

Caring for wildlife for 30 years!



# 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](http://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.6, No. 2      Fall 2008**

## Caring people + quick thinking = happy ending for owl captured by barbed wire

By Sandy Beck

**Every year, countless animals are impaled on barbed wire fences. Because wildlife-friendly fencing alternatives exist today, such suffering is now preventable.**

When the phone rings early in the morning at St. Francis Wildlife, it's rarely a good thing. August 8th was no exception.

Dean Humphrey wrote down the address, jumped in his truck at 7:30 a.m. and headed for Quincy. When he arrived, a Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission officer was already there. And a woman was holding a beautiful owl wrapped in a towel. Unfortunately, the fence was holding him too.

On the way back to his daytime roost in a large oak, the great horned owl became entangled in and impaled on a barbed wire fence.

Dean cut off an 18-inch section of the wire. He put the owl in a box and transported him to the St. Francis Wildlife hospital.

Hospital supervisor Donna Cross, animal care technician Kelly Pollock and Dean worked together as quickly as possible to remove the barbed wire from the owl's wing.

When wildlife rehabilitator Teresa Stevenson arrived, she thoroughly

examined the owl. His wing was not fractured. She cleaned it and administered topical and injectable antibiotics.

This was one feisty bird. For the next six days, he gorged himself on rats and chicks, and he healed quickly.

After assessing his flight ability in an outdoor flight cage, Teresa said he was ready to go home.

Dean returned to the farm in Quincy. Just before sunset, he removed the owl from a box, held him in his gloves for a moment, then opened his hands. Without hesitation, the owl took flight and headed straight for his oak tree, this time, steering clear of the barbed wire fence.

**Animals who wrestle with barbed wire usually are not as lucky as this great horned owl.**

Every year, wildlife rehabilitation centers rescue hundreds of wild birds and animals that are impaled on barbed wire.

Most entanglements go unnoticed or unreported, and most animals die either on the fence or later from injuries or infections or become easy meals for predators.

Owls, deer, foxes, raccoons and bats are the most frequent victims. Opossums catch their pouches on the barbs when they try to climb over.

Owls fly just above the ground, using their sharp hearing to locate



**The owl soars back home, one week after his nearly fatal experience. Notice Dean Humphrey's open hand on the right.**  
PHOTO/Linda Humphrey

rodents. Great horned owls, who hunt in open fields, are impaled on barbed wire more often than other species. Other low-flying birds, like northern harriers, who winter in our area, are also victims.

These deaths and injuries are largely preventable because wildlife-friendly fencing alternatives exist today.

### Wildlife-friendly alternatives to barbed wire

- The University of Florida, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (UF/IFAS) has information on "**High-tensile Wire fencing**" which was developed in New Zealand several years ago and is now available in Florida. It is easier to handle, low-maintenance and less expensive than barbed wire and more wildlife-friendly: <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/AE017>.
- Another option is hog wire attached to wood or metal posts.

### If removing all barbed wire is not an option, modifications to an existing fence also help wildlife.

- Replacing the top one or two strands with smooth wire or a wood rail and the bottom strand with smooth wire will resolve many problems.
- A smooth bottom wire 18 inches off the ground allows young deer to slip under, but at the same time, contains livestock.
- The top wire should be no more than 48 inches off the ground and

separated by at least 12 inches from the second wire to prevent animals jumping the fence, like deer, from catching a foot between the two and being fatally trapped.

- Conduct daily early morning inspections of fences.
- Improve the visibility of the fence with survey ribbon and shiny metal tags.
- Consider removing fences across ditches or streams or near tall vegetation which may be exceptionally hazardous because they are less likely to be seen by birds attempting to take flight or to land.
- Remove all unneeded fences.

Hopefully, with modern alternatives to conventional barbed wire and government agencies providing education and leadership, these fences, so lethal to wildlife, will become a distant, sad memory.



**Caring hands work quickly to remove the barbed wire from the great horned owl's wing.**  
PHOTO/Michelle Osborne

Inside this issue	
Page 2:	Our community cares about wildlife.
Page 3:	Meet our new wildlife rehabilitator
Page 4:	Shed misconceptions about native snakes
Page 5:	Images from the St. Francis Wildlife hospital. Become a volunteer.
Page 6:	Community Conservation Partners. Eagle Scouts build new aviary.
Page 7:	Adopt-an-Animal. Special owl honored.
Page 8:	Events Calendar. How to rescue wildlife.



