim Hovan. PHOTO/Teresa Stevenson

Left, below: Deer grazing at St. Francis Wildlife. PHOTO/Sandy Beck

The animals need you! Volunteer at St. Francis Wildlife.

- "Baby Season" begins in March and continues to November. We need patient volunteers to **feed hundreds of orphaned baby birds** in our hospital. Babies are fed every 20 minutes.
- **Foster orphaned baby squirrels** in your own home or care for them in our hospital. We receive at least 700 orphans each year when they are blown from their leafy nests during storms.
- Help **build and repair outside cages** at our facility. Please see story on Page 4.
- **Animal Rescue** - Transport wildlife to veterinarians or to our Rehabilitation Center.
- **Events and Fundraising** - Sell T-shirts, raise funds, teach people about how to help wildlife. See events calendar on Page 8.
- **Deliver newsletters** around town.
- Tell us about your special skills and talents!

If you are at least 18, reliable, have your own health insurance and transportation and want to make a difference, please contact Dean Humphrey at deanhumphrey@stfranciswildlife.org or 850.627.4151 to schedule a training session.

Learn more at www.stfranciswildlife.org.

Cook up a gourmet meal for chilly songbirds

By Sandy Beck

I love this weather. I love the cool, crisp air and the smell of wood smoke. I love working outdoors without working up a sweat.

When insects become scarce and the seeds and berries are gone, cardinals, woodpeckers and goldfinches start jockeying for the best ports at our feeders.

While walking our dog one frigid winter day, I noticed a chickadee pecking at the fat of a dead opossum that had been hit by a car. As unappetizing as that may seem to us, when temperatures plummet, birds need high-caloric foods to stoke their little body furnaces.

Black oil sunflower seed has a higher fat content than striped sunflower seed, and more birds seem to prefer it. Goldfinches will flock to a feeder filled with oily niger or thistle seed.

This time of year, I also offer the crème de la crème of avian cuisine. No, not 'possum fat, but close - suet.

I save suet for colder weather because when temperatures rise, suet will get rancid and may make birds sick.

Suet is a source of quick energy - a "power bar" for the birds. It's also a good way to attract insect eaters, like woodpeckers, Carolina wrens, nuthatches, mockingbirds, brown thrashers and warblers. If you don't include peanut butter, seeds or nuts in your suet, the squirrels won't bother with it. I add raisins or other dried fruit, irresistible to berry eaters like Baltimore orioles.

There isn't a bird out there that doesn't shout "whoopee!" when she finds a glob of suet.

Sandy's Super Suet

o Call the meat department of your grocery store and ask them to save a few pounds of beef fat for you. They will usually give it to you free; however, if you ask them to grind it, they may charge a few



Offer suet this winter to attract birds like this Baltimore oriole. PHOTO/Sandy Beck

cents per pound. Ground beef fat melts faster.

- o Each day, put a frozen suet cake into a special wire mesh suet feeder or stuff warm suet into the open crevices of a pinecone and hang it with a wire.
- o Place the suet feeder in the shade next to existing feeders so the birds can find it quickly. Birds do not have a sense of smell.

Ingredients

2-3 lbs. ground beef fat
 1 cup (or more) raisins or any chopped, unsweetened dried fruit
 1-1 1/2 lbs. coarsely ground corn meal
 1 lb. corn grits (optional). If grits are omitted, add more corn meal.

Directions

1. In a heavy pot, melt beef fat on low temperature.
2. Stir in raisins. Allow a few minutes for raisins to absorb liquid.
3. Alternately add small amounts of corn meal and corn grits, and stir until the mixture is so thick that it is difficult to move the spoon.
4. Pour mixture into a large baking pan.
5. Score into small squares.
6. Place pan in fridge for several hours, until mixture is hard.
7. Cut into squares.
8. Place squares in plastic bags and freeze.

Florida League of Cities helps rescue downtown owl

By Estella Gray and Teresa Colvin



(Above) Dean Humphrey releases the barred owl that was rescued from the parking garage at Kleman Plaza in downtown Tallahassee.

