

The incredible journey

By Sandy Beck Photos by Teresa Stevenson

“ . . . day or night, spring or fall . . . the continents are swarming with billions of traveling birds. That such delicate creatures undertake these epic journeys defies belief.” *Living on the Wind*, Scott Weidensaul

Human snowbirds head to Florida to dodge winter’s teeth-chattering cold. Many bird species also migrate to warmer areas. But migration is not about temperature — birds have down jackets; it’s about finding food.

Ducks leave frozen marshes and ponds. Insect-eating songbirds leave the snow for warmer areas. Songbird and insect-loving predators, like American Kestrels and Sharp-shinned Hawks, follow the songbirds.

Birds in the northern hemisphere move south, and their compadres in the southern hemisphere head north. Every year, youngsters make these amazing journeys for the very first time, without a map or GPS. Scientists have many theories about how they do it, but, really, it’s still a great mystery.

Last fall, many migrants, including a Horned Grebe and a Sharp-shinned Hawk, made an unexpected stop at a little B&B called St. Francis Wildlife.

A grebe in need

The Horned Grebe is a small, duck-like bird that breeds mostly in Canada and Alaska. Many head to the Gulf Coast in the fall.

Horned Grebes appear to do what other northern vacationers do while at beach resorts: They dine on fish and crustaceans. Guys show off (mating displays), and eventually hook up with one female (pair-bond). Then, come spring, if the honeymoon is successful, together they fly back to their northern breeding grounds, find a little inland marsh or pond and build a cozy nest.

In addition to the usual problems that other migrating birds face, grebes (and loons, too) have a special challenge. They are superb swimmers and divers, but with lobed toes on feet positioned far back on their bodies, it’s near impossible for them to walk on land. To take flight, the grebe must run across the surface of water.

Grebes often migrate at night. When it gets close to dawn, they look for a body of



Recovered Horned Grebe swims away at Panacea, Florida. Photo by Teresa Stevenson

water. From high above, a dark, wet road probably looks a lot like a river.

“During the day, sunlight sparkling on the paved road can also look like water, but when they land, they’re stuck,” said Teresa Stevenson, St. Francis Wildlife’s director.

January 3, we rescued a very thin Horned Grebe sitting on rain-slicked Crawfordville Highway, with scraped, bloody feet.

Continued: “Incredible journey,” Pg. 6



March Match!

Double your donation dollars, the entire month of March!

Before we know it, “Wild Baby Season” will be here, and, like every spring and summer for the last 38 years, our hospital will be filled — stretching our resources to the limit, and beyond.

Fortunately, a generous donor — a wildlife saint who wishes to remain anonymous, has just stepped forward with a challenge for the

entire community: For one month only, from March 1st to March 31st, this wildlife saint will match every donation, up to \$10,000.

The March-Match, means your \$50 donation will be \$100. Your \$500 becomes \$1,000! Your donation could help us raise two orphaned baby Barred Owls (photo on left) instead of one!

We could potentially raise \$20,000 to help run our wildlife hospital this spring! And it’s easy: Just mail your check with the donation form on Page 7, or make an online donation with PayPal at www.stfranciswildlife.org.

Your wildest friends thank you!



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- **Northampton Veterinary Clinic**
- **Northwood Animal Hospital**



Dr. Mitch Potter, Allied Veterinary Emergency Hospital, with hawk.

Thank you from the bottom of our wild hearts for these donations.

Because of space constraints we list donations of \$100 or more; however, please know that we appreciate every single donation.

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- **COSTCO** for donating the fresh produce that we have fed our animals for the last five years!
- **DQP** for discounted printing services.
- **Mark and Laurie Forare**, our great neighbors who help with grounds care and also maintain our road with their tractor.
- **Valerie's Animal & Nature Foundation, Inc.** for their very generous donation.
- **Alternative Christmas Market at John Wesley Church** for inviting us to participate.
- **Alternative Christmas Market at Christ Presbyterian Church** for inviting us to participate.
- **Walmart in Quincy** for donating dog and cat food.
- **Gulf Winds Track Club**, for donating proceeds from their Prefontaine 5K Forest Run.
- **Pete Winter, Winterstone Productions**, for formatting our videos and compiling all our wildlife photography into a slide show.
- **Apple Lane Foundation** for their generous grant.
- **Donna L. Antolchick**, "The Fix-it Chick," for donating and installing kitchen cabinets in our wildlife hospital.
- **City of Tallahassee Commissioners and Mayor Gillum**, for voting to reinstate funding for our services.
- **Leon County Board of Commissioners** for continuing funding our services.
- **Duke Energy** for their generous grant (Page 7).

