

Caring for wildlife  
for 32 years!

St. Francis  
Wildlife  
ASSOCIATION

# Wildlife Matters

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

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

v.8, No. 1 Winter 2010

## St. Francis Wildlife releases two juvenile Bald Eagles on the shores of Lake Jackson

By Sandy Beck



LEFT: In preparation for release, Sandy Beck (left) holds the male eagle rescued at Lake Breeze and Dorothy Kaufmann (right) holds the female eagle rescued at Piney-Z. Videographer Joe Bonner records the event for the WCTV Eyewitness News. CENTER: The Piney-Z female flies to freedom. BELOW: WCTV reporter Julie Montanaro (left) interviews Irene Wolfe (right), in whose backyard the Bald Eagles were set free.

Photos/J.W. Callis RIGHT: The male flaps his powerful wings and lifts into the sky. Photo/Pat Simmons

Two more Bald Eagles are soaring in the skies above Tallahassee. On a sunny morning with sparkling blue skies, St. Francis Wildlife released the two juvenile Bald Eagles we rescued last spring.

High winds had blown a female from her nest at Piney-Z. Unable to fly or fend for herself, we found her from the middle of Doyle Conner Blvd.

A male fell from his nest, in the Lake Breeze subdivision on Lake Jackson and hid in thick vegetation for more than a week. Bob and Irene Wolfe called us on July 1st to say that the young eagle was on a bench in their lakeside backyard.

When we rescued him, he was dehydrated, emaciated and had a shoulder injury. For two weeks, wildlife rehabilitator, Teresa Stevenson nursed him back to life.

Read the story of the eagles' dramatic rescues in our Summer 2009 newsletter, online at [www.stfranciswildlife.org](http://www.stfranciswildlife.org).

When they were stabilized, we transported both eagles to the Wildlife Sanctuary of Northwest Florida in Pensacola for "flight training" in their 100-foot flight cage.

The eagles spent three months together at the Pensacola center where director Dorothy Kaufmann supervised their rehabilitation, care and conditioning. A non-releasable adult Bald Eagle served as their "role model."

When both young eagles could successfully hunt and fly, Dorothy returned them to Tallahassee.

The eagles wore leather hoods over their eyes to keep them calm during the three-hour car trip to

the Wolfes' backyard in Lake Breeze.

They were greeted by at least 30 neighbors, several proud St. Francis Wildlife staff members and volunteers and a WCTV news crew.

Two adult Bald Eagles – likely the Lake Breeze juvenile's parents – were perched in a tree about 1,000 feet down the shoreline. They appeared to be waiting and watching.

Dorothy Kaufmann released the female, and I had the privilege (and lifetime thrill) of releasing the male. The experience was pure poetry – breathtaking and unforgettable.

Both eagles pumped their powerful wings and flew, without hesitation, straight toward the waiting adult eagles.

There were big smiles, tears of joy and shouts of "Yes!" and "Beautiful!" from the crowd.

Teresa Stevenson said, "It's so exciting to see

them fly off, with rich, long lifetimes ahead of them."

### Bald Eagle population soars

In 1963, there were just 417 nesting pairs of Bald Eagles in the U.S. Thanks to habitat protections and a ban on the insecticide DDT, 10,000 pairs of Bald Eagles are flying today.

In Florida, 1,000 to 1,200 mated pairs of these magnificent birds nest every year.

There are 18 known Bald Eagle nests in Leon County, one in Gadsden County, six in Jefferson County and 28 known Bald Eagle nests in Wakulla County.

### Inside this issue

- Page 2 • Thanking our wildlife angels
- Page 3 • Empower young animal lovers
- Page 4 • SFW rescues fox from Bankruptcy Court; How to help SFW
- Page 5 • Secretive neighbors: Flying Squirrels; A lucky snake; Shop at 10,000 Villages and help wildlife
- Page 6 • Grebes and Loons; Teresa Colvin, wildlife advocate; Donation Form
- Page 7 • SFW's 2009 Wild Patients
- Page 8 • Events; Wish List; How to rescue wildlife





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

**Board of Directors**

- Laura Phipps,**  
President
- John L. Brennan III, Esq.**  
Vice President
- Elenita Gomez, Esq.**  
Secretary
- JoAnn Fletcher**  
Treasurer
- James R. Kiser, Jr.**
- Heather Terhune, DVM**
- Brad Parker**
- Teresa Colvin**

**Full and Part-time Staff**

- Teresa Stevenson**  
Wildlife Rehabilitator
- Donna Cross**  
Hospital Supervisor
- Dean Humphrey**  
Facilities Manager
- Administrative Assistant**  
Paula Boney
- Wildlife Care Technicians**  
Kelly Pollock, Michelle Osborne,  
Amy Darling
- Wildlife Rescuers**  
Dean Humphrey, Jordan Sirosky
- Volunteer Staff**
- Sandy Beck**  
Education Director,  
Newsletter Editor & Web Mistress
- Barbara Barnett**  
Squirrel Foster Care Coordinator  
& Business Partnership Program

**Sincere thanks to**

**Veterinary Hospitals**

- Animal Eye Clinic
- Bevis Veterinary Hospital
- Bradfordville Animal Hospital
- Lakewood Animal Hospital
- North Florida Animal Hospital
- Northhampton Animal Health
- Northwood Animal Hospital
- Quincy Animal Hospital
- Seminole Animal Health Clinic
- Shannon Lakes Paws & Claws