(Below) The barred owl headed straight to the nearest tree to get his bearings before flying away. PHOTOS/Stewart Nelson

On the morning of January 14, Florida League of Cities Association staff members thought it would be the beginning of an ordinary workday. That is, until two of them - Merrily Bennett and Erin Moreno - noticed a moving, but silent, object in the League's parking garage in Kleman Plaza.

Once they realized it was a barred owl gliding back and forth, the ladies immediately went into emergency mode. Within the hour, St. Francis Wildlife was onsite to help the owl.

Lead by St. Francis' Dean Humphrey and a group of six League employees, the rescue took about 20 minutes. They found the owl on the top (fourth floor) of the parking garage.

"The garage is completely enclosed, so there was not much chance the owl would have found her way out," explained Humphrey.

The owl likely entered the parking area at ground level while pursuing dinner, became disoriented and instinctively flew up and around each level in an attempt to escape. When it comes to city matters, League staffers are known for their sense of urgency and teamwork.

"It's not every day that your coworker asks, 'Do you have time to help catch an owl in the parking garage?'" commented Joel Easley, technology specialist, and one of the members of the rescue team.

Humphrey transported the barred owl to the St. Francis Wildlife hospital, where wildlife rehabilitator Teresa Stevenson gave her fluids and food and kept her overnight for observation.

The following afternoon, Humphrey returned and released the bird in Kleman Plaza with many League staffers present to bid her farewell.

After he set her free, she perched in an oak tree beside a large fountain and stared back for a long while. In the distance, was the faint, but distinct call of another barred owl.

Perhaps it was her mate, calling her home.

The following League staff helped rescue the barred owl: Carol Russell, Casey Cook, Dustin Heintz, Joel Easley, Teresa Colvin and Willie Thompson.



Please help us build new cages - at your place or ours!

All the outdoor cages at St. Francis Wildlife - except for a beautiful, new songbird aviary built last year by some wonderful boy scouts - are two decades old. Some can be repaired; most need to be replaced.

We have plans for a portable cage - 4' wide x 10' long x 6' high - that can be used for many different species.

St. Francis Wildlife needs to build 20 or more of these cages before the "wild baby season," which begins in March and brings in hundreds of orphaned babies.

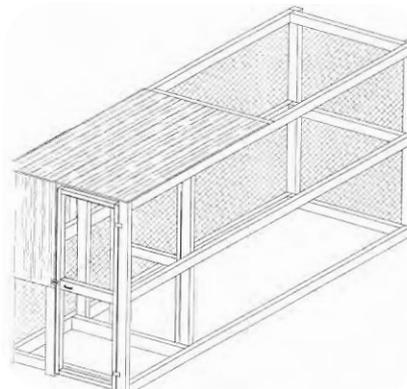
These cages will fit in a full-size pick up truck, so they can also be built off-site and then brought to St. Francis Wildlife. Or if someone can build only the frame and then transport it to St. Francis Wildlife, we can add the plywood and the hardware cloth.

We can also arrange for transportation of your finished cage or frame.

If people can donate materials, we would greatly appreciate it.

If you have some carpentry skills and can help, please contact St. Francis Wildlife's facilities manager Dean Humphrey at 850.627.4151.

Cage plans and materials list are on our web site at: www.stfranciswildlife.org/PortCagePlans.html.



PHOTO/Leah Ennis

What human-related hazards do wildlife face?

by Sandy Beck

Annual human-related causes of bird mortality in U.S.

House cats: 500,000,000	Poisoning: 3,500,000
Hunting: 120,000,000	Pest control: 2,000,000
Window kills: 80,000,000	TV towers: 1,200,000
Road kills: 57,000,000	

Scientists estimate that outdoor cats kill hundreds of millions of birds, small mammals, reptiles and amphibians each year. In fact, domestic cats kill more birds than hunters do and twice as many as the next six highest causes of bird mortality combined (see table above).

Cat predation is an added stress to birds and other small animals already struggling to survive habitat loss, pesticides and other human impacts.

In 2008, St. Francis Wildlife received 373 birds and small animals that were attacked by pets, mostly cats. And, there's no free lunch. Outdoor cats are exposed to injury, disease and parasites, being hit by cars or becoming lost, stolen or poisoned.

Leon County law states: "While there is not a true 'leash law' for cats, they are defined as public nuisances if they roam from the owner's premises without supervision by the owner. Keep your cat indoors or provide suitable supervision when it is outside."

