

Caring for wildlife  
for 42 years!



# Wildlife Matters

Quarterly Newsletter of the St. Francis Wildlife Association

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.

Vol. 29, No. 1

Spring 2021

## Rarely seen owl rescued

St. Francis Wildlife received 407 owls in the last five years; only three were Barn Owls.

Sandy Beck



This injured baby Barn Owl was rescued at the Jones Center at Ichauway in Newton, GA.

MARLENA HAMILTON

A big, wooden nest box hung in the rafters of an open shed, and just a few feet away in the tall grass lay a ball of downy fluff.

Luckily, this field was located at the Jones Center at Ichauway, in Newton, Georgia, a 29,000-acre outdoor laboratory where a community of biologists study the Southeast Coastal Plain's unique ecosystems.

When the Wildlife Ecology department was alerted, Gail Morris and Marlena Hamilton grabbed a pet carrier and rescued the baby owl.

"We could see the wing was injured so we called St. Francis Wildlife and drove him down," Gail said.

A dozen or more boxes arrive at our wildlife hospital every day with wild animals that need help. But finding a Barn Owl in one of these boxes is rare.

Director Kayla Gainer-Edwards quietly examined the frightened baby. He was weak, dehydrated, and had a nasty wound on his left wing. She cleaned

the wing and gave him fluids, antibiotics and something to dull the pain.

The following day, he had perked up and was able to keep down solid food. For two months, our staff carefully monitored his recovery and growth, taking great care to hide their faces so he would grow up wild, not imprinted on humans.

While it is the most widespread of all owl species, found on every continent but Antarctica, Barn Owl populations have crashed in many parts of our country, including the Tallahassee area. It is now endangered, threatened or a species of special concern in 19 states.

They are losing habitat. Barn Owls need open fields, pastures and marshes where they can hover on their long, silent wings, listening for the footsteps of careless rodents. Their gold and grey speckled plumage blends into the tall grasses where they hunt.

Secondary poisoning from rodenticides is another likely reason this species is in trouble; eating as few as three poisoned mice can kill a Barn Owl.

Some people question whether returning rehabilitated wildlife to their habitats is worth all the time, money and other resources.

But consider, for a moment, an ecosystem as an intricate puzzle in which every living part — every milkweed flower, monarch butterfly, field mouse, and Barn Owl — plays an important role that helps the whole system work.

*Wildlife rehabilitation is the intoxicating process of coming to know something quite unlike you, to understand it well enough not only to keep it alive but also to put it back, like a puzzle piece, into the gap in the world it left behind.*

*Vesper Flights*

By Helen MacDonald

After a few weeks of TLC in our wildlife hospital and another few weeks of "flight and forage school" in a large outside enclosure, it was time for this Barn Owl to go home — to the world it left behind.



The Barn Owl's first flight, wild and free.

BOB BECK

Before sunset, my husband Bob and I drove the owl back up to Newton. Marlena Hamilton greeted us with six other biologists, and we caravanned a few miles along sandy roads to the field where the owlet was discovered.

I set his box on the grass, opened the door, and for one, long moment the Barn Owl just sat and stared at the endless autumn sky. Then one hop and he opened his wings, flapped and lifted off the ground. I held my breath.

Gliding through the air, like a giant, white moth, with each silent stroke he rose higher above us and closer to the old live oak across the field until he landed, not too gracefully — his feet gripping a tangle of leaves. And I breathed.

After he calibrated his magical compass and collected his bearings, the Barn Owl flapped once more and sailed across the darkening sky farther than I could see.

## How to help Barn Owls

- Give them a place to call home. Leave big dead trees standing. A shortage of suitable nest sites like dead trees and open barns is one reason for this species' decline.

Provide nest boxes in suitable habitat. Download a nest box plan here: [nestwatch.org](http://nestwatch.org).

- For ideas on safe and sustainable rodent control go to: [raptorsarethesolution.org](http://raptorsarethesolution.org).