Two young wildlife lovers, Emily and Audrey, attended our "Behind the Scenes of a Wildlife Hospital" visit and presented a check to Director, Teresa Stevenson for money they had saved up to help the animals. "Behind the Scenes" visits are the first Saturday of every month, 12 - 1 pm. We just ask that you call us at least one day in advance so we know how many to expect.



2nd Annual St. Francis WildlifeFest

May 28th, 9:00 am - 2:00 pm

Wild Activity Area for Families!

- Magnificent Birds of Prey
- What does an owl eat? Hands-on Science!
- Gulf Specimen Marine Lab's SeaMobile Touch Tank
- Turtles, Snakes, & Frogs
- Demo Bee Hive & Honey Sampling
- Gopher Tortoise & her Neighbors
- Bird Watching for Beginners
- All About Bears — Become a Bear!
- Children's Wildlife Art Contest
- Face Painting

Scheduled Programs and Tours

- Hawks, Owls & Falcons Program
- Florida Reptiles & Amphibians Program
- Edible Plants & Wildflower Tour
- Historic White Dog Plantation Tour

And more!

- Live Music & Dancing
- Silent Auction of Wildlife & Nature Art
- Picnic Under the Oaks (bring your blankets or chairs & lunch)
- Cold Drinks and Snacks
- T-shirts, Children's Books & Unique Wildlife Jewelry for Sale

(Cash or check.)



White Dog Plantation

200 Coca Cola Ave., Havana, FL —
SR-12/Havana Hwy.
(formerly Nicholson Farmhouse),
www.whitedog.co

Admission

1 adult - \$15

2 adults - \$25

School-aged children w/adult - \$5

5 & under w/adult - free

Early-bird prize for first 50 people/families!

ALL proceeds benefit St. Francis Wildlife.

(Cash or checks only.)

Icy winter rescue

By Emily Shaw

Photos by Brandon Brann

We received a call about a Pied-Billed Grebe entangled in a fishing net that had snagged on an underwater tree branch at AJ Henry Park. The poor thing could only thrash around in the water as it desperately tried to free itself.

Fortunately, that January day was warmer than usual, but the water was frigid. I was thankful the bird was not far from shore.

As I stepped into the water, I thought this would be a piece of cake. But when I got in up to my hips, the icy water took my breath away — literally.

As I slowly waded out to the poor grebe, it tried desperately to free itself. I was able to grab him and cut the line underwater.

I carried the bird back to shore while it bit me repeatedly. The cold was a welcome distraction at that point!

Once back on shore, the bird and I were both shivering violently, albeit for different reasons.

I inspected the grebe and cut the rest of the netting off its leg. Fortunately, the netting was loose enough that it hadn't cut into the skin or impeded circulation.

The grebe was understandably exhausted. I warmed it up and dried it off. It had great reflexes, excellent limb response and no major injuries, despite the whole ordeal. So I could release him!

When the bird stopped shaking and calmed down, about 20 minutes later, I gently slipped him into the water, and immediately he swam away.

The next time you go fishing, if your line or tackle gets snagged, please do your best to cut or retrieve it and dispose of it properly. You could save a wild animal's life.

Emily Shaw, a Deputy Sheriff with the Leon County Sheriff's Office, is a treasured St. Francis Wildlife volunteer in her spare time.



Volunteers and silent auction items needed for WildlifeFest

Please join us as a volunteer for a day of fun under the oaks at our annual event on May 28 at beautiful White Dog Plantation.

Volunteers are needed for food and drink service, the silent auction, children's activity area, ticket sales, set-up and clean-up, sales, and more. If you are at least 18 and interested in volunteering, please **contact Barbara Barnett** at (850) 524-3046 or barb.barnett@comcast.net.