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- Shannon Lakes Paws & Claws

● **Laura Morse and Lafayette Presbyterian Church** for collecting items on our wish list at their vacation bible school and for allowing us to use their facility for Baby Squirrel Foster training.

- **Modern Mailers** for their invaluable mailing services!
- **ElectroNet** for hosting our Web site and email.
- **Durra Quick Print** for printing.
- **Cornell Lab of Ornithology** for a subscription to *Birds of North America Online*, <http://bna.birds.cornell.edu/BNA>
- **Bill Armstrong Tree Service** for helping us rescue wildlife in trees!
- **Brian Bryson** for creating the amazing new screech owl design for our new T-shirts (Page 7).
- **Leah Ennis** for her Photoshop help. We love you, Leah!
- **Maclay teachers Lou Lewis, Bertha Williams** and their **PAWS Club** for collecting \$200 for St. Francis Wildlife.
- **Chris Scott**, a wildlife rehabilitator in Milton, for picking up a big group of newborn, orphaned baby squirrels after Tropical Storm Fay.

**Our community cares about wildlife**

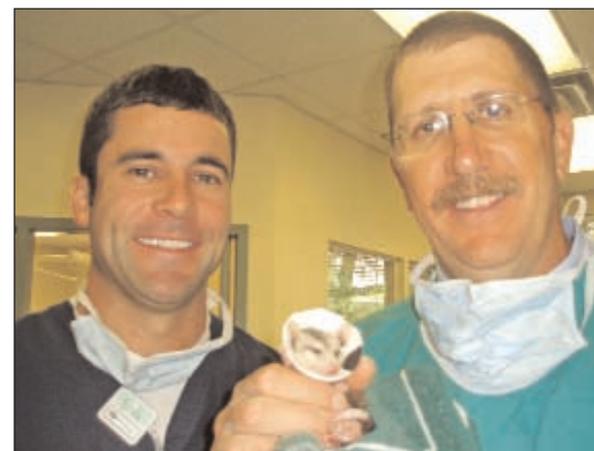
**North Florida Animal Hospital makes time for tiny opossum**

By Sandy Beck

St. Francis Wildlife receives dozens of orphaned baby opossums each spring and summer. This year, one six-week old female opossum arrived with a deep gash in her side.

Dr. Lynn Hagood and surgery assistant Timothy N. Ard operated. It was a difficult, delicate surgery on a three-ounce baby.

Ard shaved and cleaned her and administered anesthesia. Dr. Hagood sutured her wound.



**(Above) Timothy Ard and Dr. Lynn Hagood, holding baby opossum with E-collar. (Below) All grown up, she and her big brother are released in safe habitat.**

Ard fashioned a tiny Elizabethan collar from x-ray film.

They showed sincere concern and were so gentle with her, indicative of how generous NFAH and so many other area vets are with their time, talent and knowledge.

St. Francis Wildlife volunteer Jan Collier cared for the injured baby and her brother until both were old and strong enough for release in safe opossum habitat. These are two lucky babies.



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

Anatole France

**Thank you from the bottom of our wild hearts for your generous donations . . .**

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Jeanne and Brian Kimball  
for his birthday

**Adopt-an-Animal Program**

From

**Karen Study's students**  
at Fairview Middle School  
Go, Fairview Falcons!

**Joseph Brennan**

for his first birthday  
Happy birthday, Joseph!

**Shoppers, animal lovers flocked to 6th Annual Wildlife Art in the Park**

Thank you to all the generous artists and authors who donated prizes for our drawings: **James Valentine** for his beautiful images of natural Florida; **Strauss Gallery** for framing Jim's photographs; **Gregg Gleason** for his wonderful wildlife photographs; Artists **Judy Mick** and **Monica Rios** for their wildlife prints; **Juanita Johnson** for her jewelry; **Candy Jones** for her hand-made quilt; **Lucrezia Bieler** for her incredible paper cutting; Author **J.G. Annino** for her book, *Florida's Famous Animals*; and Author **Kevin Kremer** for his book, *Are You Smarter Than a Flying Gator?*.

We appreciate our special volunteers **Barb Barnett, Sandy Beck, Jan Collier, Carolyn Coney, Sue DeLuca** and **Pat Simmons**.

And special thanks to the Tallahassee Downtown Improvement Authority, the Downtown Market Place and Allen Thompson for hosting the event and donating our tent.