**We greatly appreciate the following donations**

- **Modern Mailers** for their invaluable mailing services.
- **ElectroNet** for hosting our web site and email.
- **DQP** for printing our wildlife intake forms, posters, brochures and more!
- **Post-Searchlight** in Bainbridge for printing this newsletter at a reduced rate.
- **Brogan and Tallahassee Museums** and for memberships and admission passes for Owl-O-Ween.
- **Jackie Frye** for a refrigerator.
- **Barbara Barnett** for a laminator.
- **Dr. Steve & Jo Ostrov** for turtle supplies.
- **The Nature Conservancy** and **Callie DeHaven** for donating the children's prizes for Owl-O-Ween.



**Thank you**

**from the bottom of our wild hearts for your recent donations.**

*Because of space constraints we are listing donations of \$100 or more, but please know that we appreciate every single donation.*



- Alice Coryn & Mary West
- Amy Haus
- Andrew Jones
- Apple Lane Foundation
- Barbara Johnson
- Belita Moreton
- Bill & Dianna Norwood
- Billy & Gina Vinson
- Bob & Maureen Shoemaker
- Bradford Spring
- Bruce Staskiewis
- C.A. Moore
- Capelouto Termite & Pest Control
- Carol Chenoweth & Mark Goldman
- Celeste Paquette
- Charles & Frederick Maddox
- Charles & Maureen Alldredge
- Charles & Maxine Deal
- Charles & Meredith Manning
- Charles & Patricia Mitchell
- Clay & Kay Schnitker
- Colin Phipps
- Craig & Patricia Williamson
- Dave Bright
- David & Deborah Fonvielle
- David & Dorothy Jones
- David Yon
- Denford & Barbara Bradford
- Diana Orrick
- Donald Ritchie
- Dorothy Webb & Catherine Harris
- Douglas Perry
- Dr. & Mrs. Galt Allee
- Dr. Frances Carter, Buck Lake Animal Hospital
- Dr. James F. Walton III, D.D.S.
- Dr. Joseph Barnett, D.D.S.
- Dr. Mike Francis
- Dr. Ray & Jann Bellamy
- Dr. Steven & Jo Ostrov
- Eden's Heating & Air
- Elizabeth Gardner
- Eugenia Scott
- Everall Perkins
- Fletcher Braswell
- Florida Cable Telecom. Assoc.
- Francois Frazier & Mary Harris
- Fred & Jayne Standley
- Gerald & Alice Honea
- Gloria Rounsaville
- Ida Jean Sapp
- Jack & Doris Ohlhaber
- James & Mary Vance
- James Brooks
- James Kiser
- Jay & Gail Vail
- Jeffrey Craig Shaw
- Jeffery & Marguerite Soff
- Jesse & Catherine Hope
- Jim Cospier
- Joanna Kenyon
- John & Bety Hernandez
- John & Peggy McRae
- John Haines
- John T. Phipps
- Johnny Richardson
- Jonathan & Tracey VanHook
- Judith Graham
- Julie Ferris
- Julie Montanaro Gibson
- Katherine Scott
- Keith & Becky McNeill
- Kool Beanz Cafe
- Larry & Pam Nichols
- Larry & Susan Schueren
- Larry Peterson & Linda McCarthy
- Laura Higdon
- Laura Phipps

- Lawrence & Kitty Evans
- Linda & Frank Carter
- Linda Peerson
- Lynne Liska
- M.P. Feaster
- Madeleine Martin
- Margaret & Gary Griffin
- Mary Beall & Melanie LaHurd
- Mary West
- Melinda Ramsey
- Michael & Judy Hanna
- Michael Buchler
- Michele Mayo
- Nikki Young
- O'Toole's Herb Farm
- Paige & William Brey
- Pat Simmons
- Patsy Paschal
- Patterson Lamb & Patterson Poulson
- Perry Douglas
- Petina & John Clark
- Phoenix Environmental Group
- Richard & Jane Wolfarth
- Richard & Karen Lazzarini
- Rita LeBlanc
- Robert & Caryl Pierce
- Robert & Maureen Shoemaker
- Robert Sniffen
- Roger & Patricia Register
- Ronald & Shirley Rickner
- Sonya White
- Stephen Foy
- Susan & D.R. Glaser
- Susan & Timothy Cross
- Tallulah & James Whitesell
- Ted & Lassie Lee
- Teresa McKenzie
- Thomas Yeoman
- Tina Seager
- Walter & Patty Thomas
- Walton & Betty Taylor
- Wilderness Way

**The Lake Breeze Eagle**  
From  
Lake Breeze Homeowners Association  
Larry Peterson & Linda McCarthy  
Lealand & Kathleen McCharen

**Lynn Markell & Tara Tanaka**  
From  
Susan Hensley

**My Dad**  
From  
Mary Hall Lester

**Betty Bender**  
From  
Jeffrey Craig Shaw

**Mary Lou Falls' Birthday**  
From  
Jo Schaden

**Chris Johnson's Birthday**  
From  
Mary Falconer

**Claudia Mason & Peggy Smyly**  
From  
Lynda DeMarsh-Mathues

**Laurie & Nick Nixon**  
From  
Lawrence & Kitty Evans

**Kent & Melissa Griffin**  
From  
Lou Ambrose

**IN APPRECIATION OF**  
**Teresa Stevenson**  
From  
Amy Haus

**Sandy Beck's bald eagle story**  
From  
Katheryn Scott

**ADOPT-AN-ANIMAL PROGRAM**  
**NEW PARENTS**  
Keith & Becky McNeil  
Elizabeth Gannon Hunt & son Beau

This newsletter is made possible in part by a generous contribution from the Suzanne E. Plescia Endowed Education Fund established by Dr. Louis W. & Elizabeth N. Bender.