NANCY ELWOOD



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Coop members

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Leah Bowman  
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Roxane, Brendan &  
Guy of the BIPP  
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From  
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Jeffrey Saulich

#### Michael McKeever

From  
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Diane and Mike  
Quillen

#### Helen Staskiewcs

From  
Bruce Staskiewcs

#### Frolic Wood

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From  
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Alice Honea

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From  
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From  
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From  
Brenda Rivers

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From  
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From  
Farhat Khairallah

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Allie, Donald and  
Donna Walters

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From  
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Glass

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From  
her husband  
Thomas Seal

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From  
Mary Anne Lashier

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Grabill  
John Ernst Peters  
Joseph P Pagano  
Ebony Hills  
Branch  
From  
Teresa Colvin

#### Thomas David Gowan

from  
Brenda Rivers

### In Honor of

#### A lovely Thrush

From  
Jennie Myers

#### Traitor Jesse Bun

from  
Ann & Jeff  
VanderMeer

#### Rhonda Work

From  
Julia Wilshire-Work  
Byron & Chris  
Work

#### Virginia McCampbell for her 90th birthday

From  
Gene  
McCampbell

#### Diane and Ken Linthacum

From  
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Martin Wood, III

#### Native Nurseries

From  
Trillium Gardens  
Nursery

#### Lou and Calynne Hill

From  
Mr. & Mrs. Brooks  
Pettit

#### Beth Babcock, Bernadette Mueller & Ruth Chase

From  
Spike Gram

#### Tara Tanaka

From  
Susan Hensley  
Lynn Markell

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From  
Charlotte Rice

#### Donna Hansell

from  
John Leach

#### Margaret Lynn & Tommy Duggar

From  
Benjamin and Pam  
Price

#### Phil Hughes

From  
Suzanne Hughes

#### Ann Camp

From  
Galt and Francine  
Allee

#### Sandy Beck & the staff at St. Francis Wildlife

From  
Fred Vroom

#### Cindy West for her care of our family pets and wildlife

From  
Robert & Joan Kaye

#### Staff & volun- teers at St Francis

From  
Regina and David  
Cocharan

#### Sandy Beck

From  
Nancy Bivins

#### Denise Johnson Frazier

From  
Valeriann Johnson

#### Sallie Teaf & Vicky Heaton

From  
Patricia &  
Christopher Teaf

#### Bryan & Jen Quadagno for trying to save an injured fawn

From  
David and Jill  
Quadagno

#### Steven Wright

From  
Carole Cooper

### Thank you for your very generous support

Apple Lane Foundation  
William Howard Flowers Jr.  
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Blessings Fund  
Diane Slaughter Fund  
Lewis Family Charitable  
Foundation  
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Ronald Meyer  
Lee Burgess  
Sallie Barnes  
Thomas Range  
Fred Vroom  
Thomas Seal  
Tracy Cummins  
Patsy Paschal  
Henry Depew

### Sincere thanks to our community for caring about wildlife.

- **COSTCO** for weekly donations of produce for our animals.
- **Panhandle Pet Supply** for donating squirrel food and deep discounts on other supplies.
- **Walmart in Quincy** for donating dog food and birdseed.
- **Keith Baxter and Wendy Hollady** for representing St. Francis Wildlife at the Presbyterian Church Christmas Mission Market and raising \$795!
- **Stoney Thompson of Peaceful Pets** for cremation services.
- **Cathy Baldwin, Felecia Elmore & Faye Davis** for sewing beautiful hammocks and blankets for baby opossums and squirrels.
- **Native Nurseries** for their thoughtful donation.
- **Rob Odom and Oscar's Italian Restaurant** in Havana for rescuing a Barred Owl and making a generous donation for its care.
- Special thanks to these community groups for their donations:  
**Tallahassee Jr. Woman's Club**  
**Chattahoochee Women's Club**  
**Blackbaud Giving Fund**  
**Susan Bachman Giving Fund**  
**Network for Good**



**Your Facebook fundraisers  
raised thousands for  
St. Francis Wildlife!  
Thank you!**

- Mary Lou Lewis • Nancy Barfield
- Katherine Fowler • Pat Simmons
- Marty Dix • Ken Goodie
- Sandy Beck • The Tally Cat Cafe



**Brady Fisher of Troop 117**, thank you and your family and the friends who helped you for building our wonderful new mammal enclosure! Congratulations on becoming an Eagle Scout, Brady!  
KAYLA GAINER-EDWARDS

### ♥ THANK YOU

to our dedicated volunteers who clean cages, do laundry, transport wildlife from vet offices to St. Francis Wildlife, rescue wildlife and so much more. You are so appreciated!



All Spectrum Painting  
Ben Hurston  
(850) 556-5720

Thank you so much for pressure washing and painting the entire deck of our wildlife hospital for a very discounted price.



