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St. Francis
Wildlife
ASSOCIATION

Wildlife Matters

Quarterly newsletter of the St. Francis Wildlife Association
P.O. Box 38160, Tallahassee, FL 32315 / 5580 Salem Rd., Quincy, FL 32352
www.stfranciswildlife.org 850.627.4151

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.11, No. 1 Winter 2012



(Left to right) Barred Owl entangled in a volleyball net, **PHOTO/Kim Scott**; Loren Scott presents Teresa Stevenson with a check for the note cards she has sold. (Below) Recovering Barred Owl in outdoor flight cage. **PHOTOS/Sandy Beck**

A girl and her owl

By Sandy Beck

September 27, a Barred Owl, gliding through a backyard near Buck Lake Rd., perhaps focused on a rodent or frog, collided with a volleyball net.

About 5:30 p.m. the next evening, the Scott family discovered him, dangling from the net by one leg.

The owl was so worn out from struggling that he didn't move. Parents Kim and Jay donned long-sleeved shirts and gloves and carefully wrapped the owl in a towel and cut him free.

Then they put the owl in a dog crate and took him to Northwood Animal Hospital. From there he was transported to St. Francis Wildlife where director and wildlife rehabilitator Teresa Stevenson examined him.

"His foot was very swollen. He had lost circulation and feeling and could not use the leg at all. We started him on rehydration therapy and gave him antibiotics and pain medication. Then we tube-fed him and gave him vitamins," Teresa said.

"Later, while we were cleaning the foot and doing physical therapy a talon fell off, which indicated that the tissue was dying.

"October 24, we took him to Bradfordville Animal Hospital where Dr. Stevenson recommended continuing the medications and increasing physical therapy."

When the owl lost two more talons, they still didn't give up hope.

December 15, the owl finally started to move his foot, the swelling was gone and two talons had begun to

regrow.

Teresa transferred the Barred Owl to an outdoor flight cage, where he is eating well, flying and perching perfectly with both feet.

Throughout the owl's recovery, the Scott family kept close tabs on his progress. They came to visit him at every Open House (the first Saturday of every month, noon to 1 p.m.).

"It's been a pretty neat experience for the whole family," said Kim.

Her daughter Loren, a fifth-grader at Buck Lake Elementary, was deeply moved by "her owl" and the other animals at the wildlife hospital. She began sketching them (Her Barred Owl sketch is on Page 6).

Continued, Please see "BARRED OWL," Page 6



A Taste of Spain at Native Nurseries, 3-part benefit for St. Francis Wildlife

By Sandy Beck

www.nativenurseries.com/atasteofspain.html

For more than three decades, Donna Legare and Jody Walthall, co-owners of Native Nurseries, and their staff have educated our community about native plants and living in harmony with wildlife. This commitment extends beyond their unique "store for nature lovers" on Centerville Road.

Over the years, Native Nurseries has held many fundraisers for St. Francis Wildlife. This year, a committee headed by Donna has drawn on the talents and generosity of other local businesses to create a new three-part event, *A Taste of Spain at Native Nurseries*, which promises to be an exciting evening as well as an important fundraiser for local injured, orphaned and sick wildlife.

Part One: Dinner beside the garden pond at Native Nurseries. March 18, 60 guests will enjoy this beloved Tallahassee landmark by candlelight as they join other wildlife lovers for a gourmet dinner, laid-back fun and a chance to win unique prizes.

Juan Ten, owner and head chef of Real Paella, will prepare authentic Paella and Spanish salad with fresh ingredients — donated by Southern Seafood, New Leaf Market, Ayavalla and Tomato Land — while guests enjoy wine donated by Wine Warehouse and live Spanish music by the Big Bend Woodwind Quintet. Tickets to this dinner event literally flew out the door and are sold out.

Part Two: 2012 Raffle for St. Francis Wildlife. At the March 18 dinner, we will draw 12 winning tickets, and winners will go home with one of 12 unique prizes, but **YOU DON'T NEED TO BE PRESENT AT THE DRAWING TO WIN.**

Raffle tickets are just \$5 each, so buy a bunch and increase your chances. Earmark each ticket for the prize you desire. Prizes include a hot air balloon ride; a sailing adventure; a sunset dinner cruise on the St. Marks River; custom jewelry by Quincie Hamby; three different beach vacations; gourmet fare at Kool Beanz



Native Nurseries co-owners Donna Legare and Jody Walthall on their boat. The couple is offering a sunset cruise and picnic supper on the St. Marks River as one of 12 unique raffle prizes (See Page 3). All proceeds benefit St. Francis Wildlife.

PHOTO/Vanessa Walthall

Cafe; the opportunity to release a recovered raptor; and more!

See Page 3 for a complete list of prizes.