We would appreciate the following items for the WildlifeFest silent auction:

- Items of value with a nature or wildlife theme, including artwork, photography, bird houses, bird baths and feeders, yard art, clothing and jewelry.
- Gift cards for restaurants, spas, or other local services and gift certificates for accommodations and local or Florida attractions.
- Hiking, backpacking, birding, paddling or other nature activity products.
- Gift baskets of any theme.
- Products from any of our local wildlife and nature related stores.

All donations are tax-deductible, and every dollar will help St. Francis Wildlife care for approximately 3,000 injured, orphaned and sick wild animals every year.

Please **contact Kelly Craft** at (561) 385-8422 regarding silent auction donations.

Victoria vulture's victorious return!

By Darcy Abbott, Photos by Marty Dix



Victoria the Turkey Vulture specializes in waste management. She is assigned to work on the W.W. Kelley Road work crew.

Recently, Victoria (I named her) suffered a head injury while doing her job to keep our road free of animals that have met an unfortunate end with a motor vehicle. I don't know exactly how this happened, but I suspect that someone did not "move over" with their vehicle while she was doing her job of cleaning up the roadway.

As we drove up to her, she stood in the middle of the road and did not move. Her head



was hanging low, and a concerned family had stopped to watch her.

My husband Marty blocked the roadway with his car so that I could safely walk into the road with a beach towel which I dropped over her as I picked her up. She was so weak and disoriented that I wrapped her in the towel like a baby and held her in my arms.

I thanked the family for stopping to check on her and explained that Victoria was an important member of our community so we needed to get her on the road to recovery through the help of St. Francis Wildlife.

We drove her to Northwood Animal

Hospital where she was picked up and cared for by the fabulous St. Francis team.

I am happy to report that Victoria made a speedy recovery and was approved to return to work. Sandy Beck (St. Francis Wildlife's education director), Marty and I were able to return Victoria to exactly where we found her. When we opened the travel box and released her she made a big victory lap overhead with her graceful, outstretched wings, caught a thermal, and flew high into the deep blue sky.

Oil companies raise a stink for vultures

The Turkey Vulture is one of the few birds with a developed sense of smell, which it uses to locate carrion.

Ethyl mercaptan is a natural substance released from decaying matter.

Oil companies sometimes use Turkey Vultures to find gas leaks. Natural gas has no odor, but when the vile-smelling ethyl mercaptan is added to natural gas, engineers have been able to find pipeline leaks by looking for turkey vultures circling above the gas lines. Turkey Vultures can reportedly detect this chemical from up to 40 miles away.

Watermelon bandit

By Pat Simmons, Photo by J.W. Callis

One afternoon we received a call about a "sick" raccoon that was "harassing" a family. Any call to St. Francis Wildlife about a possibly sick or weird acting rabies vector species (RVS) with no exposure to a person or pet, is addressed as quickly as possible. Exposure calls are handled by county animal control.

When I arrived at the home, a young man showed me to an area about 50 feet from the back of the house where an adult male raccoon sat on his haunches with his head and entire upper body immersed inside a half-cut watermelon. He looked up at us while smacking his lips, juice dripping from his face and chest. I instantly regretted leaving my camera in the car — the scene gushed viral video. The raccoon then stood up and appeared to be considering how to carry the watermelon up a nearby tree.

"How long have you been feeding this big guy?" I asked the boy.

"Oh," he replied, "A few weeks."

"And," I asked, "how is he harassing you?"

"My mom says it is trying to get in the sliding glass door, so it must be rabid."



The animal, which was not exhibiting any classic rabies symptoms, dug out a hunk of melon and headed up a 90-foot pine.

"Seems to me this fella has figured out where the food is coming from," I said. "Raccoons are smart and brazen, meaning they think of themselves as large and in charge. So he decided to cut out the middle man and head directly for the kitchen."

The boy agreed and called his mom to explain the situation while the raccoon sat on a limb and finished off his meal.

Mom and I then discussed the perils and illegality of feeding raccoons. My suggestion, as a volunteer wildlife rescuer, was for the

family to ignore their demands for food.