**Matt Wesolowski with Junk Pro**, thank you for making a pro bono visit to our wildlife sanctuary with your truck and helping us clean up our grounds.

**St. Francis Wildlife cared for 3,038 wild birds, mammals and reptiles in 2020.  
Here are just a few that your donations have helped.**



**97 Owls:**  
73 Barred Owls, 11 Great Horned Owls,  
11 Eastern Screech Owls, 1 Barn Owl

Above: Barred Owl, hit by car. TORI BAKLEY



**338 Opossums**

Above: Orphaned opossum raised at St. Francis Wildlife, ready to be wild, again. TORI BAKLEY

If you find a dead opossum on the road, check to see if it is a female with a pouch. During the spring and summer, a pouch may contain up to 13 babies. You can save the babies by keeping them warm and taking them to St. Francis Wildlife.



**20 Flying Squirrels, 1 Fox Squirrel,  
549 Grey Squirrels**

Above: Orphaned Flying Squirrel. TORI BAKLEY

**If you find a baby squirrel on the ground . . .**

**If it is injured, covered with insects, or was caught by a cat or dog, follow #1 and #2 (below), and then take it to St. Francis.**

**If the baby is unharmed, try to reunite it with its mother:**

- 1) Put it in a small box on a t-shirt. Cut air holes in the lid.
- 2) If it is wet or cool, warm a water bottle or sock filled with rice in the microwave, wrap it in a t-shirt and place it next to the baby. Do NOT feed it or give it fluids.
- 3) Place the open box at the base of a tree where you found it.
- 4) Observe from a window; its mother wants to carry it back to her nest. It may take a few hours.
- 5) If it is dusk and she has not come, bring it inside and call us.



**106 Turtles and Tortoises**

Above: A baby Snapping Turtle being returned to its habitat.  
KAYLA GAINER-EDWARDS

This baby Snapping Turtle was brought to us by a well-meaning person who thought it was an orphan. Turtles and tortoises do not care for their young. When a baby hatches from its egg, it is on its own.



**285 Eastern Cottontail Rabbits**

Above: Two orphaned bunnies. BAILEY BLACK

If you find bunnies, don't mow, don't weed whack, don't move them. Mama rabbits and deer return to nurse only twice during the day. They stay away so as not to attract predators to their scentless babies. Please let them be unless there is obvious danger or they are injured.

If a cat found them, even if you don't see puncture wounds, they will need antibiotics to survive. This is true for any wild species attacked by an outdoor cat.



**118 Northern Cardinals**

Above: Three Northern Cardinal nestlings. BAILEY BLACK

**Most frequent reasons for admission to St. Francis Wildlife in 2020**

- Nest, tree or habitat destroyed: 491
- Orphaned: 483
- Cat attack: 407
- Hit by car: 360
- Dog attack: 152
- Entrapment (fence, pool, glue trap, etc.): 140

## Whenever possible, we try to reunite a wild baby with its mama.

Sandy Beck, Kayla Gainer-Edwards and Bailey Black



When winter turns to spring, the wildlife world explodes with activity, and so does St. Francis Wildlife.

While most birds raise their young in the spring, Great Horned Owls and Bald Eagles are the “early birds.” By October, mated pairs of these big raptors are courting and choosing or refurbishing a nest site. By January or February, when their babies have hatched, St. Francis Wildlife receives calls to rescue our first baby birds of the year — owlets or eaglets that have fallen from their nests.

Our first baby Great Horned Owl arrived February 6th. It was in perfect health. There was a nest in the tree, but it was in poor shape so we used a laundry basket to make a new nest (photo above). By 4:40 p.m., a crew from **Fielder Tree Service** had secured the basket and placed the baby in it. By 6:30 p.m., one of the parents was already feeding it.



March 29th we received a call about another baby Great Horned Owl in a backyard off Live Oak Plantation Circle. Two owlets were on the ground. Sadly, one perished. Our rescuer, Brian Weinstein, picked up the surviving owlet (above photo) and brought it to our wildlife hospital where it received a thorough exam, a warm bed and nutritious meals.

March 31st, our good friends at **Fielder Tree Service** met us at the Tallahassee Midtown home.

Owls do not build their own nests; they use tree cavities or “borrow” nests built by hawks, eagles, crows or other large birds. Sometimes the “pre-owned nest” they choose is not in such great shape. This particular nest was flimsy and also located at the end of a tree limb.