Buy raffle tickets now at four locations: Native Nurseries and Trail & Ski in Tallahassee, Magnolia Café & Coffee House in Havana and Rose's Botanicals in Apalachicola, or email sandybeck@stfranciswildlife.org.

Part Three: An Online Auction of three pieces of nature and animal art by local artists: Brian Bryson — see his painting now at Native Nurseries; Simon Baxter — his art graces the walls of brother Keith's Kool Beanz Cafe; and an elegant mirror with hand-etched manatees by Fine Line Studio Glass.

The auction will be continued as a live auction at the March 18 event with auctioneers Gil and Gail Ziffer. If you do not attend the event but are the high online bidder, you may continue bidding by phone.

The music as well as every morsel of delectable food, bottle of wine, raffle and auction prize has been donated, so 100% of the proceeds from this event, auction and drawing benefit local orphaned, injured and sick wildlife at St. Francis Wildlife. It doesn't get any better than this.



P.O. Box 38160
Tallahassee, FL 32315
850.627.4151

www.stfranciswildlife.org

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St. Francis Wildlife hospital staff, left to right: Nancy, Teresa and Michelle (Kelly, Paula and Daniela not pictured).

Thank you from the bottom of our wild hearts for these donations, Oct. 2011 — Jan. 2012.

Because of space constraints we list donations of \$100 or more; however, please know that we appreciate every single donation. We apologize for any omissions or misspellings.

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Sincere Thanks

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- Animal Eye Clinic
- Bradfordville Animal Hospital
- Mahan Animal Clinic
- North Florida Animal Hospital
- Northwood Animal Hospital
- **Modern Mailers** for their mailing services.
- **ElectroNet** for hosting our web site & email.
- **COSTCO** for donating fresh fruits and vegetables every week.
- **DQP** for discounted printing services.
- **Post Searchlight Printing**, Bainbridge, GA, for discounted printing this newsletter.
- **Stu Gash and April Arrington** for fixing the SFW database!
- **Risa Green** for her generous donations of IV fluids, syringes and needles.
- **E. Spencer** for medical supplies.
- **Candalee Jones** for sewing a beautiful quilt for our fundraiser.

We appreciate these local businesses, sponsors of
A Taste of Spain
at Native Nurseries,
a benefit for
St. Francis Wildlife.



Anonymous Owl Lover



Tallahassee businesses connect with:

Internet Services & Solutions

850.229.0229
www.electronet.net

Native Nurseries presents a
Raffle and Online Auction of unique items to benefit St. Francis Wildlife
nativenurseries.com/atasteofspain.html



Raffle Prize #1 — A Day Sail



Auction Item #1. An example of a pet portrait painted by artist Simon Baxter.

12 Raffle Prizes

Details and photos of all prizes at
nativenurseries.com/atasteofspain.html.

- 1. Join Jody Walthall and Brian Bryson for A Day Sail on a Florida Sharpie**, a traditional sailing skiff designed for our shallow bays and barrier islands. For four adults or three adults and two children. Take a turn at the tiller, get some sailing instruction or just relax and enjoy.
- 2. Sunset Cruise and dinner on the St. Marks River** with Jody Walthall and Donna Legare. Cruise the St. Marks River from the town of St. Marks to the Lighthouse and enjoy a picnic supper at anchor.
- 3. Three nights at Whispering Pines of Cape San Blas** on Indian Pass for up to four people. 2 bed/1 bath bayside cottage w/ large, screened porch, full kitchen, AC, TV and WiFi. Pets welcome. www.whisperingpinesofcapesanblas.com \$300 value
- 4. One night at the Turtle Beach Inn, Port St. Joe**, Enjoy beautiful Gulf views from large shaded porches and sun decks. Private entrance, private bath and a Gulf view. A full breakfast is included. Florida DEP certified Green Lodging. <http://www.turtlebeachinn.com> \$175 value
- 5. Two weeknights at The Old Carrabelle Hotel** includes breakfast. A circa 1880 historic inn located in Carrabelle, FL, just two blocks from the water. Explore nearby islands, 35 miles of primitive river and a one-mile walking trail at Tate's Hell State Forest, 1.5 miles NW of town. www.oldcarrabellehotel.com \$160 value
- 6. On a Guided Tree Climb**, enjoy an eagle's eye view of Lake Jackson. A personally tailored adventure for one or two participants in good health and physical condition. Ascend the tree using ropes and tree climbing saddles with the instruction and assistance of Timothy Roop, an ISA Certified Arborist and Certified Tree Climber Specialist. \$300.00 value
- 7. On A Hot Air Balloon Ride** for two with Treehopper (pilot, Bill Armstrong) experience the beauty and tranquility of floating above the countryside surrounding Tallahassee. This four-hour experience begins with preparing the balloon for flight and ends with a champagne party. \$450.00 value
- 8. A Big Day of Birding** for you and three friends **with local birder extraordinaire, Andy Wraithmell**. From sunrise to sunset, visit some of our area's most special places such as Tall Timbers, Wakulla Springs, St. Marks NWR and St. George Island to identify as many species as possible. See more than 125 species; with favorable weather more than 150! limeybirder.blogspot.com
- 9. Release a Raptor**. There are few things more inspiring than watching a hawk circle over an open field or hearing a wild owl hoot at dusk. Be a part of this magical experience when you hold a rehabilitated raptor in special gloves and set her free. Species, time and place will be decided by St. Francis Wildlife's rehabilitator.
- 10. Gift certificate to Kool Beanz Café** — top quality gourmet restaurant—it's fun, it's funky and it's delicious! "A great little restaurant..." The New York Times. www.kool-beanz.co \$50 value
- 11. Gentle and Relaxing Massage with Donna Dillon**, Florida Lic. Massage Therapist for over 25 years. <http://sites.google.com/site/livelovelaughrelaxandenjoylife/home>
- 12. Necklace, Bracelet and Earrings by Art Jewelry Designer, Quincie Hamby**, quinciehamby.com. See this beautiful signature set at nativenurseries.com/tasteofspain.html. \$230 value.