We spend a lot of time talking with callers about how to coexist with wild animals. We need to find ways to appreciate them without creating potentially dangerous situations. Raccoons, in particular, can be pugnacious and ready for a rumble, so all interactions with them need to be avoided.

A week later, I checked back with the caller. All outdoor food had been removed, back door lights were being left on overnight and drapes were closed at sunset. No raccoons had been seen and none were knocking on the sliding glass door demanding a trip to the refrigerator.

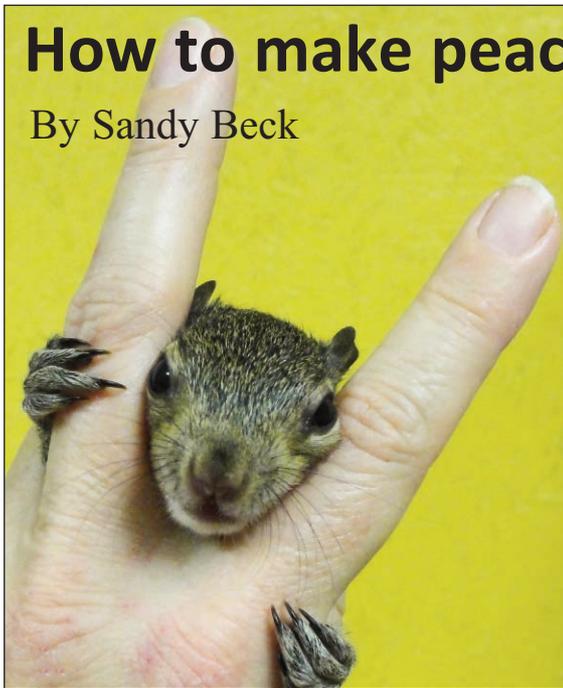
Your raccoon neighbors a nuisance?

Remove all attractants. Stop dumpster diving (photo), by securing garbage can lids with bungee cords. Feed pets indoors. Purchase a special raccoon baffle for your pole-mounted bird feeder, or make your own by wrapping a two-foot wide piece of sheet metal into a "sleeve" or a "skirt" around the pole. For extra insurance (and your own amusement), spray the pole with vegetable oil.

Wrap chicken coops and block entrances into and beneath houses with 1/4-inch steel hardware cloth.

How to make peace with squirrels

By Sandy Beck



Photos, clockwise from top left:

Baby squirrel (hand selfie!). Photo by Teresa Stevenson.

Squirrels gnaw on wood or nutshells to trim their continuously growing incisors. When they sank their teeth into her cedar house, the author found a solution. Photo by Sandy Beck.

Volunteer Steven Wright gives baby squirrels slices of deer antler to keep their incisors trimmed and for extra calcium for their growing bones. Inset shows a close-up of the squirmy white squirrel in his hands. Photo by Teresa Stevenson.

Volunteer Mike Thomas (left) and part-time maintenance and repair wizard Charlie Baisden finish "Squirrel Haven," a half-way house where grown orphaned squirrels spend time acclimating to the great outdoors before they are set free. Sincere thanks to the Havana Garden Club for helping to finance this project. Photo by Teresa Stevenson.



Almost 30 years ago, my husband and I found our little dream house. Cedar with high ceilings and lots of windows, nestled within mature trees. Over the years, we've enjoyed the wildlife with which we share our property—birds, deer, foxes, bunnies, opossums, turtles, snakes, and even a river otter has passed through.

As it turned out, however, when we bought this house there was one little problem that didn't show up in the title search. It hadn't actually belonged to the nice couple that took our bank's check. It belonged to a band of wicked squirrels.

Here in Tallahassee, many of our houses have been built on squirrel property. You see, every wooded lot supports a certain number of grey squirrels. Flying squirrels, too — but being secretive and nocturnal, they're not as visible.

People come along, knock down a few of their trees, cut them up, and reassemble them as a house. That may be how the squirrels see it.

During the summer, mama squirrel looks for a suitable spot to nest. If, in one of our



tidy-up frenzies, we also chop down dead trees, eliminating the tree cavities where she and many other woodland species would prefer to nest, another suitable spot might be the attic of one of those reassembled trees.