People who allow their cat to roam, stalk and kill wildlife do not have their pets under "suitable supervision" and, therefore, are in violation of the law.

Because they are our pets and because we love them so much, they are our responsibility. The FWCC has workable solutions to this dilemma. Please check them out at: <http://myfwc.com/cats/index.htm>.

The Wild Classroom

Unique programs feature disabled wildlife from St. Francis Wildlife.

Contact us to schedule a program for your school, club meeting or special event.

Sandy Beck, Education Director

sbeck@wildclassroom.net
850.528.0823

www.wildclassroom.net



"How to Help Orphaned Babies and Other Wildlife"

Print this great resource and post in your office, school and kitchen!

www.stfranciswildlife.org/HowToHelpWildBabies.pdf

Wildlife Wish List

Animal Housing and Transport

- Carpenters to build and repair cages (see article on left)
- Lumber and other building materials
- 1/4" hardware cloth
- Heating pads, NOT auto shut-off
- Aquarium Tanks with Tops
- Pet carriers
- Humane, live traps

Animal Food and Care

- Panhandle Pet Supply Gift Certificate
- Esbilac puppy milk replacer
- Raw, hard-shelled nuts, like walnuts, pecans
- Unsalted peanuts in shell
- Sunflower seed
- Wild bird seed
- Cracked corn
- Fresh fruits and vegetables

- Heavy bowls
- Paper towels
- Laundry detergent
- Bleach, unscented
- Liquid anti-bacterial hand soap
- Unfrayed baby blankets, T-shirts, sweat-shirts, pillowcases & top sheets

Medical Supplies, such as

- sterile gauze
- gloves
- syringes
- Lactated Ringers

Big Items

- Computer, less than 3 years old & flat monitor
- Refrigerator
- Washer & Dryer
- Incubator
- Brooder
- Golf Cart
- Riding Mower
- Chain Saw
- Table Saw
- Generator
- Laminator

Here's a rundown of some of the 3,415 animals we cared for in 2008.

Songbirds – 1002

Including: 224 Carolina wrens, 17 bluebirds, 152 mockingbirds, 9 ruby-throated hummingbirds, 33 chimney swifts, 40 blue jays, 24 cardinals, 53 brown thrashers, 2 cerulean warblers

Raptors – 121

Including: 4 bald eagles, 9 Mississippi kites, 4 osprey, 26 barred owls, 9 great horned owls, 6 Coopers hawks, 24 red-shouldered hawks, 26 red-tailed hawks

Mammals – 1752

Including: 113 cottontail rabbits, 11 grey foxes, 4 red foxes, 46 flying squirrels, 40 white-tailed deer

What kinds of problems did our wildlife patients face in 2008?

Tree or nest fell or disturbed: 635
 Attacked by pets: 373
 Hit by car: 326
 Storm victim: 288
 Flew into window: 34
 Entangled in fishing line or hook: 17
 Gunshot: 5

Strange rescues

- Rose-breasted grosbeak entangled in Halloween decorations.
- Robin, with dart in head.
- Grey fox, head stuck in jar.
- Opossum in lobster trap.
- Tufted titmouse in spider web.



On left, one of two rarely seen rose-breasted grosbeaks that St. Francis Wildlife rescued in 2008.

PHOTO/Sandy Beck



This barn owl baby was St. Francis Wildlife's last orphan of 2008. PHOTO/Teresa Stevenson

BARN OWL, from Page 1

Barn owls feed primarily on rodents, so mice have been the main diet for this baby.

Barn owls have excellent low-light vision, but their ability to locate prey by sound alone is the best of any animal that has ever been tested. Which is surprising to me, because when a barn owl is startled or angry, the bone-crunching shriek they emit is certainly capable of deafening anyone in hearing distance. So I can't believe this call doesn't affect its own hearing. I know I am deaf for a while each time I handle a cranky barn owl.

Our baby's adult feathers have already replaced the white down, and he has begun looking like a handsome adult.

We moved both him and his good friend to a bigger cage where they can practice some short flights before beginning pre-release conditioning.

The last baby of the year 2008 was a cute one!

