



Wildlife Matters

Quarterly newsletter of the St. Francis Wildlife Association
Route 159 / P.O. Box 38160, Tallahassee, FL 32315 - (850) 386-6296
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 1977.

v.4, No. 3

Fall 2006

Meet Lisa Morgan, St. Francis Wildlife's new wildlife rehabilitator

By Sandy Beck

Rescuing and caring for 3,500 sick, injured and orphaned wild birds and animals each year is a rewarding but daunting task. Jon Johnson, our executive director and wildlife rehabilitator, has done it – with a skeleton staff and a handful of dedicated volunteers – since 1985.

This year, St. Francis Wildlife's board of directors voted to give Jon some help. They advertised on wildlife rehabilitation web sites and in professional journals. The search, which took several months, finally ended in August.

Living a dream: from a farm in Minnesota to Audubon Society of Portland's Wildlife Care Center

When Lisa Morgan was a little girl on her family's farm in Minnesota, her favorite game was to follow animal tracks in the snow with her dog. One day, they found an injured cottontail rabbit, her first "wildlife rehabilitation case." Over the years, many more injured animals found their way to the farm house.

When she was about 20, Lisa answered a newspaper ad for a volunteer position at the Carpenter Nature Center in Hastings, Minnesota. After spending nearly two years working with their raptors and other animals, she was hooked. For the first time, she realized that it was possible to live her dream – wildlife rehabilitation was an actual career!

When Lisa moved to Portland, Oregon, her love of birds and all things wild, led her to a volunteer then a staff position at the Audubon Society of Portland's Wildlife Care Center,

where she spent the next 10 years rehabilitating raptors, song birds, shore birds and mammals while she learned from the experts.

She also trained and supervised the volunteer staff, presented education programs with several species of owls (her favorite birds!) and monitored peregrine and bald eagle nest sites in metropolitan Oregon for Audubon and the Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife.

For nearly four years, she also worked as the lead veterinary technician at the Avian Medical Center in Oregon, helping to treat thousands of birds each year – from parrots to poultry and wildlife – and learning avian medicine and surgery from Dr. Marli Lintner, a highly respected avian veterinarian.

"Portland Audubon was definitely a pivotal time for me. The professionalism, cutting-edge techniques in wildlife rehabilitation and the supportive, family atmosphere really drew me in. The more I learned and practiced, the more it became clear to me that this was my purpose in life."

Deciding it was time to strike out on her own, Lisa wrote a resume and began to interview for wildlife rehabilitation positions throughout the country. When she visited Tallahassee and interviewed at St. Francis Wildlife, she made a decision and so did the board of directors.

"I felt St. Francis Wildlife offered the opportunities I was looking for. I see great potential here, and I am excited to be part of that growth."

Envisioning the future for wildlife rehabilitation in Tallahassee

Lisa Morgan sold her house, said "Goodbye" to friends and family in Portland, put her 17 year old cat Boochie and cockatoo Luca on the back seat of her Subaru, and six days later they arrived in their new home, Tallahassee.

"Portland and Tallahassee are very similar. This was another reason I was drawn here. They are both small cities with lots of beautiful trees. The forests in the Northwest are very much like rainforests. The mist sometimes hangs so low that you can barely see in front of you. It is very silent, so peaceful and beautiful."

"Florida has different wildlife. I'm having fun learning about Florida's wildlife and ecosystems."



Lisa Morgan and a permanently disabled great horned owl.
PHOTO: Sandy Beck

tems. I enjoy hiking, camping, bird watching and animal tracking – or 'dirt time' as they call it in Portland."

What direction would she like to see St. Francis Wildlife move in?

"I believe St. Francis Wildlife can be the leader in wildlife rehabilitation in the entire Southeast.

"With 36 beautiful acres, there is plenty of room to expand and build more large outside enclosures for wildlife to exercise in prior to release. I also envision more bank cages inside the wildlife hospital, a dark room for taking, developing and reading radiographs; and a small surgical suite.