# Meet Teresa Stevenson, our new wildlife rehabilitator

By Sandy Beck

We are so happy to welcome Teresa Stevenson to St. Francis Wildlife as our new full-time wildlife rehabilitator.

Originally from Mexico, Teresa has a B.S. degree in biology from Universidad Veracruzana de Mexico.

Teresa moved to Florida this summer from Pennsylvania where she was founder and director of the Lehigh WildCare wildlife rehabilitation center and an active member of the National Wildlife Rehabilitators Association (NWRA), International Wildlife Rehabilitation Council (IWRC), the National Opossum Society (NOS), the Pennsylvania Association of Wildlife Rehabilitators (PAWR) and the New York State Wildlife Rehabilitation Council (NYSWRC).

I know she will be a wonderful asset to not only St. Francis Wildlife, but also to our entire community.

Teresa, when did you decide to become a wildlife rehabilitator?

*I found a baby mockingbird a few months after I came to this country. I took care of it the best I could for three days, and then I learned about a wildlife rehabilitation center in the area.*

*I was impressed. There's no such a thing as wildlife rehabilitation in Mexico.*

*When I settled in Pennsylvania, I looked for a center to volunteer. After just a few weeks working there I was hooked. I volunteered for three years.*

How long have you been rehabbing?

*About 10 years.*

Tell me a little about your organization in Pennsylvania.

*I started a home-based wildlife rehabilitation center when the only center in the area closed. We cared for about 1,000 animals every year.*

What species did you care for most often?

*We got lots of bunnies! Baby songbirds and baby squirrels too. Many Canada geese and mallard ducks. We also cared for many raptors that were hit by cars while eating roadkill. We saw a lot of red-tailed hawks, great horned owls and screech owls.*

Is there a particularly memorable experience you've had as a rehabber?

*I'm always impressed by people who care about wildlife and by how much they are willing to help an animal.*

*A lady brought us a butterfly that was stuck in her car grill. There's not much anybody can do for a*



**Teresa Stevenson with a yellow-bellied slider, a native aquatic turtle.**

PHOTO/Michelle Osborne

*butterfly, but no good deed should be ignored, so we set it up in a cage with flowers. The butterfly flew away a few hours later!*

What part of your job do you look forward to when you wake up in the morning? What do you find most rewarding?

*I'm always anxious to do rounds and see how all the animals are doing - if they are responding well to treatment, if the babies are finally eating on their own, if the injuries are healing.*

*Just having a wild animal in your hand is a privilege. Very few people are able to have that experience. That's a reward in itself for me.*

Is there a species you particularly enjoying working with?

*If you ask me that question while I'm caring for a baby bird, I would probably say that's my favorite animal. If you ask me while I'm caring for a baby opossum, that would be my favorite animal at that moment. I love them all. They all have different and amazing personalities.*

Why did you decide to join the staff at St. Francis Wildlife?

*I wanted to move to Florida where it is nice and warm. If I don't see Pennsylvania snow ever again I will not miss it! And I wanted to continue doing what I love to do - caring for wildlife.*

What are some similarities and differences you've found between wildlife in Pennsylvania and Tallahassee?

*The first thing I noticed is how small the white-tailed deer are here.*

*The most common species that we care for in Pennsylvania are the same species that we see here though. Squirrels, finches, raccoons, opossums, rabbits, Canada geese, barred owls, cardinals. The habitats are very different in the two states, but these animals are capable of adapting, just like people.*

*Some other animals are specific to each state. There are no aningas in Pennsylvania, and there are no woodchucks in Florida.*

What was your first impression of Tallahassee? Of St. Francis Wildlife?

*The first thing I noticed when I walked out of the airport was the smell. The warm humidity . . . I love it!*

*St. Francis Wildlife is a big facility compared to my home based center, and it's located in a beautiful wild area. Tallahassee should be proud of having such a facility. Big centers are not common in the country.*

What direction would you like to see St. Francis Wildlife go in the future? What is your vision for St. Francis Wildlife?

*I want to see St. Francis improve every day. Wildlife rehabilitation is still a new field, and we are learning new ways and new techniques every day. We have to keep ourselves updated constantly to provide the best care possible for the animals.*

*For wildlife rehabilitation to be successful, it must be a community effort. The people who call us with questions, the ones who bring animals to us, the veterinarians who help with their expertise, volunteers, donors, fundraisers, educators, government agencies, private corporations and the St. Francis staff and board of directors . . . all together, making a difference for wildlife. Wildlife that, in most cases, got into trouble directly or indirectly as the result of human activities. They most definitely deserve a second chance. St. Francis provides this second chance.*

How can the community participate?