**THE PHOENIX ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP, INCORPORATED**

2916 EAST PARK AVENUE  
TALLAHASSEE, FL 32301  
850.878.3331

**IN MEMORY OF**

**Helen Staskiewis**  
From  
Bruce Staskiewis

**Mary Loepp**  
From  
Her sister, Carrol Brittain

**Mildred Cain**  
From  
William & Charlotte Clayton Jr.

**Diane Ohlhaber**  
From

Lee & Arlene Fagelson  
Jack & Doris Ohlhaber

**Edna Quicke**  
From  
Ruth & Bobby Kendricks

**Pierson Hill**  
From  
Brooks & Almena Pettit

**Dennis Boothe**  
From  
Terry & Frances Lewis

**IN HONOR OF**  
**Cindy Coney**  
From  
Carolyn Coney & Joshua Ali



Above, left to right: Dean Humphrey and Marcia, Tom and David Friedman in front of David's cage project. Below, finished cage. **Photos/Donna Cross**

### Boy Scout helps SFW and earns Eagle Scout badge

David Friedman, age 18, said, "We found orphaned baby birds and took them to you. When I saw St. Francis Wildlife, I just knew that I wanted to help. When it came time for me to do my Eagle Scout project, I decided to build a cage."

"To purchase materials, I got donations from the Northside Rotary Club and my family. My parents, friends and neighbors helped me build it.

"Dean Humphrey picked up the finished cage in a truck, and we followed him back to St. Francis where we unloaded and set it up (photo below).

"I do like animals, and I think St. Francis Wildlife is a great cause."

Plans for this cage are on our web site: [www.stfranciswildlife.org/PortCagePlans.html](http://www.stfranciswildlife.org/PortCagePlans.html).



## Young animal lovers feel empowered when they help St. Francis Wildlife

By Sandy Beck

When children are saddened to learn about the problems affecting animals, also learning specific actions they can take empowers them to help the animals and promotes a life-long, humane ethic toward all living things.

Parents, teachers and scout leaders often ask how their children can help.

While the law will not allow children younger than 18 to work in our wildlife hospital, there are plenty of things they can do.

### Rewarding projects that are creative and great fun

- For her Bat Mitzvah project, **Emily Moline** and her family collected items from friends and neighbors and held a big **garage sale**. By the end of the day, the thirteen-year-old girl had raised more than \$600 to help wildlife.
- Other children have held **car washes, dog washes and bake sales**.
- Children have organized **races, a read-a-thon** and a **student/faculty softball game** with proceeds going to the animals.
- **Amelia Linn** and her friends held a **bike-a-thon**. Neighbors pledged money for every time kids circled the neighborhood on their bikes. At the end of the day, the girls proudly handed St. Francis Wildlife \$300.
- **Zoe Brigham** and **Hanna Buchanan** made posters and **collected donations** for St. Francis Wildlife in front of Hanna's grandmother's store, **Sally Rude Antiques and Fine Art Gallery**.
- In lieu of gifts, **Andrew Colvin** asked the kids who came to his **birthday party** to help the animals at St. Francis Wildlife. They raised hundreds of dollars in donations and supplies.
- **Rob Sniffen** donates his **allowance** to help the animals.
- School groups, like the **Maclay PAWS Club**, Pets and Wildlife for Students (photo below, left), and **scouting groups**, like **Girl Scout Troop 79** (photo below), **collect funds and Wish List items** (page 8).
- Several young men have chosen St. Francis Wildlife as the beneficiary of their **Eagle Scout project**. See photos and story, above left.

The ways that children and young adults can help is limited only by their will and imagination, both of which are infinite.

**Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, concerned citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.** Margaret Mead



Above, left to right: Permanently disabled barred owl "Cedar," St. Francis Wildlife volunteer Brian Bryson and his daughters Hannah and Emma. **Photo/Sandy Beck**

Last month, **Hannah and Emma Bryson** collected big **longleaf pine cones** from their yard and sold each for a donation to St. Francis Wildlife. The \$70 they collected will purchase a Bald Eagle hood that will enable injured eagles to remain calm while we transport and handle them.

The girls, who attend first grade and fifth grade at the Holy Comforter School, also helped their dad, Brian Bryson, **build a roost box** for a permanently disabled barred owl (See photo above).



Children are enthralled by our disabled American Kestrel and Eastern Screech Owl at a recent **Native Nurseries** event. **Photo/Sandy Beck**



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

850.528.0823

[www.wildclassroom.net](http://www.wildclassroom.net)



# St. Francis Wildlife rescues fox from U.S. Bankruptcy Court

**We could use a hand in this challenging economy too. There are many ways you can help.**

Story by Sandy Beck. Photos by Debra Cook.