A determined squirrel can gnaw through almost any type of wood. Cedar shingles and trim? No problem. Gnaw, gnaw, gnaw.

A tall ladder, a few squirrels of "Habanero Hot Sauce" on the chewed cedar wood, then gnaw . . . scurry, scurry, and probably some choice rodent cuss words. Yes! We'd established our "big tree" as off limits to the squirrel neighbors. Until the next rain shower washed away the hot sauce. Time for plan B.

Every year, we raise hundreds of orphaned and injured baby squirrels at St. Francis Wildlife. Squirrels have a single pair of chisel-like incisors in each jaw that grow continuously. These incisors must be worn down by gnawing hard nutshells, tree bark, or cedar homes. To keep their incisors trimmed and for the extra calcium they need, we provide squirrel babies with slices of deer antler and bones.

In fact, I've noticed that when vultures are finished scavenging a roadside carcass, nothing goes to waste. A variety of animals come to dine on the leftovers. Chickadees and crows pick at fat (think bird suet); mice, squirrels and rabbits nibble at the bones. Hmm, perhaps our naughty neighbors would relish some antler?

I used a bungee cord to secure a deer skull with attached antlers to the deck rail beneath their favorite gnawing spot. It took a couple of weeks, but one wary squirrel then another tasted the antlers. Now, the little guys are queued up, and we haven't heard a single nibble on the house. Eureka.

When they finish off these antlers, if we haven't found any more in the woods, I've learned that local pet stores sell them as natural chews for dogs and hamsters. And, of course, bones are readily available in the supermarket.

So, that's how we finally made our peace. Now we can relax and admire these bushy-tailed charmers as they lounge around the deer skull, dash through the trees, and acrobatically leap from limb to limb. As long as we have a good supply of bones and antlers.



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The Sharp-shinned Hawk is North America's smallest hawk. Adults are blue-gray above with red eyes; immature birds are brown above with yellow eyes. This young female was hit by a car on her first winter migration.

Photo by Teresa Stevenson.

Incredible Journey

Continued from Page 1

The Grebe spent four days at St. Francis Wildlife, sucking down shrimp and crickets, while his feet healed.

January 7, Teresa drove him to Panacea.

"I walked to the water's edge, set him free, and held my breath. I was worried. Any time you release an animal, you wonder — is this the right place to release it? Will it be OK?"

"It swam through the little canal and started to dive right away — it preened and dove, preened and dove. A few minutes later, two other Horned Grebes joined it.

"And I breathed."

Young hawk's first migration

A Sharp-shinned Hawk felt safe on her concealed canopy perch in a dense New England forest. Since she fledged (left the nest and began to fly) two months earlier, she had been practicing her hunting skills.

Short wings and a long tail deftly maneuvered her tiny, Blue Jay-sized body

through deep woods, zipping through a tangle of trunks and branches. Long legs and toes plunged into thick vegetation where her curved, needle-sharp talons learn to snag songbirds and mice.

Something drove her to hunt and eat, hunt and eat — storing up an extra layer of fat. For early one September morning, after the first cold front passed, an ancient memory lifted the Sharpshin from her safe forest to begin her first migration to Florida.

She set off on this arduous journey of 1,000 miles with a full tank, but she still needed clean water, good food, and safe places to rest all along the way. Every day, every mile is an unknown challenge.

Migratory hawks, especially youngsters without street smarts, are often hit by cars. December 1, 2015, a female Sharp-shinned Hawk collided with a car near Tallahassee.

The man who found the bird drove her to Northwood Animal Hospital (one of three Tallahassee veterinary hospitals that accepts wildlife for St. Francis Wildlife).

Her left wing was fractured, and she had several other wounds. But, if set properly and soon, birds' hollow bones can heal quickly.

December 23, St. Francis Wildlife staff removed her bandages and moved her to a large outdoor flight cage for reconditioning.

January 10, after she passed our "flight test," we returned her to the "scene of the crime," and set her free. She bolted for the trees and instantly disappeared.

Bon voyage, little girl.

Yes, migration is risky business. Physical stress, unreliable food supplies, bad weather, and natural predators are certainties. When you add our pets, cars, buildings, roads, and constantly changing landscapes to the mix, it's incredible that so many birds continue to make this round trip, year after year after year.