"I would like to continue building our volunteer base to get more of the community involved in helping wildlife. I foresee having long-term volunteers doing basic rehab. Ideally, I would like to have one or two long-term volunteers on-site every day.

"And it would be wonderful if our entire staff could attend state and national wildlife rehabilitation conferences, so we can continue to learn and practice new and improved techniques."

"The best way for the community to help us reach these goals is to come out to St. Francis Wildlife and spend some time helping us help the animals or to send in a donation," said Lisa, whose energy and enthusiasm is contagious.

"I'm happy to be working with St. Francis Wildlife, and look forward to meeting a lot of new people in Tallahassee."

Inside this issue

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What is the St. Francis Wildlife e-Newsletter?

We send a monthly e-mail with updates on wildlife events, volunteer opportunities and wildlife news. We don't sell or exchange e-mail lists with other organizations. If you would like to be added to our list, please e-mail sandybeck@stfranciswildlife.org and write "Add to e-News" in the subject line.

Wildlife Matters now on-line at
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Special Thanks . . .

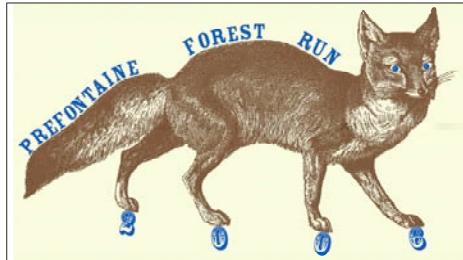
Veterinary Hospitals

- Bevis Veterinary Hospital
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- North Florida Animal Hospital
- Northhampton Animal Health
- Northwood Animal Hospital
- Quincy Animal Hospital
- Seminole Animal Health Clinic
- Shannon Lakes Paws & Claws
- **Rick Clevenger**, Clevenger Woodworks and **Tim O'Brien**, O'Brien/Silvestri Construction for our Wildlife Hospital.
- **Panhandle Pet Supply** for printing and selling gift certificates for St. Francis Wildlife.
- **The Tallahassee-Leon Community Animal Service Center** for lending us tables and chairs for events.
- **Modern Mailers** for their invaluable mailing services!
- **ElectroNet** for hosting our web site and e-mail.
- **Durra Quick Print** for printing services.
- Artists **Brian Bryson** and **Liz West** for creating and donating spectacular artwork for our T-shirts
- **Cornell Lab of Ornithology** for donating a subscription to their *Birds of North America Online*, a necessary resource for the serious birder! <http://bna.birds.cornell.edu/BNA/>
- **Heather Bevis** and her Women's Circle for collecting and delivering items on our Wish List (Pg 3).

Feed the animals!

Please visit Panhandle Pet Supply at 3661 N. Monroe, next to the Lake Jackson Post Office, or call them at 562-4100 and purchase a gift certificate for St. Francis Wildlife.

This is where we purchase many of our supplies. The good people at PPS give St. Francis Wildlife a deep discount, so your gift will go far! The store saves these certificates for us, and we use them when we shop.



Off the beaten path - a wild race for wildlife

The Gulf Winds Track Club Prefontaine Forest Run is a shining example of healthy competition and community support.

On Saturday, September 23, 329 runners – 176 open race runners and 153 high school cross-country runners – competed in one of our area's most challenging races, the Prefontaine 5K Forest Run.

The race, a tribute to legendary runner Steve Prefontaine, is held each year at Silver Lake Recreation Area in the Apalachicola National Forest.

Tallahassee's **Gulf Winds Track Club**, which sponsors the race, designates St. Francis Wildlife as the beneficiary for the race's proceeds and donations.

Thanks to outstanding participation, donations and sponsors, the total raised this year was \$1623.50!

Special thanks to race director **Jeff Nielsen** and sponsors: **Finnigan's Wake Irish Pub**; **Wavelengths Hair Salon**; **Andrew's Capital Grill & Bar**; **Hook, Line & Sinker** (graphic design for race logo, above) and **Homestead** (discount on T-shirts). Also, thanks to St. Francis Wildlife board member **Elenita Gomez** for working with the sponsors.