*I want to encourage everyone to get involved. We always need help, from cutting the grass and building outdoor cages, to nursing baby squirrels and cleaning cages. And, of course, donations of items (Wist List, Page 4) and funds are always needed. We can not do it without a lot of help from the community.*

What would you like our community to know about you?

*I became an American citizen just recently, and I'm very proud of living in a country that cares about wildlife.*

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## We need you! Volunteer at St. Francis Wildlife.

If you are dependable, have your own health insurance and transportation and want to make a difference, please email volunteer coordinator Dean Humphrey at [deanhumphrey@stfranciswildlife.org](mailto:deanhumphrey@stfranciswildlife.org) or call 850.627.4151 to schedule a training session.

# Shed your misconceptions about snakes

By Sandy Beck

As a boy growing up in Indiana, Jordan Sirosky had an intense fear of snakes, but once he faced his fear, he couldn't get enough of them.

"I am most definitely a snake guy," he says.

A biology and environmental studies student at FSU, Jordan also works part-time at St. Francis Wildlife, responding to rescue calls. Some are from people who have discovered a snake in their home.

"Most of the time it's a small snake that crawled beneath a door. Nearly everyone names a rattlesnake as the culprit. But ninety percent of the time, the snake is a black racer or a grey rat snake (aka oak snake).

A recent call from Glenn Pointe on Mission Road, however, fell into the other ten percent. The landscaper said he had killed two moccasins when he mowed around the pond and refused to return until the rest were removed.

Jordan expected to find harmless banded water snakes.

"I waded through some of the thick vegetation around the pond," Jordan recalled. "All I saw was frogs. But just as I was about to leave, I 'jumped' a large moccasin. In two hours, I caught seven more ranging from eight inches to three and a half feet, indicating a healthy breeding population.

Jordan also thinks of himself as the snakes' PR agent.

"They're really not the slimy, ferocious animals portrayed in movies. I try to teach people how to differentiate between harmless snakes and ones that pack a punch. In the case of the eastern diamondback rattlesnake, the pattern is obvious. But the Florida water moccasin or cottonmouth's pattern can vary depending on the age of the snake.

"Harmless snakes are mostly skinny from tail to head whereas venomous species have fat bodies, a thinner neck and a proportionally wide head. Also, when looking down on a venomous snake (except the coral snake), you cannot see the eyes due to the protrusion of a ridge over the eye. And venomous species have an elliptical, or cat-like, pupil. Non-venomous snakes have a round pupil like humans.

"Given the opportunity, all snakes will attempt to escape if threatened. In fifteen years of handling them, I have never had one chase me."

Many believe the only good snake is a dead snake. In my favorite "Far Side" cartoon, a snake whacks a koala with a two-by-four and asks, "How does it feel to be on the other side of the cute scale?"

Jordan relocates all the snakes he removes, both non-venomous and venomous.

"If you see one snake, there are likely several more, and you simply can't kill them all. Snakes have evolved into the perfect form of rodent control, and they play a crucial role in the ecosystem. If for no other reason than that, they deserve our respect."

**For more information about identifying and living with Florida's snakes, log on to: <http://myfwc.com/critters/Snakes.htm>**



**People often misidentify a harmless grey rat snake (above) as a venomous eastern diamondback rattlesnake (below). Both are local residents. Learn how to distinguish between the two species.**

(Above) **The grey rat or "oak snake's" thin body and round pupils are characteristic of many non-venomous snakes.** PHOTO/Sandy Beck

(Below) **One of the largest North American snakes, the venomous eastern diamondback rattlesnake has broad, dark brown diamond-shaped blotches bordered with thin bands of black and white. The body is very thick. The arrow-shaped head is much wider than the neck.**

PHOTO/FL Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission



## What should you do if you see a snake?

Familiarize yourself with the species of venomous snakes that are found in this part of Florida.

Only six of Florida's 44 snake species are venomous, the eastern coral snake, the southern copperhead, the cottonmouth or water moccasin, the eastern diamondback rattlesnake, the timber rattlesnake and the dusky pygmy rattlesnake.