On a recent chilly morning, people dodged a soaking rain as they scurried to their offices at the U.S. Bankruptcy Court on East Park Avenue in downtown Tallahassee.

As they shook out their wet raincoats and umbrellas, case administrator Debra Cook glanced out the window and noticed someone huddling on the windowsill, cold and wet.

A court security officer called St. Francis Wildlife.

"We get calls about all kinds of animals in distress," said Dean Humphrey, who does many of our wildlife rescues, "but seldom do these animals decide to file for bankruptcy."

An adult grey fox had fallen into a deep hole next to the building, climbed out on the building side and was marooned.

Dean learned that they had remodeled the building's basement and included a 12 foot deep, 10 foot wide moat around it so they could install windows on the lower level.

While Cook and other court staff quietly cheered him on from inside the building and took pictures (these are her photos), Security and Maintenance staff lowered a ladder in the moat so Humphrey could reach the animal.

"Foxes, by nature, are shy creatures, and this one was no exception. I was able to pick him up and place him in a carrier. The fox didn't resist or try to escape." Dean said.

"After a short drive to our center in Havana, I released the fox in a peaceful habitat, rich with food, water and shelter - where we hope he will not ever need to worry about filing for bankruptcy."

Thanks to the quick thinking of Bankruptcy Court staff, St. Francis Wildlife was able to humanely rescue and relocate this fox to happier hunting grounds.

For St. Francis Wildlife, this is all in a day's work - responding to calls to help wildlife, 24 hours a day, seven

days a week, and we've been doing it for 32 years.

But now, we need your help.

While fewer people donate in a bad economy, wildlife still suffer from unfortunate interactions with people.

They are hit by cars, fly into windows and glass doors, fly into guy wires on cell towers, are caught by our pets, fall into chimneys, are run over by lawn mowers and weed wackers, are orphaned when trees are cut, and are victims of poisoning and illegal gunshots. You get the idea.

Trying to tighten our belt, while still providing our invaluable and unique services is a difficult balancing act.

## What you can do to help

### Painless with PayPal

If you have already sent us your annual membership donation, thank you! If not, please fill out the form on Page 6 and mail it with your check or make a secure online donation with PayPal at [www.stfranciswildlife.org/member.html](http://www.stfranciswildlife.org/member.html)

One hundred percent of your donation is tax-deductible because it all helps wildlife.

### When you find wildlife that needs our help

If you are able to bring wildlife to us, it would be a big help.

You can imagine how much we spend every day driving from one end of town to the other rescuing wildlife and picking up the critters you drop off at Northwood Animal Hospital, then transporting them all to our wildlife hospital in Havana.

Bringing wildlife to us, saves us money and time. On our web site, [www.stfranciswildlife.org](http://www.stfranciswildlife.org), click on "MapQuest" for directions and information about how to rescue and transport wildlife.

However, NEVER handle raccoons, foxes, bats or any mammals (even babies) that could carry rabies. Always call us. Florida's squirrels, opossums and rabbits are not known

to carry rabies.

### Save wildlife and trees too

When you send your donation, consider including your email address and indicating that you would prefer to read *Wildlife Matters* online.

We will also send you our monthly e-Newsletter. We promise not to annoy you with frequent emails. Just once each month.

If you do not have a high-speed Internet connection or just like holding a printed newsletter - it's not a problem; we'll be happy to send them.

### Who needs more stuff?

If you're like me, you're always cleaning out closets and giving away old stuff to make room for more stuff (remember George Carlin?).

So, instead of getting more stuff, for your next birthday or anniversary ask friends and family to help wildlife.

They can send us a check or use PayPal, noting that their donation is in honor of your big day, or you can collect stuff for us. We need more stuff.

Our Wildlife Wish List is on page 8 and at [www.stfranciswildlife.org/wish-list.html](http://www.stfranciswildlife.org/wish-list.html).



### Do good with Good Search

GoodSearch.com is a new search engine that donates a penny per search to the charities its users designate. You use it just as you would any search engine, and it's powered by Yahoo!, so you get great results.

Just go to [www.goodsearch.com](http://www.goodsearch.com) and enter St. Francis Wildlife as the charity you want to support. Or, go to our web site, [www.stfranciswildlife.com](http://www.stfranciswildlife.com), and click on the GoodSearch button.

Just 500 of us searching four times a day will raise about \$7,300 in a year without anyone spending a dime!

Every time you shop online, begin at the GoodSearch site (the GoodShop portal is on the same page). If you



make a purchase - at Amazon, L.L. Bean and more - St. Francis Wildlife earns money, approximately 3% of your purchase. The more you shop, the more we make!

### Buy a cool SFW t-shirt

[www.stfranciswildlife.org/Tshirts.pdf](http://www.stfranciswildlife.org/Tshirts.pdf)

### Build cages or help repair old ones

Many of the dozens of outdoor cages at St. Francis Wildlife are two decades old. Some can be repaired; many need to be replaced.

We have plans for a portable cage - 4' wide x 10' long x 6' high - that can be used for many different species (See photo on Page 3).