And, thank you, all you wild runners!

Volunteers build new cages for education birds

Can you swing a hammer? Saw some wood? Turn a screw? WE NEED YOU!

Our great volunteers worked four Saturdays to build nest boxes and new cages for red-tailed hawk Jamaica and great horned owl Bubo, two of our (very appreciative!) permanently disabled education birds.

Marc Kramer, Lively's carpentry teacher, designed the new cages and led the talented crew: **Rick Kiser, Shelley and Mike Yaun, Juan Ten, Kelli Chaviano, Dennis Baker, Hyatt and Monica Sudano, Dick Hayes and Wade McKenzie**.

The following locally-owned businesses donated lumber and hardware: **Romac Lumber & Supply**, **Capital City Lumber** and **Capital Cash & Carry**. Volunteers **Diane Pickett** and **Wade McKenzie** transported the lumber for us.

Many more outside cages need to be built or repaired at our wildlife refuge. If you'd like to spend some time in the woods and help with this project, please call Jon Johnson at 386-6296.



Hyatt Sudano and Dick Hayes



Bubo enjoys his new nest box.



Wade McKenzie and Marc Kramer



Volunteer coordinator Barbara Sullivan with Gypsy, an unreleasable American kestrel.

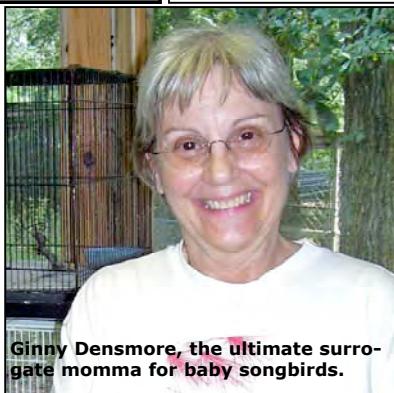


Commissioner Debbie Lightsey teaches children about a corn snake at our display at the Mission San Luis Blessing of the Animals event.



Executive Director Jon Johnson treats a barred owl for a concussion. The owl was hit by a car.

Meet some of our staff and volunteers!



Ginny Densmore, the ultimate surrogate momma for baby songbirds.



Animal care giver Whitney Griffen teaches volunteer Joelle Bryant about baby opossums.

We appreciate our wonderful volunteers!

"Thank you, all you wonderful "foster Moms" who took orphaned baby squirrels under your wings (tails?) this squirrel season [August - October]," says volunteer coordinator Barbara Sullivan.

"Your willingness to help and your dedication to the babies was incredible. Thanks to you hundreds of babies were saved and returned to the wild this year."

Other volunteer opportunities at St. Francis:

***Wildlife Hospital** – Clean cages, do laundry, feed animals and more! Volunteers must be at least 18 and have their own health insurance.

***Animal Rescue** – Transport wildlife to Northwood Veterinary Hospital or to our Rehabilitation Center.

***Events and Fundraising** – Outreach programs and special events, grant writing, deliver newsletters around town.

For more information or to sign up for a training session, log on to www.stfranciswildlife.org/volunteer.html, e-mail bbsullivan@comcast.net or call St. Francis Wildlife at **386-6296** and leave a message.

St. Francis Wildlife gratefully acknowledges thoughtful gifts in memory of

Helen Patricia "Patsy" Gilliam
From

Mrs. John W. Howell, Jr.
Lucy and Gus Tacot

Durward Abb Deloney
(father of Dr. Jerry Deloney)
From

Louis and Paula Songer



Wildlife Wish List

- Checks and cash!
- Gift certificate to Panhandle Pet Supply
- Heating pads
- Plastic dog carriers
- Large parrot cages
- Humane, live traps
- Esbilac puppy milk replacer
- KMR kitten milk replacer
- Paper towels
- Unsalted peanuts in the shell
- Sunflower seed
- Wild bird seed
- Cracked corn
- Laundry detergent
- Bleach, unscented

- Liquid anti-bacterial hand soap
- Carpenters to repair cages

Medical Supplies, such as:

- sterile gauze pads, - latex and latex-free gloves
- syringes

Big Items

- Vinyl Floor for Hospital
- Incubator
- Brooder
- Golf Cart
- ATV
- Utility Trailer

Make way for deer.