The Auction

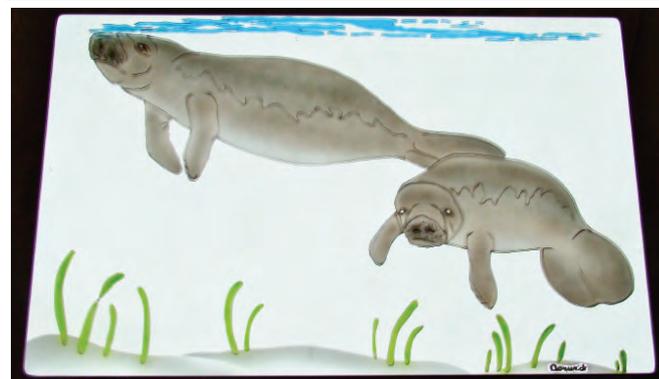
Three pieces of original nature and animal art by local artists are up for auction. Begin bidding online now.

3 Auction Items

Descriptions and photographs, as well as directions on how to participate on the above web site.

- 1. Simon Baxter**, will paint a portrait of your pet from your favorite photograph. Simon's colorful animal art graces the walls of brother Keith's Kool Beanz Cafe. The high bidder will receive a 20" x 24" portrait of one pet, valued at \$550.00.
- 2. Brian Bryson**, a talented artist who has designed hundreds of custom garden ponds for Native Nurseries customers offers a framed 45.5" x 15.5" painting of Mashes Sands, a beach that has special meaning to many locals. This painting is currently on display at Native Nurseries.
- 3. Robert and Tammy Derwick of Fine Line Studio Glass**, finelinestudioglass.com, created an elegant, hand-etched mirror featuring our beloved manatees, 24" x 36".

The auction will conclude as a live auction at the March 18 *Taste of Spain* event at Native Nurseries. If you do not attend the event but are the high online bidder, you may continue bidding by phone.



Auction Item #3. Manatee Mirror by Fine Line Studio.

The Raffle

Tickets — only \$5 each

Enter the drawing for 12 unique prizes. On each ticket, note the number of the prize you'd prefer.

Winning tickets will be drawn

March 18, 2012, 7:30 pm,
 at the *Taste of Spain Benefit*
 at Native Nurseries.

Winners need not be present at the drawing.

Tickets Available at

Native Nurseries

1661 Centerville Rd., Tallahassee
Trail & Ski

2743 Capital Cir NE, Tallahassee

Magnolia Café & Coffee House

310 N. Main St., Havana

Rose's Botanicals

76 Market St., Apalachicola

or contact **Sandy Beck**

sandybeck@stfranciswildlife.org



Raffle Prize #8 — See up to 150 bird species!

Help wildlife avoid migration headache

Story and photo by Sandy Beck
Cartoon thanks to Gary Larson

I know it's really spring when I hear my first Great Crested Flycatcher whistling from the treetops (photo below), see the graceful Mississippi Kites sailing overhead in pursuit of flying cicadas and grasshoppers and hear the buzz of hummingbird wings in the garden.

Without having made the trip with their parents, each year juvenile Ruby-throated Hummingbirds, weighing just an eighth of an ounce, fly 500 miles across the Gulf of Mexico, a 25-hour nonstop flight, to nest and raise the next generation of their species in Florida.

More than 200 species of birds that spend spring and summer in North America, nesting and raising young, head south during our winter. These are called "neotropical" migrants.

Why go to all the trouble? Why fly hundreds or thousands of miles? Because it's too far to walk.

No, seriously. Why not just stay where they are? Is it because they don't want to deal with cold weather - like the human snowbirds who migrate to Florida every winter?