Survival depends on luck, instincts, and sometimes — like the Horned Grebe and Sharp-shinned Hawk — a little help from your friends.



This gopher tortoise was hit by a car. While her carapace (top shell) heals, she enjoys fresh fruits and vegetables donated weekly by COSTCO.

The gopher tortoise is listed as a threatened species in Florida. Its numbers have plummeted due to habitat loss and road accidents. Photo by Sandy Beck

We cared for 1,339 wild birds, mammals and reptiles between July 1 and December 30, 2015

Most Common Problems

1. Orphaned (441)
2. Domestic cat attack (147)
3. Collision with motor vehicle (92)
4. Dog attack (80)
5. Nest or habitat destruction caused by human activity (61)

Nocturnal Raptors—Owls

19 Barred Owls, 2 Eastern Screech Owls, 6 Great Horned Owls

Diurnal Raptors

6 Black Vultures, 2 Broad-winged Hawks, 3 Cooper's Hawks, 9 Mississippi Kites, 2 Osprey, 11 Red-shouldered Hawks, 5 Red-tailed Hawks, 1 Sharp-shinned Hawk

Examples of Songbirds and Woodpeckers

17 Blue Jays, 5 Brown Thrashers, 40 Carolina Wrens, 3 Hermit Thrushes, 5 Wood Thrushes, 12 House Finches, 1 Indigo Bunting, 9 Ruby-throated Hummingbirds, 7 Chimney Swifts, 6 Eastern Bluebirds, 35 Northern Cardinals, 17 Northern Mockingbirds, 2 Pileated Woodpeckers, 2 Red-headed Woodpeckers, 2 Yellow-throated Warblers

Examples of Shore Birds

2 American Coots, 20 Black-bellied Whistling Ducks, 1 Double-crested Cormorant, 3 Great Blue Herons, 3 Great Egrets, 1 Herring Gull, 4 Pied-billed Grebes, 1 Tricolored Heron, 2 Wood Ducks, 2 Wood Storks, 1 Yellow-crowned Night Heron

Examples of Mammals

1 Bobcat, 1 Coyote, 48 Cottontail Rabbits, 576 Grey Squirrels, 1 Fox Squirrel, 22 Grey Foxes, 4 Little Brown Bats, 2 Red Foxes, 23 Southern Flying Squirrels, 3 Seminole Bats, 27 White-tailed Deer, 61 Opossums

Examples of Reptiles

16 Box Turtles, 2 Florida Cooters, 4 Gopher Tortoises, 4 Grey Rat Snakes, 11 Yellow-bellied Sliders

THE WILD CLASSROOM
Wildlife ambassadors from St. Francis Wildlife are the stars of our acclaimed education programs for schools, club meetings and special events.

Our non-releasable birds of prey and reptiles help explain their unique adaptations, the challenges they face, and how we can help them.

What we understand, appreciate and love, we will protect.

stfranciswildlife.org/education.html
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So many ways to give a hoot



Why should we give?

By Pat Simmons

You may feel we are constantly hitting you up for money; and believe me, it does feel like we spend way too much time in knee pads begging for support when we could be cutting a trapped deer out of a wire fence or feeding dozens of orphaned baby birds. But such is the nature of a non-profit.

When we donate to a local charity, it makes us feel good. But, I think it is far more. Donors understand that they are also paying for an important community service.

SFW rescues thousands of wild critters every year, the majority of which receive expert medical care, good food, and reconditioning before being returned to their homes. Without our dedicated staff and wildlife hospital and the donors who make it possible, our town would be a poorer and sadder place.

According to a recent *Tallahassee Democrat* blog by Alyce Lee, many donors feel suspicious about how agencies spend their money. Because of the recent mishandling of the Florida State Employees Charitable Campaign — a clear example of gracious giving gone terribly wrong — many will look for other ways to give. Repeat donors to SFW have remained steadfast, which is greatly appreciated. To avoid any doubt, a breakdown of how we spend our funds is available on request.

SFW continues to make contributing a breeze with Pay Pal (on our web site), the quarterly newsletter donation form (below), and

donation jars at events and some local businesses, e.g., Native Nurseries, Trail & Ski.