Cage plans are on our web site at: [www.stfranciswildlife.org/PortCagePlans.html](http://www.stfranciswildlife.org/PortCagePlans.html).

### Donate old cars and boats

We will turn your tax-deductible gift of an unneeded car, truck, trailer or boat into funds that help the animals. Please call us at 627-4151.

### Wildlife Art

We would love to have your quality wildlife art for our next silent auction.

### Volunteer

If you are an animal lover at least 18 and reliable with your own health insurance and transportation, St. Francis Wildlife has perfect volunteer opportunities for you.

Feed animals in our hospital or foster baby squirrels in your own home.

Do you like to shop? We shop for animal food and supplies every week.

Help transport wildlife to veterinarians or to our Rehabilitation Center.

Prepare special diets, do laundry or clean cages.

Or tell us about your ideas and special skills.

Working together, we can insure that St. Francis Wildlife will always be there to help the birds and animals we all treasure - and keep those foxes out of bankruptcy court.

**NATIVE NURSERIES**  
*The Store for Nature Lovers*  
 Native Plants • Wildlife Gardening • Bird Shop  
 Herbs • See our newsletter at [www.nativenurseries.com](http://www.nativenurseries.com)

850.386.8882  
 1661 Centerville Road  
 Tallahassee, FL 32308

**goodwill**  
 Industries - Big Bend, Inc.

Brooke Lochore - VP Public Relations

850-576-7145 ext 107 - [Blochore@goodwillbigbend.com](mailto:Blochore@goodwillbigbend.com)  
 300 Mabry St., Tallahassee, FL 32304

**JAMES F. WALTON III, D.D.S.**  
 General & Cosmetic Dentistry

1280 Timberlane Road  
 Tallahassee, FL 32312

(850) 893-2136  
 FAX (850) 893-5201

# Flying squirrels - our most secretive neighbors

By Sandy Beck

Standing on our back deck, I was surprised by the high-pitched call of a southern flying squirrel - "tseet! tseet! tseet!"

Because they are tiny, relatively quiet and strictly nocturnal, most people don't notice them. But if you see grey squirrels during the day, you probably have flying squirrels in your yard too. One sure sign is a pile of nuts beneath a tree with two holes gnawed into each one.

The southern flying squirrel (*Glaucomys volans*) is eight to 10 inches long, including the tail, and weighs only three ounces. Their soft, silky fur is peppered with grays and browns above and creamy white below. They have excellent hearing, long whiskers and the large, light-sensitive, black eyes typical of many night creatures.

Both grey and flying squirrels prefer habitats with mature hardwoods where they can dine on acorns and other nuts, seeds, bark, berries, mushrooms and insects.

Each flying squirrel stakes out several dens throughout its home range - woodpecker holes, natural tree cavities and nest boxes - where it can safely feed or hide from pursuing predators, and where females can raise young. They create mental maps that include every refuge as well as the quickest route to it.

A flying squirrel, trying to dodge a predator like an owl, rat snake or domestic cat, will freeze on the trunk of a tree and "melt" into the bark.

If the predator is not fooled, the flying squirrel launches off the tree, spreading all four limbs to reveal two furred flaps of skin, the patagia, extending from the wrist on each front leg to the ankle on each hind leg.

Stretched out like a superhero's long cape, the patagia become perfect airfoils, allowing her to glide as far as 200 feet, three horizontal feet for every vertical foot of descent. Her silky coat minimizes drag. The flat tail serves as a stabilizer, and slight movements of her front feet steer.

She lands on a trunk, scurries around to the other side, runs up the tree to gain altitude, then launches again - until she reaches one of her dens. Or not.

Like other squirrels, the southern flying squirrel can also jump from branch to branch and forage on the



Nocturnal southern flying squirrels are widespread in our area and live in the same habitats as grey squirrels.

Photo/Thomas McMullen

ground, where they are vulnerable to cats and raccoons.

The housecat is the flying squirrel's most dangerous predator. Keeping kitty inside will help not only these tiny animals (as well as birds, bunnies and many more) but also protect your pet from larger predators, like hawks, owls, coyotes and automobiles.

You can also help flying squirrels by protecting the old, deciduous trees that provide their food and shelter, and by building nest boxes. Plans are at [stfranciswildlife.org/refuge.html](http://stfranciswildlife.org/refuge.html).

One way to learn more about these fascinating, almost magical little animals is to illuminate your bird feeders with a downward facing lamp, just bright enough for you to see. Turn it on at dusk, turn off the TV and wait for things to get wild.



An orphaned flying squirrel nibbles a nut at St. Francis Wildlife. Last year we rescued 51 flying squirrels.

Photo/Sandy Beck

# The story of a lucky snake

By Jordan Sirosky and Donna Cross

The paths of snakes and people often cross in a place like Tallahassee where we enjoy wooded areas right in the middle of the city.

In neighborhoods full of lavishly landscaped yards and plenty of other wildlife, it is no surprise to find several species of snakes. One of these, the nonvenomous black racer, although harmless, is known for its speed and aggression.

Last July, the staff at St. Francis Wildlife had the privilege of experiencing those characteristics first-hand.

It was a warm July day (as if there is any other kind) when I received a call about an injured snake in a backyard off Centerville Road. The woman told me that a thin, black snake had been sunning on her back porch for several days, and it appeared to have a large wound on its back.