Most Florida snakes are harmless and beneficial and prey on rodent populations. Even the venomous species are not particularly dangerous unless stepped on or otherwise provoked.

Killing a snake should be a measure of last resort!

If you see an unfamiliar snake and you're not sure if it's "friend or foe," just back away slowly and leave it alone. If it's in your yard and you think it might be a danger to you, your family or pets, call us.

## The Wild Classroom

**Unique programs feature disabled wildlife from St. Francis Wildlife.**

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

Sandy Beck, Education Director

sbeck@wildclassroom.net

850.528.0823

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



**A new Wild Classroom program, *Snakes, Alive!*, teaches children about these amazing reptiles and how to safely coexist. Learn more at [www.wildclassroom.net](http://www.wildclassroom.net).**

## Wildlife Wish List

- Gift certificate to Panhandle Pet Supply
- Carpenters to 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
- Esbilac puppy milk replacer
- KMR kitten milk replacer
- Paper towels
- Raw, hard-shelled nuts, like walnuts, pecans, hickory
- Unsalted peanuts in the shell
- Sunflower seed
- Wild bird seed
- Cracked corn
- Fresh fruits and vegetables
- Laundry detergent
- Bleach, unscented
- Liquid anti-bacterial hand soap
- Unfrayed baby blankets, T-shirts, sweat-shirts, pillowcases, top sheets
- Medical Supplies, such as**
- sterile gauze pads
- gloves
- syringes
- Lactated Ringers
- Big Items**
- Vinyl Floor for Hospital
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### Images from the St. Francis Wildlife Animal Hospital

(Clockwise from bottom) Baby white squirrel wonders if the camera lens is edible. Juvenile yellow-billed cuckoo. Baby chimney swift. Jennifer gives a warm Epsom salt bath to a young opossum whose back legs were paralyzed after she was hit by a car (the opossum has begun to walk again!). Donna feeds two hungry fawns. Michelle feeds a baby grey squirrel. Group picture (left to right): Jennifer, Bobbie Jo, Donna and Michelle. **PHOTOS/Sandy Beck**

### A big thanks to all our squirrel foster parents!

By Barbara Barnett

Baby squirrel season was getting busy and many of our regular foster parents were already caring for this season's babies. But as Tropical Storm Fay approached we knew "busy" would soon take on a whole new meaning!

In the height of the storm people started bringing in dozens of drenched, cold babies and we were rushing to get them all dry, warm and stabilized. The task was made even tougher when we lost power at the wildlife hospital. Staff and volunteers took the storm refugees home to care for them. It was an exhausting task. When the rain stopped, we had more than 200 orphaned babies.

Many regular foster parents and new volunteers contacted us in the following days offering to help. We are very grateful for all their support in this time of need.

Hurricane season is not over yet and neither is the need for squirrel foster care. If you are interested in becoming a foster parent please email [barbbarnett@stfranciswildlife.org](mailto:barbbarnett@stfranciswildlife.org) or call St. Francis Wildlife at **627-4151**. Thank you for caring!

## Are you ready for a WILD experience?

Volunteer opportunities at St. Francis Wildlife include . . .

- Wildlife Hospital – Clean cages, do laundry, prepare special diets, feed animals and more! Volunteers must be at least 18 and have their own health insurance. "Baby Bird Season" begins in March and continues throughout the summer. We need reliable, patient volunteers to feed hundreds of orphaned baby birds in our hospital. Babies must be fed every 20 minutes. The Baby Bird Room is an unforgettable experience! Then Baby Squirrel Season begins in August!
- Foster orphaned baby squirrels in your own home or care for them in our hospital. We receive at least 700 orphans each year when they are blown from their leafy nests during storms (read article on left).
- Help build and repair outside cages at our facility.
- Animal Rescue – Transport wildlife to veterinarians or to our Rehabilitation Center.
- Events and Fundraising – Sell T-shirts, talk about wildlife, sign up volunteers. See events calendar on Page 8.
- Deliver newsletters around town.

To sign up for a training session email volunteer coordinator Dean Humphrey at [deanhumphrey@stfranciswildlife.org](mailto:deanhumphrey@stfranciswildlife.org), 627.4151 or [www.stfranciswildlife.org/volunteer.html](http://www.stfranciswildlife.org/volunteer.html).