In 2015, we entered the world of venture philanthropy to help create a bedrock of substantiality. Our “Be a Saint” program is a type of venture philanthropy where donors can give a larger than average amount and, in return, SFW will dedicate an area of our hospital or grounds to the donor.

The Charitable IRA Roll-over is now a permanent part of the tax code. This allows eligible donors to exclude a charitable transfer of IRA assets from their taxable income without an IRS penalty. Taking advantage of the IRA rollover or including SFW in your will are two examples of a sustaining donation.

I encourage you to enjoy the rest of this newsletter, and then head to our fabulous website where you can create a recurring PayPal donation to SFW.

Without you, St. Francis Wildlife could not provide our community with the unique service of helping wildlife and educating the public about how to live with them.

Without you, we would not exist. So, thank you.



Help injured, orphaned and sick wildlife at St. Francis Wildlife while you get help with your taxes.

Just print the referral form at: stfranciswildlife.org/H&R.Block_2016_Referral.pdf. Then give it to the **H&R Block** office that prepares your taxes. If you are a new client, they will donate \$20 to St. Francis Wildlife. Offer good across the country. Please share with your friends! Thank you!



Community Thrift Market, 1124 North Monroe Street (across from Bruegger’s Bagels), will **donate a portion of its sales to St. Francis Wildlife during the entire month of March!** They will also collect items on our Wish List (page

8) for us. So please visit the Community Thrift Market during March, and check out their unique inventory. **Thank you**, wonderful and caring women at the way cool Community Thrift Market!

14th Annual St. Francis Wildlife Baby Shower!

Saturday, May 7,
9 am - 2 pm
Downtown Marketplace,
Park Ave. & N. Monroe St.



Help us celebrate our 38th Baby Season.

- LIVE ANIMALS!
- Learn how to help wild babies.
- St. Francis Wildlife t-shirts & children’s books for sale.
- Please bring a baby gift from our Wish List on Page 8.



St. Francis Wildlife receives Duke Energy grant

Danny Collins, Duke Energy’s North Florida Community Relations Specialist, presents a \$2,500 check to St. Francis Wildlife board vice president Barbara Barnett and “Otus,” an Eastern Screech Owl. Thank you, Duke, for your very generous donation!

Donation Form: Please renew your annual support.

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

Name _____ Date _____

E-mail Address _____

Home Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

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

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.)

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

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

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

Please contact me about: Volunteering Your Wildlife Education Programs

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St. Francis of Assisi Wildlife Association, Inc. Registration #: CH4537.



St. Francis Wildlife Calendar

Saturday, Feb. 27, Spring House Institute and St. Francis Wildlife present "Lake Jackson Neighborhood Birds of Prey," 2 - 5:30 pm, 3117 Okeehoopkee Road, Tallahassee. For details and ticket information: www.preservespringhouse.org.

Saturday, March 26, Owl Program and Nature Trail Interpretive Walk, Lake Talquin State Park, 11am - 12:15 pm. All 4 native owls — the Great Horned, Barred, Barn and Eastern Screech Owls — will help education director Sandy Beck explain the unique adaptations that enable owls to hunt at night and how we can help them. Program is free for adults and school-aged children with paid park fee of \$3 per vehicle and an item from St. Francis Wildlife's wish list (below). Following the program, join us for an interpretive walk on the nature trail. Bring binoculars.

April 4 - 8, 7th Annual Regional Lifelong Learning Extravaganza, L3X, presented by the Tallahassee Senior Center. Over 50 affordable classes, cruises, tours, lectures, art, culture, recreation and more. Open to all adults. Check their schedule for our Talon Talk program with live birds of prey.

Saturday, April 16: Wakulla Wildlife Festival, Wakulla Springs State Park. Visit St. Francis Wildlife's tent to meet our amazing birds of prey and learn how to help wildlife. Don't miss our popular "Owls Are Tigers in the Sky" program at 10:30 am and Talon Talk program at 2 pm. www.wakullawildlifefestival.com.