If you ever meet a barn owl

Because the barn owl is strictly nocturnal – unlike the barred owl who often swoops down on small animals in the middle of the afternoon – most people never catch a glimpse of one.

If you are lucky enough to see a barn owl, they are easy to identify. Barn owls have a white, heart-shaped facial disc surrounding dark brown eyes and golden feathers flecked with grey on the head and back. The female's breast is golden, and the male's is white.

They are about one-foot tall and have four-foot wingspans. Like most birds of prey, the female is about 25 percent larger than the male.

Ensure that your garbage and recyclables won't attract or harm wild neighbors.

By Sandy Beck

o Rinse and Recycle: Rinse all recyclable glass, metal and plastic containers to remove food remnants and odors.

When a raccoon squeezes his hand into an aluminum can, he doesn't consider that he might not be able to pull it back out.

o Cut or Crush: Cut up or crush plastic containers before putting them in the garbage or recycling bin. Cut apart each ring in plastic six-pack carriers and other similar packaging.

Food containers can become death traps when animals get their heads stuck inside and suffocate.

o Close and Cover: Make sure plastic food wrap is rinsed and contained inside a closed garbage bag. Tightly close trash can lids. Never throw plastic packaging into

open trash cans.

Plastic wrap mistakenly eaten by hungry wildlife or your own pet, can cause internal blockage.

An opossum can't tell where a peanut butter sandwich ends and its plastic wrapper begins; they both taste like peanut butter.

o Collect & safely discard monofilament line.

It is impossible for an entangled animal to snap this strong line and escape. It also lasts 600 years in our environment. The Monofilament Recovery & Recycling Program is a statewide effort to educate the public about the problems caused by improperly discarded monofilament line and to encourage recycling and volunteer cleanup events. Over 40 Florida counties now have recycling bins in place! For information on how to get involved and a list of collection bin locations, go to www.fishinglinerecycling.org.

o Never throw anything from car windows, including food, that could attract wildlife to the road. Keep a trash bag in your car.

Wild and free

By Donna Cross

John and Bety Hernandez found an orphaned baby grey squirrel at their home in Tampa, rescued him and raised him to be a beautiful, healthy young adult.

But, when it came time to release him, because he had been raised as "an only child," their little squirrel found the world a scary place and was not anxious to leave his cage.*

But John and Bety wanted the little guy to live a normal squirrel life, so they did some research, found our web site and called for advice.

We suggested that they bring him to St. Francis Wildlife for a "soft release," that would gradually introduce him to the woods and to other squirrels.

After the five-hour trip from Tampa, John and Bety arrived early one morning. Seeing all our beautiful trees and resident squirrels made their trip worthwhile.

It was tough for them to let go, but they also knew it was right. When you've raised anything, a human child or a baby squirrel, you get attached.

The little squirrel stayed in an outside cage for a few days before we opened the door and he ventured out and up into the trees.

The next day he had a "girlfriend." They played all day, ate together and climbed tall trees together.

Come springtime, they will probably continue the cycle of life with their own babies.

Thank you, John and Bety, for your dedication to wildlife and for your generous support. People like you make our wild world wonderful.

** If you would like to help us raise orphaned baby squirrels in your own home, we will train you.*

It is preferable not to raise orphaned mammals alone, so squirrel foster volunteers take at least two babies at a time.

Littermates that are left to themselves will focus on each other, rather than on their human foster parent. Their survival in the wild depends on interaction with their own species, proper socialization and, at least, an indifferent view of humans.



PHOTO/Sandy Beck

Native Nurseries presents an Evening Benefit & Drawing

for St. Francis Wildlife

Thursday, April 23, 2009

7 pm to 8:30 pm

Admission: \$10 per person

donation to St. Francis Wildlife.

- Enjoy a candlelight stroll through the Nursery and relax beside their extraordinary garden pond
- Music by local guitar legend Scott Campbell
- Refreshments – wine, cheeses, crusty breads and more . . . courtesy of Wine Warehouse, Sweetgrass Dairy and New Leaf Market
- Slide show, "Creating a Garden Pond Sanctuary" by pond artist Brian Bryson
- Screening of locally-produced short film, "Owls Are the Tigers of the Sky"
- Live birds of prey, AND

• **Drawing for WATER LILY GARDEN IN LARGE ORINOCO BOWL**

- Local delivery, setup and pump included, valued at \$300.
- Other prizes include dinners for two at Kool Beanz Cafe.