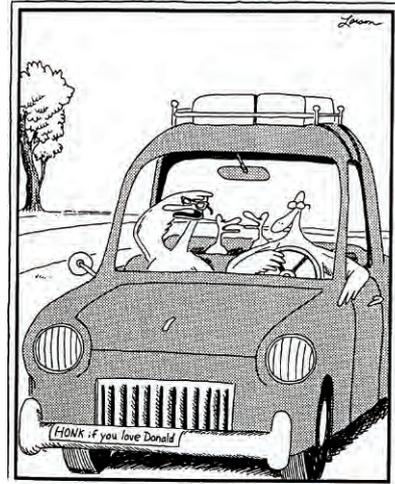
Not really. Birds have little down jackets to keep them warm, and most species can adapt to frigid temperatures if there is an abundant food supply. Yep, it's mostly about food.

The types of food that migratory birds need, such as flying insects, caterpillars, worms, fruits and nectar, are hard to find beneath the snow. Birds migrate to follow the food supply and to ensure breeding success.

The banquet of protein-rich food that Mother Nature serves up plus more daylight hours to forage equals the ability to raise more young. Survival and reproduction are the two most powerful driving forces for every living creature.

Creatures of habit depend on habitat

Over many, many generations, species have become hard-wired to leave at a certain time and travel a particular route that provides reliable



"Oh God, George! Stop! ... Stop the car! I've got another migration headache!"

food, water and cover along the way. They also land in a specific habitat - the place that provides everything they need to survive and raise a new generation before making the return trip several months later.

This is why it is so important to keep these habitats, on which migrants have come to depend, intact.

If the lakeside forest that Swallow-tailed Kites have returned to every spring for hundreds of generations is suddenly turned into 200 homes and a shopping mall, where do the birds go? After their long journey from Bolivia, the weary travelers need their nest tree and swarms of cicadas and grasshoppers - not a tidy backyard and multiplex theater.

Migratory bird populations face other hazards such as collisions with windows, communication towers, pesticides and outdoor cats.

Please, keep your beloved cats indoors. It's heartbreaking when someone brings us a Great Crested Flycatcher or hummingbird that just completed a heart-pumping trip of hundreds or thousands of miles only to become the victim of a pet cat.

Help migratory birds, butterflies and other species by supporting public land acquisition programs and by conserving and enriching natural habitat, one backyard at a time. Your backyard is the best place for you to start.



Tallahassee's white squirrels - where did they come from?

Story and photo by Sandy Beck

When St. Francis Wildlife received its first batch of orphaned baby white squirrels 10 years ago, in 2002, I began to wonder where these furry anomalies came from, so I paid a visit to Tallahassee Museum's Animal Curator Mike Jones, a treasure of local animal lore.

"Someone caught two white squirrels in Sawdust, Florida, in Gadsden County and put them in a cage at the Breakaway Lodge, a Sopchoppy hunting and fishing lodge built in 1938. In the 1960s, a banker from Crawfordville purchased this lodge. Around 1970, his wife offered us a pair," Mike said.

DEP biologist Dana Bryan, who studied white squirrels in graduate school at FSU, told me that the Museum kept their first pair in a cage.

"All the young in their litters were white, so it must have been the dominant gene. Eventually, the Museum released all the white squirrels on their property.

"The population has endured, so they don't seem to be preferred by predators." Mike has noticed the Museum's white offspring around Lake Bradford and in a corridor moving northward through Tallahassee. He's seen them at Sabal Palm Elementary. I've seen them at Levy Park, near Raa Middle School.

White squirrels have also been reported near Jacksonville since the 1940s. There are several small populations in Central Florida and one in the northern Keys.

Florida is not the only place graced with white squirrels. My sister has them in her yard in Flat Rock, North Carolina. Brevard, North Carolina and Exeter, Ontario celebrate their distinguished residents with annual White Squirrel Festivals.

Keep your eyes open. White squirrels may be coming soon to a bird feeder in your backyard.



Wildlife Care Technician Kelly Pollock feeds an orphaned baby white squirrel. These baby squirrels are not albinos; they don't have pink eyes, but are almost completely white with a small black patch on their head or back.

Thank you for all your thoughtful notes, emails and Facebook comments!

Here are a few.

My husband and I wanted to thank you for all of the help you give our animal friends. It is really a blessing to have a place to take injured or young animals to be nurtured. Thank you for all that you do.
Sincerely,
Philip and Mary Powell

I cannot thank you enough for your quick response time after I called about the hawk. I did not know what to do for him. I would like to follow his progress and be there when you release him.
Suzette Williams

I loved your newsletter!
Nancy Bivens

Please accept this token of my extreme care, concern and respect for St. Francis Wildlife, and please know that I send up prayers that all of you will be blessed with huge success in all your efforts to make a difference! With all my heart, I believe in you all!
Becky McNeill

Thank you for your example of service to the community.
Rosemary Prince
VBS Director
Good Shepherd Catholic Church

We really wanted to thank you for bringing all of the animals. None of us have seen a Mississippi Kite so close up. And that flying squirrel was just adorable. We all wanted to say thank you for coming, and we learned a lot.
Students at the Holy Comforter Episcopal School

Northern Florida is so fortunate to have this wonderful dedicated group of people.
Louise Barker

Thank you so much for visiting Betton Hills. The children loved seeing the animals. We want to make sure that you visit us again next year. Thanks again.