She had managed to lock it inside a plastic storage bin on the porch after it had sought shelter there.

Listening to her description, I instantly suspected that the snake in question was a racer, and upon my arrival, my inference was confirmed. After a brief struggle, I bagged the unhappy racer and headed back to St. Francis Wildlife.

When Donna Cross and I examined it, we came to the conclusion that the snake's deep wound had likely been inflicted by the plastic or nylon rope on the business end of a weed eater.

Donna flushed the wound with iodine solution and administered a few cc's of fluids to rehydrate the snake, an adult about three feet long.



Southern black racer Photo/Kevin Enge

To reduce the chance for infection, we needed to treat the wound until it closed enough to allow the snake to shed its entire skin.

Over the course of three and a half months, Teresa Stevenson and Donna monitored the snake, periodically cleaning and draining the wound.

At first, the snake refused to eat. After pulling out a few tricks I picked up during my years of keeping snakes, I was finally able to get her - we knew this after she laid eight eggs - to take a dead mouse, and then another. Eventually she became easier to feed, taking food whenever we offered it.

During the first week of November, after several months of shedding partial skins, our black racer shed an entire skin, and we were able to release her.

In her new home, this fortunate snake won't have to contend with people or their weed eaters.

Try to be conscious, when working in your yard or garden. These beneficial snakes are common victims of yard work, and many are not so lucky.



**TEN THOUSAND VILLAGES®**

**Show your love for your honey and wildlife too!**

**Thursday, February 11**  
**5 p.m. - 8 p.m.**

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

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



Located in Market Square  
1415 Timberlane Rd. 906-9010



# Why grebes and loons are sometimes stranded on roadways

By Teresa Stevenson



Pied-billed grebe recuperates at the St. Francis Wildlife hospital.

**PHOTO/ Amy Darling**

It was a rainy day in early December when we received a call about a Pied-billed Grebe, possibly hit by a car, on Perkins Road near Canopy Oaks Elementary.

What was this water bird doing in the middle of a city street, at least a mile from Lake Jackson?

Interestingly, St. Francis Wildlife has also rescued Common Loons from roadways, far from water.

Both loons and grebes have evolved as superb swimmers and divers and spend almost all of their lives in the water. Their legs, positioned far back on their bodies, make it hard for them to maneuver on land.

Imagine a very pregnant woman waddling along the sidewalk. You get the picture.

To take off, the grebe or loon must run across

the surface of the water. (See photo of Common Loon below).

Many loons and grebes migrate at night. When it gets close to dawn and they need to take a break, they look for bodies of water on which to land. From high above, a wet road looks a lot like an inviting river to these birds, but when they come in for a landing, they meet with a nasty surprise.

Even if the loon or grebe is not injured after landing, it is grounded until some friendly soul comes along and rescues it.

If you find a loon or grebe on the road, please remember to put your own safety first. Any wild animal will view you as a predator. A water bird – like a heron, egret, loon or grebe – may try to lunge at your face with their dagger-like bills.

Get someone else to stop traffic while you throw a towel or blanket over its head. Then, holding the beak closed and away from you, place it into a ventilated cardboard box, and bring it to us as soon as possible.

Once these birds have recuperated, we take them to a safe water body where they happily paddle away.



# Teresa Colvin, a passionate wildlife advocate, is our newest board member

By Sandy Beck

I first met Teresa Colvin several years ago when she attended an owl program I did for her son's first grade class at the Maclay School. After the program, she told me that the animals and SFW (St. Francis Wildlife) were important to her and that she wanted to help.

Teresa immediately followed through on her promise and also got her family, friends and her son's scouting group involved in raising money and collecting supplies.

Born and raised near Eglin Air Force Base, in Valparaiso, Florida, Teresa grew up with pristine rivers and woods where she learned to love and appreciate wildlife.

Teresa and her family – husband Rip and son Andrew – moved to Tallahassee in 1993 when she became Controller of Financial Services for the Florida League of Cities.

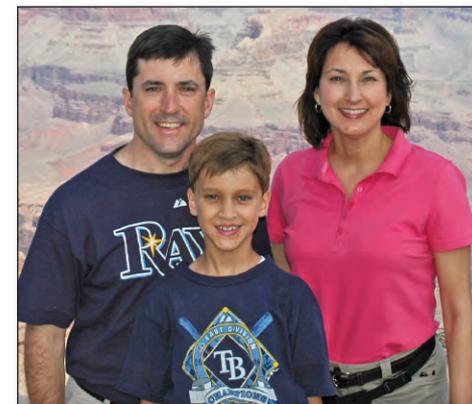
"We love cats and have fostered many. We also have a miniature Pinscher, Sasha, that we adopted from the Broward County Humane Society while there on a trip.

When I asked Teresa, with her already busy life, why she wanted to work on the SFW board of directors, she said, "Loving animals and wanting to reach out and help those injured or sick are second nature to me.

"We are so fortunate to have St. Francis Wildlife in our area. The donors, board of directors, staff and volunteers all can make such a difference in our community and to our wildlife.

"However, staff and volunteers are the key to a service oriented organization like SFW. So it is important for us to provide the resources and training they need.