Saturday, May 7: 14th St. Francis Wildlife Annual Wildlife Baby Shower, 9 am - 2 pm, Downtown Marketplace, Park Ave. & N. Monroe St. *See Page 7.*

Saturday, May 28: St. Francis WildlifeFest, 9 am - 2 pm, White Dog Plantation. *See Page 3.*

Wildlife Matters

Editor and Layout

Sandy Beck

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



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Wildlife Wish List

Please take these tax-deductible items to St. Francis Wildlife, Northwood Animal Hospital or Allied Emergency Veterinary Clinic. THANK YOU!

Gift Certificates

- Stone's, Lowe's or Home Depot
- Native Nurseries
- Wild Birds Unlimited
- Panhandle Pet Supply
- COSTCO
- Squirrelsandmore.com
- Foxvalleynutrition.com
- Target or Walmart

Food/Feeding

- Unsalted peanuts in the shell
- Raw, hard-shelled nuts, like walnuts, pecans, hickory
- Black oil sunflower seed
- Wild bird seed
- Keet seed
- Cat and dog food (dry and canned)
- Baby food: only fruit, vegetables, and chicken (no noodles, beef, gravy, etc)
- Eggs
- EXACT powder (baby bird formula)
- Plain and fruit yogurt
- Live or dried worms and crickets
- Waterfowl maintenance pellets
- Waterfowl starter mash
- Ziploc bags (quart & gallon, freezer)
- Jar lids — peanut butter kind only
- Plant pot saucers
- Heavy stoneware food bowls

Cleaning Supplies

- Laundry detergent (unscented) for HE (high-efficiency washers)
- Bleach, unscented
- Heavy-duty 39 gallons trash bags
- Paper towels
- Dawn dish soap
- Pine Sol
- Odoban
- Affresh for laundry washers
- Scotch-brite heavy duty scrub sponges
- Hand sanitizer
- Rakes

- Heavy duty hoses
- **Animal Housing**
- 10-gallon aquarium tanks with tops
- Heating pads, not automatic shut-off
- Humane live traps
- Baby blankets
- T-shirts, sweatshirts, pillow cases, top sheets, towels, baby blankets.
- Soft toilet paper or soft tissue

Maintenance

- Lumber: plywood, 1x2s, 2x4s, etc.
- Tools
- Hardware cloth

Office

- Sticky notes
- Clip boards

Medical Supplies

- Alcohol
- Cotton balls
- Johnson and Johnson waterproof tape
- Penlights
- Q-tips
- Sterile gauze, 4x4, 2x2
- Sterile syringes, 1 cc & 3cc
- Sterile needles for injection, 1 - 100 cc
- Surgical gloves (small or medium)
- Tissue adhesive
- Vet Wrap

Big Wishes

- Incubator
- Golf cart
- Homeopathy kit ("30C Remedy Kit")
- Chain saw
- Gasoline pressure washer
- Tractor
- Desktop or laptop, Intel core i5 processor, 1TB Hard drive, 4GB RAM, wired Ethernet.
- Microsoft Office for Windows (EXCEL AND ACCESS 2013)



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If you find sick, injured or orphaned wildlife

- Call us at **850.627.4151** 8:30am to 5pm.

- After 5pm, call our "After-hours Rescue Hotline," **850.933.2735.**

- Take it to our wildlife hospital, 4 miles NW of Havana, between 8:30 AM and 5 PM. Directions at www.stfranciswildlife.org.

- Take it, 24/7, to the Northwood Animal Hospital, 1881 N. Martin Luther King Blvd., Tallahassee or to Allied Emergency Veterinary Clinic, 2324 Centerville Rd., Tallahassee.

- During their regular, daytime business hours, you may also take it to North Florida Animal Hospital at 2701 N Monroe St., Tall.

Important Information

- Transport wildlife in a warm, dark box with air holes punched in the lid. Place an old t-shirt or blanket in the box, not a towel. Keep it quiet, and handle it as little as possible.

- NEVER feed it or give it water.

- NEVER handle raccoons, foxes, bats or any mammals (even babies) that could carry rabies. CALL US. Squirrels, opossums and rabbits are very uncommon rabies vectors.

- When calling to report an animal injured on a road, note exactly where it is, and, if possible, remain with the animal until we arrive.

For more information about wildlife rescue:

www.stfranciswildlife.org