We used a laundry basket filled with twigs and leaves to construct a new nest. **Fielder** used a crane to carry up the basket, securely attached it to a limb closer to the tree trunk, and then placed the owlet in its new home.

The homeowner, Nicole Myhre and the neighbor who had found the owlet and called us were thrilled to have the baby owl returned.

Ms. Myhre reported that the very next day the precocious owlet was perched on a branch next to the basket. And soon, an adult owl appeared with it.

We are so grateful to **Fielder Tree Service** and their amazing crew for helping us reunite these owl families.

We also appreciate our rescuers, the homeowners and other concerned citizens who share the same deep love and appreciation for wildlife that we do at St. Francis Wildlife.



KRIS BASS-PETERSON

### Meet our newest wildlife angel

Tovah Hackenberg recently joined our small staff as a full-time wildlife technician.

An Oregon native, Tovah attended San Diego Miramar College and graduated with a degree in biology.

She worked at Lions, Tigers and Bears Sanctuary in Alpine, California as a carnivore keeper and in the San Diego Zoo Safari Park.

In Tennessee, she interned at Walden’s Puddle Wildlife Rehabilitation and Education Center of Greater Nashville.

Her favorite animals? Tovah has a special place in her heart for tigers and opossums.

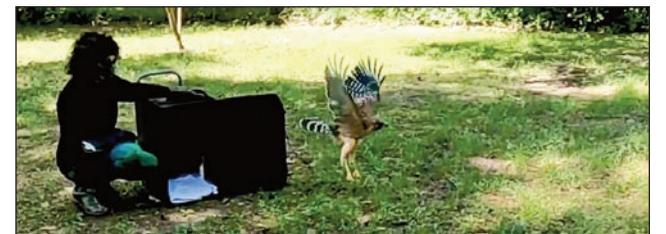


Rescuer Brian Weinstein responded to a call from retired TMH nurse Linda Bronson and captured this injured Red-shouldered Hawk in her NW Tallahassee backyard.

Above: At our wildlife hospital, Kayla Gainer-Edwards and Nicole Rivera found severe bruises and swelling on its breast that indicated that it may have been hit by a car or flown into a window.

Below: After a successful course of rehabilitation, Sandy Beck took it home and set it free!

KRIS BASS-PETERSON



# The jewels in our gardens—Ruby-throated Hummingbirds

Sandy Beck

The only hummingbird species that breeds in eastern North America is such a welcome sign of spring. Ruby-throated hummingbirds arrived in mid-March and are darting around flowers and nectar feeders all over town now.

They will raise their young and then head south again in September. It amazes me that this tiny creature can fly 500 miles non-stop across the Gulf of Mexico at speeds of up to 25 miles per hour and dive almost twice that fast. These master aerialists can fly forward, backward and even dive upside down.

Metallic green above and white below, only the male has the brilliant, iridescent ruby throat. The slightly larger female is green above, with a white throat and breast and white-tipped tail feathers. She also has a longer, more curved bill that may enable her to dine on nectar the male can't reach — a good way to share habitat.



This hummingbird was dehydrated and weak after getting stuck in a garage. After a week of TLC at St. Francis Wildlife it was returned to its habitat. KAYLA GAINER-EDWARDS

## How to help hummers in trouble

Every year, St. Francis Wildlife gets calls about hummingbirds in trouble. The most common situations are: hummingbird stuck in a garage, hummingbird with its bill caught in a mesh screen, and hummingbird that collides with a window.

If you find a hummingbird, or any bird, caught in your garage (or any room), open the garage door or windows, turn off the lights and back away. If it does not find its way out, you can make a net out of a wire hanger and pillowcase to catch it.

Occasionally, a hummingbird will get its needle-like bill caught in a screen. When this happened at our house, I used the back of a wide, wooden spoon to slowly and gently push the bill out, and the bird flew off.

When a bird flies into a window and you hear that dreaded “thud,” quickly find the bird before a predator does. Place it on a t-shirt in a shoebox with air holes punched in the lid. Cover the box, wrap a rubber band around it, and place it in a quiet, dark room. In about 30 minutes, or when you hear it stirring, take the box outdoors, point it away from you and open the lid. It should bolt for the nearest tree.