"I would like to see SFW attract more volunteers.



Teresa Colvin with husband Rip and son Andrew.

"I also hope that we can reach out to more people, especially children, about SFW's mission and the importance of respecting and conserving wildlife.

"One way to bring awareness to children is to sponsor school wildlife presentations and wild birthday parties.

"Our son, Andrew, has sponsored wildlife parties where the birthday presents were for the animals. While it was hard to give up toys and video games, he was very happy to see just how much the donations helped SFW.

"For young adults [18 or older], volunteering at SFW is not only rewarding but also a great way to earn work experience and community service hours for college.

"I am thankful for the SFW staff and volunteers and for all they do for the animals. And for our supporters and community partners – SFW's work is possible only because of their unwavering support and generosity.

"We are so fortunate to have a community that appreciates and supports our native wildlife."

Her favorite quote, by Mahatma Gandhi, expresses a philosophy that guides Teresa Colvin's life:

"The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated."

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

Please renew your annual support for St. Francis Wildlife today by sending in a check with this Donation Form or by making a secure online donation with PayPal at [www.stfranciswildlife.org](http://www.stfranciswildlife.org).

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

**For your tax-deductible donation, you will receive: The Wildlife Matters quarterly newsletter and the satisfaction of helping wild animals unable to care for themselves.**

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

## Donation Form

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

(Winter 2010)

PLEASE PRINT

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

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

**Donor Levels:**  Chickadee, \$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  Community Conservation Business Partnership  Education Programs



## We cared for 3,171 wild birds, mammals and reptiles in 2009.

**48 Owls**, including: 30 Barred Owls, 3 Barn Owls, 8 Great Horned Owls and 7 Eastern Screech Owls

**86 Diurnal Raptors**, including: 7 Bald Eagles, 29 Red-shouldered Hawks, 27 Red-tailed Hawks, 6 Broad-winged Hawks, 4 Coopers Hawks, 3 American Kestrels, 2 Mississippi Kites, 2 Osprey, 3 Turkey Vultures and 5 Black Vultures.

**Examples of Songbird Species:** 9 American Robins, 56 Blue Jays, 36 Brown Thrashers, 4 Carolina Chickadees, 109 Carolina Wrens, 9 Cedar Waxwings, 11 Eastern Bluebirds, 6 Great Crested Flycatchers, 52 House Finches, 81 Northern Mockingbirds, 92 Mourning Doves, 128 Northern Cardinals, 8 Ruby-throated Hummingbirds, 5 Wild Turkeys, 4 Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers, 13 Yellow-rumped Warblers, 5 Downy Woodpeckers, 8 Red-bellied Woodpeckers, 11 Red-headed Woodpeckers, 1 Pileated Woodpecker

**Examples of Water Birds:** 2 Anhingas, 4 Great Blue Herons, 3 Laughing Gulls, 6 Ring-

billed Gulls, 4 Mallards, 15 Wood Ducks

**Examples of Mammals:** 21 Bats, 34 Opossums, 15 Grey Foxes, 14 Red Foxes, 123 Cottontail Rabbits, 30 White-tailed Deer, 51 Flying Squirrels, 2 Fox Squirrels

**Examples of Reptiles:** 21 Gopher Tortoises, 8 Soft-shelled Turtles, 38 Yellow-bellied Sliders, 29 Box Turtles

### Some problems our wildlife patients faced in 2009

Tree cut down: 89  
 Attacked by pets: 190  
 Hit by car: 255  
 Flew into window: 42  
 Entangled in fishing line or hook: 13  
 Illegal gunshot: 3

### Interesting rescues

- Ruby-throated Hummingbird got bill stuck in window screen.
- White-tailed Deer hit by car, then ran into AAA office.
- Coyote on second floor of a hotel on West Tennessee Street.
- Barred Owl removed from a car grill (then released).
- Great Horned Owl impaled on barbed wire fence.
- Mockingbird entangled in cobwebs.



### Photos of 2009 wildlife patients

Clockwise from bottom, left: Cottontail Bunnies/Teresa Stevenson, Barred Owl and Downy Woodpecker/Donna Cross, Gopher Tortoise/Teresa Stevenson, Wood Ducks and Juvenile Bald Eagle/Sandy Beck

In 2006,  
 LEON COMMUNITY  
 Animal Service Center  
 Received

**10661**

Abandoned  
 Dogs and Cats.



*Please*  
**BE THE SOLUTION**

**SPAY & NEUTER YOUR PETS**

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT  
[www.bethesolution.us](http://www.bethesolution.us)

### Would you like to see your ad here?

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

Contact: **Barbara Barnett**  
 barbbarnett@stfranciswildlife.org  
 850.562.4379  
[www.stfranciswildlife.org/ccp.html](http://www.stfranciswildlife.org/ccp.html)



Left to right, Henry Vogt, Karen and Jackson Stump admire our disabled barred owl "Cedar" at Native Nurseries.