Drawing Tickets – \$5 each or 6 for \$25

Drawing & Admission Tickets

available NOW

at Native Nurseries

1661 Centerville Rd. 850.386.8882

Winners need not be present at drawing.



Jim Fowler tours St. Francis staff Teresa Stevenson, Donna Cross and Jordan Sirosky and volunteers Maria Teresa Soto and Haylee and Cash Cross around Mud Creek, his family farm in south Georgia, where Jim cares for exotic wildlife. PHOTO/Courtesy of Mud Creek Farm

Rescued emu finds home in Jim Fowler's "wild kingdom"

By Haylee Cross

Recently, St. Francis Wildlife employees and two young volunteers relocated an emu that was captured on Highway 12 in Gadsden County.

Our animal rescuers captured the emu, after several sightings by local residents, and transported him to the wildlife hospital.

Many in Tallahassee will remember when Jim Fowler graciously hosted St. Francis Wildlife's 2004 Wildlife Festival, teaching a delighted crowd about a live black bear and a litter of wolf cubs.

Mr. Fowler agreed to help St. Francis Wildlife again by adopting the emu. We transported the 75-pound bird to the Fowler family's Mud Creek Farm in south Georgia, where he joined several other emus as well as magnificent Élan antelope, zebras and ostriches.

Mr. Fowler is well known for co-hosting Mutual of Omaha's Wild Kingdom with Marlin Perkins from 1963-1985.

Today, he serves as honorary president of The Explorer's Club, an international organization of explorers and scientists, and enjoys spending time at Mud Creek Farm where he grew up and fell in love with wildlife many years ago.

Would you like to see your business ad in Wildlife Matters?

Become a Community Conservation Partner.

For a tax-deductible donation, business partners receive ads in our newsletter *Wildlife Matters* and a link on our web site.

For details, please contact:

Barbara Barnett

barbbarnett@stfranciswildlife.org

850.562.4379

www.stfranciswildlife.org/ccp.html

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**Give a gift with heart.
Adopt a St. Francis Wildlife animal for your Valentine.**

www.stfranciswildlife.org/adoption.html

New for 2009: Adopt an orphaned baby!



Your adoption of an orphaned wild baby will help us raise and set free the 2,000 babies that fill our wildlife hospital from March to October.

Babies, left to right: barred owls, cottontail rabbit, grey squirrel, fawn, screech owl, opossum.

PHOTOS/Sandy Beck

Between March and October, St. Francis Wildlife will rescue 2,000 orphaned baby birds and mammals. Baby birds, bunnies, raccoons, fawns, foxes and more arrive at our door every day! Babies require around-the-clock TLC and huge quantities of special foods. When you **adopt an orphan**, your adoption helps finance the care, feeding and medical treatment necessary to care for these helpless babies.

Or choose a permanently **disabled bird of prey**, a member of our Wild Classroom education program.

If you choose to adopt an orphan, the new parent receives a print with a collage of baby photos (above). If you choose to adopt a disabled raptor (choices below), the new parent receives its particular photo. All new parents also receive a Valentines Day card with your message, an official adoption certificate and information about what we can do to help wildlife.

The new adoptive parent will also receive our quarterly newsletter, *Wildlife Matters*, for one year and will be acknowledged in the next newsletter. Give a gift with heart. Take one of our wild things under your wing. More information, adoption application and photos of animals on our web site at: www.stfranciswildlife.org/adoption.html.



Your adoption of a disabled raptor will help finance the care, feeding and medical treatment of a *Wild Classroom* education bird.

Raptors, left to right: red-tailed hawk, great horned owl, barred owl, Mississippi kite, screech owl, kestrel.

PHOTOS/Sandy Beck

We need your help to care for the wildlife our community treasures.

Please renew your annual support for St. Francis Wildlife today by writing a check or by making a secure online donation with PayPal at www.stfranciswildlife.org.

Your annual donation to St. Francis Wildlife ensures that we'll be there to help when you need us . . . and when wildlife needs us.