Lately, many Ruby-throated Hummingbirds have been sighted at the St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge. KAREN WILLES

If the collision happens at sunset, keep the bird overnight, but do not give it food or water.

If it does not recover within an hour or is bleeding or otherwise visibly hurt, take it to St. Francis Wildlife.

A woman who found a hummingbird nest in her yard broke off the branch that held it and brought it to us. The thimble-sized nest contained two tiny nestlings.

“The mother was not on the nest, and I am afraid they will starve,” she said.

We appreciated her concern but explained that bird parents do not stay at the nest all day. They zip in and out with tiny insects.

Pat Simmons, our “hands-on board president,” took the branch, some duct tape and a ladder and met the woman at her house. Pat taped the branch onto the same branch from which it was cut. Within minutes an adult hummer was at the nest.



This tiny hummingbird nest with two nestlings, unintentionally “kidnapped,” was returned to the tree and reunited with the parents. SANDY BECK

## Garden for hummingbirds

Like most birds, hummingbirds probably do not have a good sense of smell; most of their brain is dedicated to senses that are important for their survival — vision and hearing. Their acute vision scopes out colorful flowers, especially tubular blossoms such as salvia, red buckeye, coral-honeysuckle and firebush. Weighing just three grams, they can consume half their weight in nectar every day.

Hummers are also attracted to nectar feeders that supplement their natural diet of flower nectar, small insects and spiders carefully plucked from webs. Homemade sugar water is inexpensive and preferable to store bought nectar. Add one part white, granulated sugar to four parts filtered or distilled water and heat to help it dissolve. Don't substitute honey or increase the amount of sugar, and don't add red dye. Place your feeder in the shade and clean it every three days with white vinegar and water.

Because birds remember the locations of rewarding food sources, if you help them out by enriching their habitat these little jewels may call your garden their summer home for many years to come.



## VanderMeer's hummingbird helps St. Francis Wildlife!

Jeff VanderMeer, local NYT-best-selling author, is well known for his many popular books as well as his conservation efforts.

Jeff is celebrating his recent bestseller, **Hummingbird Salamander**, by selling beautiful t-shirts with his famous bird (above) and donating all proceeds to St. Francis Wildlife! Order yours at [vandermeercreative.threadless.com](http://vandermeercreative.threadless.com).

## Beavers really are worth a dam

Sandy Beck



Move over Bambi. A new furry darling has won our hearts. Its endearing little orange smile and fondness for bubble baths has gone, as they say, viral.

I'm talking about St. Francis Wildlife's semi-aquatic, 30-pound guest that made quite a splash in a world hungry for good news.

We received a call about this adult beaver when he was stuck in a storm water treatment facility.

St. Francis Wildlife rescuer Brian Weinstein and volunteer Larry Folsom used a long catch pole and

drop net to lift up the beaver. Rescuer Nicholas Petryk then rushed the exhausted animal to our wildlife hospital.

Wildlife rehabilitators Kayla Gainer-Edwards and Nicole Rivera examined it from head to tail, and then gave it a Dawn bath to wash off the acidic treatment water.

### How to co-exist with beavers

We sometimes hear from people concerned about flooding problems and tree damage who want the culprit beaver trapped and relocated.

A beaver's sharp teeth and powerful jaw muscles can buzz through a good-sized tree in a few hours. Like its smaller rodent cousin, the squirrel, a beaver must gnaw to keep its continuously growing, orange incisors trimmed. A vegetarian, the beaver scarfs up tender twigs, leaves and the inner cambium

layer of tree bark. It drags home the remaining branches for damming and building.

Killing or trapping a beaver is futile because another beaver will quickly move in to fill the habitat void. Juvenile beavers spend two years with their parents to learn survival skills, so the loss of an adult would also be inhumane or place a long-term burden on the wildlife rehabilitation center that rescues it.

Destroying a dam is pointless because the industrious beaver will quickly rebuild, removing even more trees in the process. Fortunately, there are inexpensive, non-lethal ways to protect particular trees and mitigate flooding.

Individual trees can be spared by placing three-foot-high steel, welded wire cylinders (not chicken wire) around the base of the trunks, pinned to the ground to protect roots and prevent the animal from digging under it. Leave a six-inch growth space between the tree and the wire. A fence made from the same material can protect a grove of trees. Beavers are not good climbers.