# Modern Mailers: Community Conservation Partner in the Spotlight

877 West Orange Avenue, Tallahassee

850-877-0613

Once upon a time, whenever St. Francis Wildlife mailed a newsletter, volunteers spent hours printing address labels, sticking them on newsletters, sorting the newsletters into bins and then carrying them all down to the Post Office.

A few years ago, Modern Mailers offered to do it all for us AND to donate their services too. This was a dream come true.

Joe and Karen Biggs and their daughter Sara own and operate this family-owned company, and this year they are celebrating their 30th anniversary.

Sara says, "As long time supporters of wildlife preservation, our company is honored to be able to be a part of the wonderful service that St Francis Wildlife provides to our community. The rescue and rehabilitation programs enable us to play a direct roll in protecting local wildlife. And the educational outreach programs give each of us the unique opportunity to better understand wildlife."

Thank you, Modern Mailers for giving us more time to care for the animals!



PHOTO/Sandy Beck

Clockwise from upper right: Kate Griffith, Sara Biggs, Stephanie Koenig, Ben Gillespie, Seth Smith, Dawn Sanford, (hiding) Charity Moore and "Gator" McCallister.



(Photo on left) Boy scouts who worked on St. Francis Wildlife's new songbird aviary are, left to right: Jack Simmons, Walker Lane, Kyle Goller, Burton Lane and Sam Simmons. Frank Shaw III, Wilson Smith, Dr. George Simmons and Rick Kiser also helped with the project.

PHOTOS/Wilson Smith

## Songbirds will soar once again, thanks to Boy Scouts!

By Sandy Beck

Orphaned songbirds raised at St. Francis Wildlife now have a spacious, state-of-the-art flight cage in which to practice their flight skills before heading into the wild blue yonder, thanks to Sam Simmons, who conceived of the idea for his Eagle Scout project.

Sam designed the cage, raised the money to purchase the materials and provided the Boy Scouts to do the construction. His brother and fellow scout Jack Simmons also participated, as did his dad, Dr. George Simmons of North Florida Animal Hospital and St. Francis Wildlife board member Rick Kiser. Stone's Home Center in Havana gave the boys a generous discount on the building materials.

Thousands of cardinals, goldfinches and bluebirds, and those who love them will thank you all for many years to come!

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

### Become a Community Conservation Partner.

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

For details contact:

**Barbara Barnett**

barbbarnett@stfranciswildlife.org  
850.562.4379

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### IMPORTANT!

**If you set a live trap . . .** to catch an animal, please check the trap often, and deliver the animal to us as soon as possible.

Do not set a trap in direct sunlight; an animal can get heat-stroke very quickly.

## We need your help to care for the wildlife our community treasures. Please write a check today and renew your annual support for St. Francis Wildlife.

At one time or another, almost every family in town has dropped off a baby bird or a baby squirrel to us at Northwood Animal hospital or called us to rescue an owl or deer that was hit by a car or got stuck in a fence.

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

For your tax-deductible donation, you will receive:

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

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## Donation Form

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

(Fall 2008)

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

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

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

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

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

**Please contact me about:**  Volunteering.  Community Conservation Business Partnership.  Education Programs.

# Adopt-an-Animal for the Holidays

One more great reason to adopt a wild thing for the holidays: "Cedar."

St. Francis Wildlife rescued this barred owl in 1991 after she was hit by a car. One wing was so badly damaged, it was amputated.

Cedar came to live with several other permanently disabled birds of prey and became a member of The Wild Classroom outreach education program. For 17 years, Cedar has taught children the importance of protecting wildlife.

Take Cedar or another one of our permanently disabled wild things under your wing. As a sponsor of an education raptor, 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 wildlife. If you would like to send an adoption package as a gift, we can take care of that. **Get your holiday shopping done early and help St. Francis Wildlife too.** Adoption application and photos of adoption candidates on our web site at

[www.stfranciswildlife.org/adoption.html](http://www.stfranciswildlife.org/adoption.html)



Barred owl "Cedar" at the 2008 Pinewoods Bird Festival at Pebble Hill. PHOTO/Sandy Beck

## Special owl honored with new t-shirt art

By Sandy Beck

In 1992, a red phase eastern screech owl baby fell from her nest when her tree was cut for firewood. Because one wing was permanently disabled, Red came to live with two other disabled screech owls – Otus, a grey phase, and Maya, a brown phase screech owl. As a member of the Wild Classroom outreach program, Red spent the rest of her life visiting school children and special events with other disabled birds of prey. A photo of Red and Otus (Red is on the right) taken in 2006 at a Wild Classroom program at Buck Lake Elementary is on Page 4. Red died just a few days later at the ripe old screech owl age of 14.