For your tax-deductible donation, you will receive:

- **The *Wildlife Matters*** quarterly newsletter.
- **Satisfaction of helping wild animals** unable to care for themselves.

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) WITHIN THE STATE. REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE. St. Francis of Assisi Wildlife Association, Inc. Registration #: CH4537.

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PHOTO/David Kampf

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Help St. Francis Wildlife feed the animals!

St. Francis Wildlife buys their baby formula and other supplies from us. Purchase a gift certificate for them at our store at 3661 N. Monroe, or call us at 850.562.4100.

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Donation Form

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

(Winter 2009)

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How would you prefer to receive our quarterly newsletter, *Wildlife Matters*? Please check one.

___ I prefer to have a printed copy of *Wildlife Matters* mailed to my home.

___ I prefer to read it on-line. (It is a large PDF file, 3 MB, which would require a high-speed connection.)

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

- Donor Levels:** Chickadee, \$25 Cardinal, \$35 Barred Owl, \$50 Great Blue Heron, \$75
 Great Horned Owl, \$100 Peregrine Falcon, \$150 Bald Eagle, \$200 Wildlife Angel, \$300

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Events Calendar

• **Saturday, February 21, 10 a.m.- 3 p.m.**
Magnet Lab Open House,
National High Magnetic Field Laboratory
1800 E. Paul Dirac Drive, Tallahassee.

Meet scientists, see demonstrations, do hands-on experiments. Displays by local organizations, including St. Francis Wildlife. www.magnet.fsu.edu.

• **Saturday, March 14, 10 a.m. - 11 a.m.**
Program: "How to help injured or orphaned wildlife," Tallahassee Nurseries
2911 Thomasville Rd., Tallahassee, 385-8190

What should you do if you find a baby bird or squirrel? How do you rescue an injured raptor? Learn the answers to these questions and more from Sandy Beck, St. Francis Wildlife's education director. Also, meet live birds of prey. Donations appreciated.

• **Saturday, April 11, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.**
Annual Pinewoods Bird Festival
Pebble Hill Plantation,
10 miles north of FL/GA line on U.S. 319.
www.pinewoodsbirdfestival.com.



Bring the entire family. Birding trips, children's activities, unique tours. Something for every bird lover, beginner to advanced. Enjoy the historic plantation & endangered birds of the Pinewoods. Live birds of prey from St. Francis Wildlife. Event schedule and information on web site (above). Contact: Whitney White, wwhite@pebblehill.com, 229-227-5389.

(L to R)Volunteers Carolyn Cooney, Cedar (barred owl) and Pat Simmons at the '08 Pinewoods Bird Festival.

PHOTO/Sandy Beck

Wild Art for Wild Babies

St. Francis Wildlife's 6th Annual
WILDLIFE BABY SHOWER
Saturday, May 9
8 a.m. - 2 p.m.

at the Downtown Marketplace,
Ponce de Leon Park at Park & Monroe

Wildlife and Nature Artists
Awesome Birds of Prey
Exciting Drawings for Wildlife Art

March through October, St. Francis Wildlife will receive 2,000 orphans. Wild babies need huge quantities of special foods and around-the-clock feedings.

YOU CAN HELP!

Please bring an item from our wish list (Page 4) or donate a GIFT CERTIFICATE to Panhandle Pet Supply.

Gift certificates available at the event and at PPS stores, or call PPS at **850.562.4100**.

If you find sick, injured or orphaned wildlife

• **Call us at 850.627.4151, or take it (day or night) to the Northwood Animal Hospital,** 1881 N. Martin Luther King Blvd., Tallahassee (just north of the Post Office)

• **Transport wildlife** in a warm, dark box with holes punched in the lid. Keep it quiet, and handle it as little as possible.

• **Do NOT** give it food or water.

• **NEVER handle raccoons,** foxes, bats or any mammals (even babies) that could carry rabies. Call us.

Florida's squirrels, opossums and rabbits are not known to carry rabies.

• **When calling to report an animal injured on a road,** note exactly where it is ("1.4 miles west of exit 27 on the north side of I-10") and, if possible, leave a marker, like a towel tied to a tree limb.

For more information on wildlife rescue:

www.stfranciswildlife.org