Linda Murray
Betton Hills Preparatory School



Our unique wildlife education programs feature disabled birds of prey, mammals and reptiles from St. Francis Wildlife.

850.528.0823

www.wildclassroom.net

Volunteer Spotlight Kelly Craft, naturally creative

By Pat Simmons



Above: Kelly Craft holds a squirrel in one of her baby blankets. Right: Another squirrel settles in for a nap in one of her wildlife hammocks.
PHOTOS/Sandy Beck

Since June 2010, Kelly Craft has volunteered nearly every Saturday morning at St. Francis Wildlife (SFW).

Her love of animals and volunteering just came naturally; Kelly grew up in Miami, surrounded by animals.

"We had salt water tanks with a baby lobster, a seahorse and various fish. We also had a newly hatched loggerhead sea turtle for a year that we eventually transferred to the Miami Seaquarium and later released," Kelly said.

"And, of course, we always had dogs and cats, and there was

Spencer the chicken and Jose the Guinea pig."

Before moving to Tallahassee, she spent eight years volunteering at Ocean Impact Foundation in West Palm Beach where she assisted with the care of seabirds, songbirds, and various native mammals.

"SFW is the largest wildlife rehabilitation center I've seen. I'm amazed that 3,500 birds, reptiles and mammals pass through our doors every year."

When she is not at SFW, Kelly works as a paralegal. She and her husband Anthony try to fit kayaking and camping into their busy schedules

Visitors to the SFW center may have noticed the hammocks and baby blankets in which many of our orphaned and injured baby mammals are snuggled or the lovely privacy curtains behind which hawks and owls rest in the Bird of Prey Room. This is all Kelly's handiwork, and they have comforted hundreds of animals.

If you have a sewing machine and would like to sew up some comfort, directions for baby hammocks and blankets are on the right.

When she is not helping babies get off the cage floors, she cleans and feeds squirrels, opossums and rabbits, helps with the reptiles and songbirds, and cleans the outside mews (flight cages), kennels and aviaries.

She also transports wildlife from Northwood Animal Hospital. Her passengers are often an array of songbirds, bats, flying squirrels, ducks, other mammals, and, of course, birds of prey – all of various size, age and medical condition.

Kelly's favorite "chore" is to help care for and feed the fawns.

"On my second week at SFW, I heard what sounded like a four-year old screaming in the next room. When I went to help, I found three staff members working on a kicking and bleating tiny fawn that had been hit by a car.

"I had no idea this fragile looking tiny fawn, with the longest eyelashes I had ever seen, could be so strong."

The orphan was treated for his injuries and raised until he was old and strong enough to be released.

"I really enjoy seeing the fawns grow in size each week during baby season. It's a delight to watch them play with each other in their pen. It's also very rewarding as a SFW volunteer when the fawns and other animals are released, and they can live on their own in the wilderness where they belong."

"St. Francis is a very well-run organization, and the staff and other volunteers are such a pleasure to work with. I highly recommend it to anyone who loves nature and wildlife."

Volunteering at St. Francis Wildlife is fun and rewarding!

No previous experience necessary – just a love for wildlife and a willingness to learn new things and work hard. To directly care for animals you must be at least 18. Learn more and read about volunteer opportunities at stfranciswildlife.org or call Volunteer Coordinator Donna Hansell at 850.627.4151.



Instructions for Kelly's wildlife blankets and hammocks

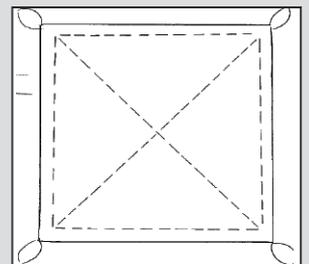
We need lots of baby blankets and hammocks for the hundreds of orphaned babies we raise between March - October. If you have a sewing machine, please consider making some. Then take them to our wildlife hospital or drop them off at Northwood Animal Hospital, with a note indicating that they are for St. Francis Wildlife. Please be sure to give us your name so we can thank you!

Baby Wildlife Blankets

Fabric: Flannel
Preferred Sizes: 8" x 8" up to 24" x 24" (squares or rectangles)
Directions: Sew the blankets 2-sided, similar to a "pillow case." Once the blanket is turned inside-out, top-stitch the entire blanket around all 4 edges. Then top-stitch an "X" over the entire blanket. (See drawing, but omit corner loops).