## Panhandle Pet Supply

The Experts Who Love Animals  
Three Convenient Locations

**3661 N. Monroe**  
Next to the Post Office

**400 Capital Circle SE**  
Harvey's shopping center

**1700 N. Monroe**  
Publix/Lake Ella Shopping Center

### Help St. Francis Wildlife feed the animals!

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



David Kampf

## Wildlife Matters

Editor and Layout  
Sandy Beck

### Writers, Photographers and Artists

Sandy Beck, Brian Bryson, J.W. Callis, Donna Cross, Debra Cook, Amy Darling, Kevin Enge, David Kampf, Thomas McMullen, Pat Simmons, Jordan Sirosky, Teresa Stevenson

### Proofreaders

Louise Barker, Barbara Barnett, Bob Beck

### Printing

Post Searchlight Printing, Bainbridge, GA

### Mail Processing

Modern Mailers, Tallahassee, FL

The quarterly newsletter of the St. Francis Wildlife Association is mailed to our supporters. It is also available at local businesses and online at [www.stfranciswildlife.org](http://www.stfranciswildlife.org).

To place a business ad, please see Page 7.

Please send questions, comments and letters to the editor to [sandybeck@stfranciswildlife.org](mailto:sandybeck@stfranciswildlife.org).

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

Non-Profit  
Organization  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
Tallahassee, Florida  
PERMIT NO. 50



The best little spot  
in Tallahassee to store  
all your stuff  
**2424 Monticello Dr.**  
**850-385-7266**

Tallahassee businesses  
connect with:



**850.229.0229**  
**www.electronet.net**



2701 N. Monroe Street, Tallahassee, FL  
**850-385-5141**  
[www.nfah.petplace.com](http://www.nfah.petplace.com)



EST. 1978  
FULL SERVICE DIRECT MARKETING  
877 W. Orange Ave. • Tallahassee, FL 32310  
Tel: 850.877.0613 • Fax: 850.877.3669  
[info@modernmailersfl.com](mailto:info@modernmailersfl.com)  
[www.modernmailersfl.com](http://www.modernmailersfl.com)

"From Design  
to Post"

- MAIL PROCESSING
- MAILING LISTS
- LIST MANAGEMENT
- CREATIVE DESIGN
- LASER/OFFSET PRINTING

**877-0613**

Thursday, February 25th, 7:00 PM  
Audubon Program: Native Owls  
Amtrak Passenger Station, 918 Railroad Ave

Sandy Beck, Education Director, St. Francis Wildlife, and live owls explain the unique adaptations that make these fascinating birds such spectacular nocturnal hunters as well as specific actions we can take to help protect them.

Thursday, February 11, 5 PM - 8 PM  
10,000 Villages, Market Square, Tallahassee  
20% of your purchases benefit St. Francis Wildlife! (See Page 5)

## Wildlife Wish List

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

### Animal Housing and Transport

- carpenters to build and repair cages
- lumber and other building materials
- 1/4" hardware cloth
- heating pads, not auto shut-off
- aquarium tanks with tops
- pet carriers
- humane, live traps

- fresh fruits and vegetables
- heavy bowls
- paper towels
- laundry detergent
- bleach, unscented
- unfrayed baby blankets, T-shirts, sweatshirts, pillowcases & top sheets
- plastic jar lids

### Animal Food and Care

- Panhandle Pet Supply gift certificate
- Esbilac puppy milk replacer, powder
- raw, hard-shelled nuts, like walnuts, pecans
- unsalted peanuts in shell
- sunflower seed
- wild bird seed
- cracked corn

### Medical Supplies

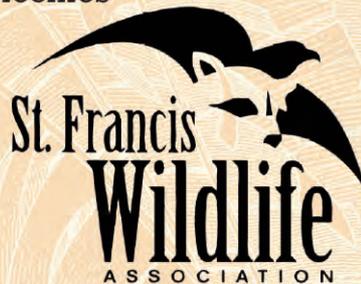
- sterile gauze
- gloves
- syringes
- Lactated Ringers

### Big Items

- refrigerator
- washing machine
- incubator
- golf cart
- riding mower
- generator
- good digital camera
- outdoor patio furniture



Welcomes



**For a Share Event**  
**Wednesday, March 24th**

Stop by either of our two Red Elephant locations — dine in or carry out — and tell your server you are here to support St. Francis Wildlife. **15% of these revenues will be donated by Red Elephant.**

**MIDTOWN** 1872 Thomasville Rd 850-222-7492  
**KERRY FOREST** 2910 Kerry Forest Pkwy 850-668-7492

**RedElephantPizza.com**

## If you find sick, injured or orphaned wildlife

- Call us at **850.627.4151**;
- Take it to our wildlife rehabilitation hospital near Havana — directions at [www.stfranciswildlife.org](http://www.stfranciswildlife.org); or
- Take it (day or night) to the **Northwood Animal Hospital**, 1881 N. Martin Luther King Blvd., Tallahassee (just north of the Post Office).
- Transport wildlife in a warm, dark box with holes punched in the lid. Keep it quiet, and handle it as little as possible.
- Do NOT give it food or water.
- NEVER handle raccoons, foxes, bats or any mammals (even babies) that could carry rabies. **CALL US.** Florida's squirrels, opossums and rabbits are not known to carry rabies.
- When calling to report an animal injured on a road, note exactly where it is ("1.4 miles west of exit 27 on the north side of I-10") and, if possible, leave a marker, like a towel tied to a tree limb.

For more information on  
wildlife rescue:

**[www.stfranciswildlife.org](http://www.stfranciswildlife.org)**