By Sandy Beck



Sam Thediek sent this photo with a note:
"Upon entering Bakers Place, off Bannerman Road one afternoon, I took this photo of a deer beginning to cross to the other side of the roadway."

Recently, while driving south on Thomasville in the Killearn Lakes area, I saw a white-tailed deer running alongside the southbound lane. Then five more bolted from a small patch of woods. My heart pounded as they all tried to cross the busy street. Luckily, a stream of observant drivers slowed down and stopped. They made it across unharmed, disappearing into a wooded area on the east side of Thomasville road. These deer were fortunate, but so were the drivers.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, over 1.5 million deer/vehicle crashes occur each year in the U.S., causing over \$1.1 billion in vehicle damage, more than 29,000 human injuries and 150 deaths.

A study commissioned by the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety found that neither ultrasonic whistle devices mounted on bumpers nor deer x-ing signs help. There is no proof deer can hear the sounds, and they probably can't read the signs either.

"I get more deer that have been hit by cars in Killearn Lakes than in all other parts of the city combined," said Jon Johnson, executive director of St. Francis Wildlife. "North Meridian Road and Buck Lake are the second most dangerous areas for deer."

What can we do to avoid hitting deer?

Drive more slowly, especially from dusk to dawn. And watch for them. If you see one deer cross the road in front of you, others are probably close behind. Stop and wait for the whole family to pass. Too frequently, a driver who sees a deer cross the road in front of him but doesn't slow down has deer No. 2 run right into the side of his car.

What you should do if you see an injured deer on the road

Judy Gillan was on her way home from work when she saw an injured deer on 27 North. She parked on the side of the road and called St. Francis Wildlife.

"What should I do?" she asked. Luckily, Jon Johnson was nearby and arrived in minutes.

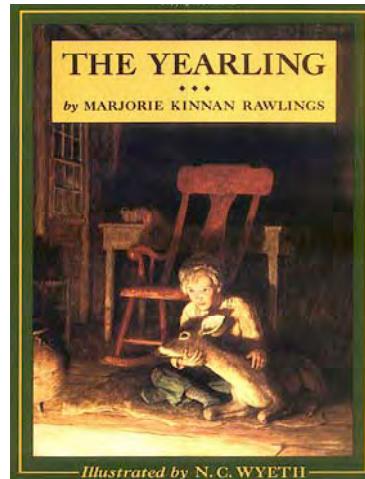
1. Don't assume the animal needs to be put out of its misery. Call St. Francis Wildlife, day or night, at 386-6296. St. Francis Wildlife rescues between 30 and 50 adult deer each year.

2. Take a moment to assess the situation. Don't put yourself in jeopardy. Don't try to move the deer off the road without help. Turn on your flashers and flag down another driver.

3. Drag it to the side of the road by holding onto the front of the body. Stay away from the legs. A powerful kick from a frightened deer can throw you into traffic or break your leg.

4. Don't sit down next to it to pet or calm it. It's not a dog. Handling a deer can literally scare it death. Even deer that have minor injuries may go into shock and die. Turn off your bright lights, go back into your car and wait.

When St. Francis Wildlife arrives, they will treat it for shock, then sedate and transport it to a veterinarian's office. Dr. Larry Helms at Quincy Animal Hospital cares for most of the deer that St. Francis Wildlife rescues.



St. Francis Wildlife rescues and raises between 12 and 20 orphaned fawns each year. In our wildlife hospital Bobbie Jo Jenkins feeds a fawn with an injured back leg.

PHOTO: Courtesy of the Tallahassee Democrat and photographer Mike Ewen.