Wildlife Hammocks

Fabric: Flannel or corduroy.
Preferred Size: 16" x 16".
Directions: Same as for baby blankets; however, each of the 4 corners should have a 2" loop sticking out of it made of cord or other type of strapping. These tabs will be used to tie the hammocks into the cages. (See drawing.)



Hannah and Emma Bryson raised \$64 for St. Francis Wildlife during the holidays by selling longleaf pinecones at Native Nurseries.

Photo/Brian Bryson

Volunteers from the United Church in Tallahassee

collected donations of cash, bird seed, towels and dishes for the animals at St. Francis Wildlife and presented them to wildlife care technician Michelle Osborne at our monthly Open House.

"On behalf of the members and friends of United Church in Tallahassee, it is my honor and pleasure to provide you with this check for \$300 to support the work you do for Florida's wildlife and the animals that enrich our lives so wonderfully," wrote their Pastor, Reverend Nancy L. Dahlberg.



Photo/Donna Hansell



Kevin Grace, Troop 115, built this beautiful raptor flight cage for his Eagle Scout Project.

2012 Wild Classroom Grant Winners

St. Francis Wildlife is pleased to announce the five winners of our 2012 Wild Classroom Grant, made possible by the Suzanne E. Plescia Endowed Education Fund, established by Dr. Louis W. & Elizabeth N. Bender. Each classroom teacher will receive a free wildlife program for up to 50 students.

Ashana Hopson, Sealey Elementary
 Karen H. Benjamin, Astoria Park Elementary
 Lisa Johnson, Roberts Elementary
 Shari Magee, Kate Sullivan Elementary
 Kristi Kessling, WT Moore Elementary



Triplets Emily, Morgan and AJ learn about owls at our Owl-O-Ween party at the Downtown Marketplace.



Atilla, who says he wants to be an ornithologist when he is older (although his mother is hoping for a plastic surgeon!) is thrilled to be able to photograph Cedar, a non-releasable Barred Owl at our January owl program at Native Nurseries.

St. Francis Wildlife outreach education programs and public events promote awareness, appreciation and understanding of native wildlife.



Volunteer Pat Simmons and Bubo, our non-releasable Great Horned Owl teach young visitors about owls' spectacular nocturnal adaptations at the Downtown Marketplace.



Volunteer Andrew Colvin taught visitors about St. Francis Wildlife's work at our table at the Alternative Christmas Market.



Volunteer Margie Grussing helped children create owls from recycled materials at our Owl-O-Ween party at the Downtown Marketplace.



(left) Sandy Beck and Daisy, a non-releasable opossum, teach students at the Preschool at Evening Rose that opossums are amazing, adaptable animals with opposable thumbs and with very soft fur.

Sandy Beck honored by the Girl Scout Council of the Florida Panhandle



Sandy Beck and Bubo, a disabled Great Horned Owl. PHOTO/Scott Holstein, Tallahassee Magazine

Sandy Beck, St. Francis Wildlife education director, was recognized as the 2011 Woman of Distinction in the Environment category by the Girl Scout Council of the Florida Panhandle. The Awards Ceremony was held November 3 at the Hotel Duval.

The council serves 6,000 girls across 19 counties with more than 100 troops.

Other winners were Paula Fortunas — Health, Adrian Fogelin — Arts & Humanities, Dorothy Binger — Education, Judge Nina Ashenafi Richardson — Government, Kelly O'Keefe — Law, Mary Ellen Kias — Media, and Allison Tant Richard — Youth and Social Services.

Accepting the award, Sandy Beck said, "For the last 22 years I've had the privilege of living, learning and working closely with beautiful wild birds and animals and of being able to offer children the opportunity to observe and learn about these beautiful creatures up close through our Wild Classroom.

"It's an honor to be recognized by the Girl Scouts, an organization that teaches girls the importance of friendship and commitment — and helps them fall in love with our wild world."

BARRED OWL,

Continued from Page One

Loren said, "My art teacher (Fran Kautz) told me, 'Why don't you get those printed on cards and sell them?' So I started drawing even more — herons, egrets and woodpeckers."

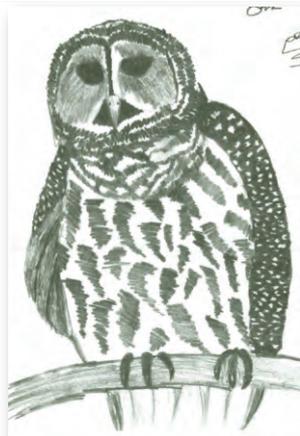
Mike Hunter, a graphic designer at Office Depot on Capital Circle NE and a longtime supporter of St. Francis Wildlife, helped Loren create the cards.