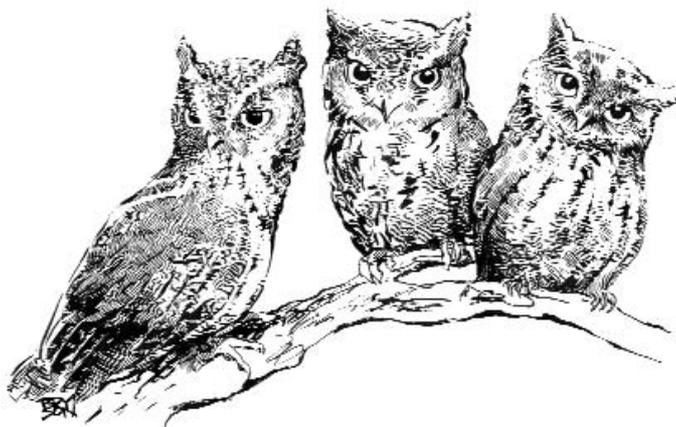
To honor Red's years of service as a wildlife educator, Native Nurseries' garden pond designer and talented artist Brian Bryson used our favorite photos of Red and her two friends to do some sketches.

Brian's sketch of Red as a baby will be featured on a new St. Francis Wildlife children's shirt (left), and his sketch of all three owls will be on the new adult shirt (below). Red is the owl on the right.

These shirts will be available beginning in October at our OWL-O-WEEN event at the Downtown Marketplace on Saturday, October 25th.

Please see the calendar on Page 8 for a list of other events where these unique shirts will be available. They will make spectacular holiday gifts.

We want to thank board members Elenita Gomez and Jack Brennan for donating the cost of the shirts, so 100% of your purchase price will benefit the animals at St. Francis Wildlife!



TEN THOUSAND VILLAGES

**Thursday, December 4th**  
**5 p.m. - 8 p.m.**

**Ten Thousand Villages, will donate 20% of your fair trade Holiday purchases to St. Francis Wildlife!**

Meet birds of prey.

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### Help St. Francis Wildlife feed 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 562-4100.

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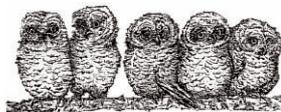
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**Saturday, October 25th  
8 a.m. - 2 p.m.**

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

**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 newest book, *Florida,  
Magnificent Wilderness*. You will defi-  
nitely want one of our NEW, very cool  
Screech Owl T-shirts!**

## Events Calendar

**Saturday, September 27th: Gulf Winds Track Club's Prefontaine Forest Run, Silver Lake Recreation Area.** Proceeds will benefit St. Francis Wildlife. Jeff Nielsen at 459-8859, [gulfwinds.org](http://gulfwinds.org).

**Saturday, October 11: Fourth Annual Blessing of Animals at Mission San Luis.** Bring your pets and meet our wild ones! Franciscan Father Robert Young 2021 West Mission Road, 10 am - 2 pm.

**Saturday, October 25: 7th Annual OWL-O-WEEN Party, Downtown Marketplace,** Ponce de Leon Park at Monroe and Park Ave., 9 am - 2 pm

**Sunday, October 26: Birdsong Nature Center Fall Festival.** Music, food, crafts, hayrides, birding, St. Francis Wildlife's animals and more. Meridian Rd., 4 miles north of the state line. Noon - 4 p.m. 229.377.8723, [birdsongnaturecenter.org](http://birdsongnaturecenter.org).

**Saturday, November 22: Pet Photos with Santa! TAKE YOUR PETS to Esposito Garden Center** and have their picture taken with Santa. These photos will make great holiday cards! Photo packages for sale. A portion of all PET PHOTO proceeds will benefit St. Francis Wildlife. 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., 2743 Capital Circle N.E., 386-2114

**Thursday, December 4: Shopping Benefit for St. Francis Wildlife at 10,000 Villages.** Special shopping hours for wildlife lovers! See Page 7.

**Saturday, December 6: Wildlife Program at Mission San Luis**  
Sandy Beck, Wild Classroom education director, and disabled wildlife will teach participants about Mission San Luis' wild neighbors. Donations appreciated. 2021 West Mission Road, 10:30 am.

## 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:**

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