As we continue to move to rural areas, this problem will likely only grow worse. But if drivers slow down and watch for deer, we can make our roads safer for both Bambi and ourselves.

Oh, deer, I found a fawn.

Early in life the wobbly-legged fawn protects itself from predators by hiding rather than fleeing. During this time the female limits contact with her fawn to avoid attracting predators.

So if you approach a fawn and it does not flee please leave it alone. You can be assured that its mother is not far away. Female deer never abandon their fawns unless they are forced to by repeated disturbance or harassment [or unless she is the victim of a car accident].

If you find a truly orphaned fawn, call St. Francis Wildlife. Please don't try to raise it yourself. Remember **The Yearling** . . . deer do not make good pets.

Excerpt printed from the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission web site.

Deer-friendly fences

Because deer are browsers, they may occasionally damage landscaping. Proper fencing may be an effective remedy, but please choose a design that will not injure deer.

One of the most heart-wrenching rescue calls Jon Johnson ever responded to was for an adult white-tailed deer impaled on a spike of an ornamental iron fence.

"If you buy an iron fence, please make sure it has the balls on top, not the spikes," Jon says.

In memory of two unusual birds

By Sandy Beck

We are saddened by the loss of two of our long-time residents this year. Both Sierra, an American kestrel, and Red, an eastern screech owl, died of heart failure at ripe, old ages. Sierra was at least 15, and Red was 14.

Both birds came to St. Francis Wildlife in 1992. Sierra was the victim of an illegal gunshot. Red was a tiny baby when she fell from her nest. Because each had a permanently disabled wing, they became part of our Wild Classroom education program.

Over the years, the little wildlife ambassadors taught thousands of children and adults, in classrooms and at special events, about wildlife, the problems they face and what we can all do to help.

The wildlife care books tell us that kestrels and screech owls should not be housed together; however, Sierra and Red lived together peacefully in an eight by twelve foot outdoor enclosure for 14 years, often choosing to share the same perch.

Many lives are richer for having known them – these two unusual buddies who found comfort in each other. Both will be greatly missed.



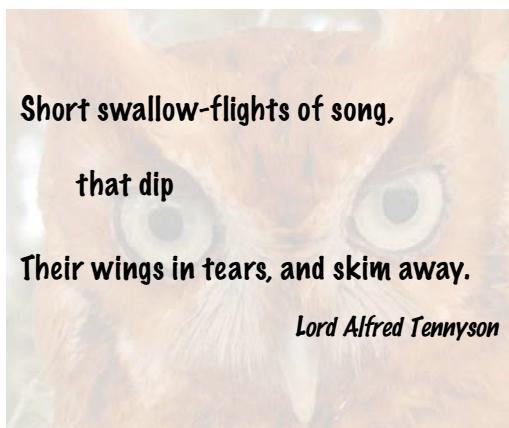
Life spans of birds

The USGS Bird Banding Lab web site states that each year 1.2 million birds are banded and 85,000 are recovered.

These are just a few of the birds from the USGS North American Banding records: Oldest band returns by species in years-months.

American Kestrel 14-08
Eastern Screech-Owl 13-06
Bald Eagle 29-07
Red-tailed Hawk 28-10
Red-shouldered Hawk 19-11
Great Horned Owl 27-07
Peregrine Falcon 19-03
Barred Owl 18-02
Barn Owl 15-05
Northern Cardinal 15-09
Brown Pelican 27-10
Mourning Dove 31-04
Ruby-throated Hummingbird 9-01
Pileated Woodpecker 12-11
American Crow 14-07
Blue Jay 17-06
American Goldfinch 10-05

<http://www.pwrc.usgs.gov/BBL/homepage/longlst.htm>



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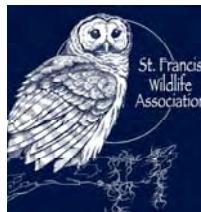
PHOTO: Courtesy of the Tallahassee Democrat and photographer Mike Ewen

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Sandy Beck, Education Director
sbeck@wildclassroom.net