Loren has sold her cards at her school, church, our wildlife hospital and one Saturday at Native Nurseries. So far, she has raised more than \$650 for "her owl" and the other wild patients at St. Francis Wildlife.

The Barred Owl she and her family rescued is well on his way to being free once again. When all talons are fully regrown we will return and release him in his own territory.

Loren's Note Cards

Packages of 10 different cards — this Barred Owl and nine other birds — are available for a \$5 donation to St. Francis Wildlife. To purchase these beautiful cards, please contact Loren's mom, Kim Scott, at jfskls@comcast.net.



Help owls and other birds that may be injured or killed by flying into and becoming entangled in soccer and volleyball nets. Lower or furl nets after each use and remove them during the off-season.

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Until one has loved an animal, a part of one's soul remains unawakened.

Anatole France

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 The Pain of Postpartum Depression

The Toll of Roads
 When We Build Streets and Highways, Animals Often Pay the Price

Rose, our disabled Screech Owl, was the cover girl for Tallahassee Magazine's Jan./Feb. 2012 issue. PHOTO/Scott Holstein

Thank you, Ft. Braden School

By Cindy Baisden

In the three years I have been volunteering at St. Francis Wildlife, I have learned so much.

I also work at the Ft. Braden School. I try to share with the children my love for the animals that are cared for and about work of St. Francis Wildlife. They have learned about the hospital and particularly the rescuing and raising of orphaned grey squirrels.

The students responded by spending hours collecting acorns, one by one, to feed our little friends during the fall and winter months.

As one kindergartener approached me, she reached in her little pocket. The little girl pulled out three acorns and asked, "Mama B, will you feed these to the baby squirrels?" That touched my heart so much and I made sure those acorns were included in my delivery.

My husband and I made a video of the squirrels eating the acorns in their cages inside the hospital and in the outside squirrel half-way house, "Squirrel Haven," to share with some of the classes so they were able to see how important and enjoyable their efforts have been.



Elementary students at Ft. Braden School collected acorns on their campus to feed orphaned squirrels at St. Francis Wildlife.

Oh, deer, I found a fawn

Story and photo by Sandy Beck

Early in life the wobbly-legged fawn protects itself from predators by hiding rather than fleeing. A mother deer will leave her fawn alone and feed elsewhere so that predators are not attracted to the helpless baby (fawns do not have a scent). She will return to nurse twice during the day.

So if you approach a fawn and it does not flee please leave it alone. The mother is most likely out of sight, but nearby and watching you. A doe will never abandon her fawn unless she has been injured or killed.

If the mother has been killed, do not attempt to raise the fawn yourself. Call St. Francis Wildlife.

These two fawns were rescued and raised at St. Francis Wildlife this past fall. One was found near its dead mother. The other had been chased and injured by a dog. When they were five months old, wildlife rehabilitator Teresa Stevenson and wildlife care technician Michelle Osborne transported them in large air kennels to Ayavalla Plantation and released them in safe habitat.



Your donation helps local wildlife

Your tax-deductible donation to St. Francis Wildlife ensures that we'll be only a phone call or a short drive away when you find a baby bird in your yard or when you see an injured fox on the road.

We've been doing this for 34 years. We are the largest and most respected wildlife rehabilitation facility in north Florida, but we can't do it without your help. Please renew your annual support for St. Francis Wildlife today by sending a check with this Donation Form (on right) or by making a secure online donation with PayPal at www.stfranciswildlife.org.

For your tax-deductible donation, you will receive: our *Wildlife Matters* newsletter and the satisfaction of helping local wildlife 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) REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE. St. Francis of Assisi Wildlife Association, Inc. Registration #: CH4537.

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***As we deepen our
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natural world,
we increase our
responsibility for it.***

E. O. Wilson

10th Annual WILDLIFE BABY SHOWER

Saturday, April 14, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Downtown Marketplace, Ponce de Leon Park
Park Ave. & N. Monroe

This spring and summer, St. Francis Wildlife will receive more than 1,500 orphans. Wild babies need huge quantities of special foods and around-the-clock feedings.

YOU CAN HELP!

Please look at our Wish List on Page 8 for items we need, or donate a GIFT CERTIFICATE to Panhandle Pet Supply.

The good people at PPS give us a deep discount, and your gift certificate enables us to buy what babies need, when they need it.

We also appreciate gift certificates to Native Nurseries, Wild Birds Unlimited, Target or any home improvement store.

Of course, cash donations are wonderful too.

Meet and learn about the remarkable members of our Wild Classroom education program:
OWLS, HAWKS, FALCONS, KITES,
OPOSSUM, GOPHER TORTOISE AND SNAKES.



Orphaned red fox kits raised at St. Francis Wildlife last spring.

St. Francis Wildlife behind-the-scenes tour

Get a close-up look at wildlife rehabilitation. We invite you to take our "behind the scenes" tour, the first Saturday of every month, from noon to 1 p.m. Visit our wildlife hospital and outdoor refuge, meet our staff and volunteers and learn how to help local wildlife.