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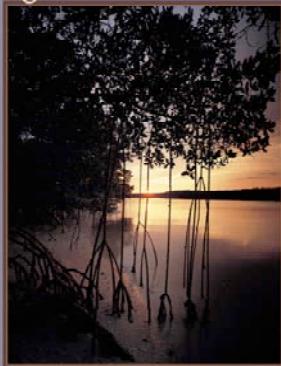
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State Lands, Parks, and Natural Areas

James Valentine and D. Bruce Means

Meet the author/photographer

James Valentine will join us at several of our fall events (See Calendar on Page 8) where he will sign his new book and donate a portion of each sale to St. Francis Wildlife.

Make your next party a wild party!



Looking for a unique theme for your birthday, anniversary, office or holiday party? In lieu of gifts, ask each guest to make a tax-deductible donation to St. Francis Wildlife and help local sick, injured and orphaned wildlife.

We will bring birds of prey and present an engaging wildlife program.

For a children's party, we will also provide exciting hands-on, make-and-take wildlife art or science activities.

For more information, log onto www.stfranciswildlife.org/wildparty.html or contact Sandy Beck at 850.528.0823 or sandybeck@stfranciswildlife.org.

Cars for Critters

We will turn your tax-deductible gift of unneeded cars, trucks, trailers, boats or canoes into funds that help with the care and rehabilitation of sick, injured and orphaned wild birds and animals. For more information, please call Executive Director, Jon Johnson at 850.386.6296.

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PHOTOS: Below, baby gray squirrel by Barbara Sullivan; right, baby screech owl by Sandy Beck



We enjoy a uniquely rich quality of life in north Florida and south Georgia, with an abundance of natural areas, parks and lakes. Our neighborhoods are home to a wealth of native wildlife that enrich our lives.

But because shrinking natural habitats push wildlife ever closer to us, our vehicles and our pets, last year St. Francis Wildlife rescued and cared for twice as many wild patients as 10 years ago. It is only through your donations of time and money that we are able to keep up with the cost of special foods, medical attention and housing for thousands of sick, injured and orphaned wild birds and animals each year.

To provide the care that our precious patients require, there are several improvements that we would like to make in our 3,600 square foot hospital building – x-ray equipment, an incubator, new drugs and medical supplies and a surgical unit.

We also envision an education structure with habitats for our permanently disabled education birds and animals that will enable us to invite school children, scouting groups and members to learn about these amazing animals and our important work up-close.

Perhaps your club or organization would like to make a charitable donation to St. Francis Wildlife? We have a short video (also DVD format) about our work, narrated by Velma Frye, that we would be happy to lend you for a presentation at one of your meetings.

Are you updating your will or thinking about an estate plan? A deferred donation to St. Francis Wildlife will ensure that your legacy will live on in the abundance of song birds, deer, river otters, shore birds, owls and the other wildlife we are so fortunate to enjoy.

Or do you have a unique fundraising idea? Please e-mail us at sandybeck@stfranciswildlife.org or give us a call at 850.386.6296. Their wild lives are in your hands.



One more great reason to adopt a wild thing for the holidays: Gypsy, our newest education bird

Get your holiday shopping done early and help St. Francis Wildlife at the same time — take one of St. Francis Wildlife's wild things under your wing! As a sponsor of one of our permanently disabled educational animals, you will receive an official adoption packet that includes a color photo of your chosen animal, an adoption certificate, a personal history of the animal, general information on the species, and information on how you can help wildlife. Your "adoption" will be acknowledged in the next issue of *Wildlife Matters*, and you will have the satisfaction of knowing that you are helping native wildlife.

If you would like to send an adoption package as a gift, we can do that for you too.

Please log onto our web site for photos of adoption candidates and an application:
www.stfranciswildlife.org/adoption.html

PHOTO: Gypsy, an American kestrel, by Gregg Gleason



Please renew your membership today!

Benefits of an Annual St. Francis Wildlife Membership

- *Wildlife Matters* Newsletter.
- The satisfaction of helping wild animals unable to care for themselves.
- The **WILD CARD** – New and renewing members at the \$50 level or higher receive the St. Francis Wildlife **WILD CARD**. Present it at many of our Community Conservation Partner businesses. See list on Page 6 or at www.stfranciswildlife.org for discounts and special offers.

Membership Form

(Fall 2006)

Name _____ E-mail address _____

Address _____ City _____

State _____ Zip _____ Date _____ Phone _____

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

Membership Levels: Chickadee, \$25 Cardinal, \$35 Barred Owl, \$50 Great Blue Heron, \$75

Great Horned Owl, \$100 Peregrine Falcon, \$150 Bald Eagle, \$200

Please contact me about: Volunteering. Community Conservation Partnerships. Education Programs.

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Events Calendar

Please join us at these community events. Meet birds of prey and reptiles up close. St. Francis Wildlife T-shirts, note cards and unique wildlife art. On-line calendar: www.stfranciswildlife.org.

• **Saturday, October 28**
5th Annual OWL-O-WEEN Party, 8 a.m. - 2 p.m. The Downtown Marketplace, Ponce de Leon Park, Park Ave. & N. Monroe St. Live Owls, Owl Art, Owl Face Painting and Make-and-Take Owl Arts and Crafts Activities for the kids! Fine art lithographs of a barred owl by acclaimed photographer James Valentine for a donation to St. Francis Wildlife. Valentine will be there to sign the lithographs and copies of his new book, *Florida, Magnificent Wilderness* (Details on Page 6).

• **Sunday, October 29**
Birdsong Nature Center Annual Open House, 1 p.m. - 5 p.m. Meridian Rd., 4 miles north of state line. Music, food, crafts, hayrides, birding, our animals and more! Contact: 229.377.8723.

• **Saturday, November 11**
Downtown Marketplace, 8 a.m. - 2 p.m. Ponce de Leon Park, Park Ave. & N. Monroe St. Meet our awesome birds of prey. St. Francis Wildlife t-shirts, unique nature art and photographer/author James Valentine (see Pg. 6).

• **Saturday, November 11**
Killearn Lakes Homeowners Assoc. Picnic, 3 p.m. St. Francis Wildlife education director Sandy Beck will present some of the spectacular birds of prey with whom residents of Killearn Lakes are fortunate to share their back-yards. Contact: 668.3231.

• **Sat, Nov. 18 & Sun, Nov. 19**
11th Annual Plantation Wildlife Arts

Festival, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Thomasville Cultural Center, Thomasville, GA. Explore room after room of sculpture, painting, photography, carving, and jewelry.

Meet and learn about our Wild Classroom's Birds of Prey; hands-on science activity for children. <http://www.pwaf.org>.

• **Saturday, December 9**
THE 9th Annual 'JUST ONE MORE' Invitational Arts Festival, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Celebration of the arts, live music and great food. Chain of Parks between Adams and Calhoun Streets on both sides of Monroe Street. Look for us with James Valentine (Pg. 6)

• **Saturday, January 20**
Annual Wildlife Greeting, 10 a.m. - noon
Native Nurseries, 1661 Centerville Rd. 1/18 - 1/24, save on quality birdseed - a portion of each sale benefits the Tallahassee Museum. Sat., 1/20, bring your children for a close-up encounter with hawks, owls and a vulture from St. Francis Wildlife and the Tallahassee Museum and Native Nurseries resident red rat snake Checkers. Children make pinecone/suet feeders. Hot cider. More information, 386-8882.



Show your love for your honey and wildlife too!

Thursday, February 1
5 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Ten Thousand Villages, will donate 20% of your Valentine's Day purchases to St. Francis Wildlife!

Meet our hawks and owls and enjoy complimentary shade-grown coffee and desserts as you shop.

Located in Market Square
1415 Timberlane Rd. 906-9010

If you find sick, injured or orphaned wildlife

- **Call us at 850.386.6296**, 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, please visit our web site:
www.stfranciswildlife.org