Our 36-acre wildlife refuge is four and a half miles northwest of Havana. Directions are on our web site, or call us at 627-4151.

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

Name _____ Date _____

E-mail Address _____

Home Address _____

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How would you prefer to receive our quarterly newsletter, *Wildlife Matters*?

___ 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)

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

Donor Levels: Chickadee \$35 Bunny \$50 Bluebird \$100 Screech Owl \$250 Fox \$500

Gopher Tortoise \$1,000 Fawn \$2,500 Peregrine Falcon \$5,000 Bald Eagle \$10,000

Please contact me about: Volunteering Education Programs

(Winter 2012)

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Writers, Photographers and Artists

Bob Beck, Sandy Beck, Cindy Baisden,
Brian Bryson, Teresa Colvin, Donna Hansell, Scott
Holstein, Loren Scott, Kim Scott, Pat Simmons,
Teresa Stevenson, Vanessa Walthall

Proofreaders

Louise Barker, Barbara Barnett, Bob Beck

Printing

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To place a business ad or to send letters to the editor, email: sandybeck@stfranciswildlife.org.

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"We need the tonic of wildness."
Henry David Thoreau

Wildlife Wish List

Please drop off items at our wildlife rehabilitation center (directions at stfranciswildlife.org) or at Northwood Animal Hospital, 1881 N. MLK Blvd., Tallahassee. Please include a note with your name so we can thank you!

Gift Certificates

Panhandle Pet Supply on N. Monroe, Native Nurseries, Wild Birds Unlimited, Target, and home improvement stores such as Stones, Lowes and Home Depot.

Animal Care

- Heating pads, without auto shut-off
- 10-gallon aquariums with tops
- Humane live traps
- Unfrayed baby blankets, T-shirts, sweatshirts, pillowcases, top sheets, towels—no buttons, zippers or elastic.
- Reptile heaters and full-spectrum lights.

Maintenance

- Carpenters to build and repair cages
- Lumber, plywood, nails, screws, tools
- Hardware cloth

Animal Food

- Raw, hard-shelled nuts such as walnuts, pecans
- Unsalted peanuts in shell
- Black oil sunflower seed
- Wild bird seed
- Keet seed
- Cat & dog food (dry, canned)

- Baby food: only fruit, vegetables, chicken (no beef or fillers like noodles)
- Yogurt, plain or fruit
- EXACT powder (baby bird formula)
- ESBILAC powder (puppy formula)
- Worms & crickets, live or dried
- Deer pellets
- Happy Horse pellets
- Waterfowl Maintenance pellets
- Waterfowl Starter Mash

Cleaning Supplies

- Paper towels
- Laundry detergent, liquid
- Bleach, unscented
- Heavy-duty 39-gallon trash bags
- Dawn dish soap
- Pine-sol
- Odoban
- Brooms
- Scotch-brite heavy duty scrub sponges

Medical Supplies

- Alcohol
- Calcium
- Cotton balls
- Cotton bandages
- CVMD dressing
- Hand sanitizer
- Insulin syringes – 1 cc or 30 units (29G, 30G)

- Laboratory equipment for fecal and skin scraping
- Sterile needles for injection – 27G, 25G (1/2 inch long, 3/4 inch long or more) from 1 cc to 100 cc
- Penlights
- Q-tips
- Sterile gauze
- Surgical gloves
- Surgical instruments
- Tegaderm
- Johnson and Johnson waterproof tape
- Tissue adhesive
- Vetwrap

Office Supplies

- Binders
- Dry-erase markers
- Plastic clipboards
- White printer paper
- Pens, pencils, Sharpies
- Scissors
- Cellophane tape
- Sticky notes

Big Wishes

- Redmon Precision Pet Scale is \$80 + shipping (www.redmonusa.com)
- Incubator
- Golf cart
- Generator
- Riding lawn mower
- Homeopathy kit ("30C Remedy Kit" is \$100 + shipping)
- Automobile GPS



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If you find sick, injured or orphaned wildlife



You Can

- Call us at **850.627.4151**
- Take it to our wildlife hospital, 4 miles NW of Havana, between 9 am and 5 pm – directions at www.stfranciswildlife.org
- Take it (day or night) to the Northwood Animal Hospital, 1881 N. Martin Luther King Blvd., Tallahassee (just north of the Post Office).

Important Information

- Transport wildlife in a warm, dark box with holes punched in the lid. Keep it quiet, and handle it as little as possible.
- NEVER give it food or water.
- NEVER handle raccoons, foxes, bats or any mammals (even babies) that could carry rabies. CALL US. Squirrels, opossums and rabbits are uncommon rabies vectors.
- 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, such as a towel tied to a tree limb.

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