Wildlife experts have invented clever management methods — including a Pond Leveler pipe system and Round Fences — that can control blocked culvert issues and flooding problems. Learn about these and other non-lethal ways to resolve human-beaver conflicts at [www.beaverinstitute.org](http://www.beaverinstitute.org).

Why make the effort to spare these pudgy rodents?

The beaver is a keystone species that benefits nearly everything that walks, flies and swims. Remove its dam — that little marvel of engineering — and the pond and you remove the fish and frogs as well as the great blue heron and barred owl that feed on them. You get the picture.

By storing runoff water and slowly releasing it, giving it a chance to settle into the land and replenish groundwater, beaver dams also reduce downstream flooding and erosion.

For two weeks, our famous beaver patient enjoyed a daily swim, dining on tender branches, aquatic plants and fresh fruits and vegetables, and napping under a heat lamp.

When the natural castor oils were replenished and its fur was water-resistant again, we released it in beautiful and safe beaver habitat at local nature artist Linda Van Beck's home on Lower Lake Lafayette. Linda is thrilled with her new neighbor.



Wild and free again in beaver heaven on Lower Lake Lafayette.  
SANDY BECK

## Beaver inspires young artist

Sandy Beck



Nora Thomas, 13, was so moved by our story in the *Tallahassee Democrat* of the beaver rescued at the water treatment plant that she created this beautiful painting.

Nora sells her "Life is Better With Beavers" paintings and t-shirts with other artwork on her Etsy Page, <https://www.etsy.com/shop/NorasLittleArtShop>.

"Fifty percent of whatever you buy on my Etsy shop will go to St. Francis Wildlife to help the animals!" Nora wrote.

"I've always wanted to use my art to help the environment in some way, and I'm so glad I got this opportunity to do just that."

Nora's artwork has raised more than \$300 so far for St Francis Wildlife. She and her mom Sarah used some of it to purchase and deliver items from our Wish List.

Nora, all your friends at St. Francis Wildlife thank you from the bottom of their wild hearts!



EMILY BRANN

## Mama opossum rescued from highway

We received a call about an opossum trapped on the North Monroe Street northbound overpass. Volunteer rescuer Emily Brann was able to promptly respond to the call and capture it.

When it arrived at St. Francis Wildlife, Kayla Gainer-Edwards examined her and found some superficial wounds. But the opossum also had eight babies in her pouch!

After she healed, mama opossum and her pouch full of babies were released in a safe forest habitat.

## In memory of our friend, Alice Honea

Pat Simmons

It is not every day you become friends with a 77-year-old woman who spends endless hours in her backyard quietly watching spiders build their webs, birds build nests and mice scurry from leaf to leaf.

I was fortunate to know Alice Honea, who did just that season after season. In precise detail, she documented each web, nest and animal behavior in her nature observations diary.

Alice was a dear friend and long-time supporter of various environmental organizations, including Birdsong Nature Center and St. Francis Wildlife.

Unexpectedly, in November Alice passed at home in the company of friends. For those of us who understood her passion for wildlife, even the tiniest in her urban yard, this loss cuts deep.

Kathleen Brady at Birdsong said it best: "I heard all about her finding a small lichen-covered branch that had fallen in her yard. Anyone else might have tossed it aside, but Alice picked it up and watched two small interacting garden snails. She saw great meaning and value in the small things of the world."

Her eyes shone with each recounting of what she had observed. We will all miss Alice's sheer love of the intricacies and mysteries of the tiny things that most people overlook.

SFW, as one of her beloved organizations, will certainly miss her continuous and generous support.

To me, Alice was a neighbor and a dear friend who enjoyed holiday meals with my family, slow walks at sunset, and loved the stories I shared about our wild patients and the glory of their release back into the wild.

We will miss this woman who valued all wild things, great and small.



## ♥ We love our volunteers and interns ♥



BAILEY BLACK

### FAMU interns collect supplies

Thank you, **Tiana Smith** and **Meghan Campbell**, for delivering the big box of needed supplies that you collected for our wild patient from your friends at Florida A&M University.

To keep everyone safe and healthy during this very busy Baby Season, our small staff is working around-the-clock, with only limited volunteer assistance.

If you've already had animal care experience in a vet office, zoo or other animal facility and would like to volunteer now, please call us at (850) 627-4151.

We also need volunteers to pick up wildlife from Tallahassee vet clinics and transport them to St. Francis Wildlife; no animal contact is involved so no experience is needed.

We want to offer our sincere thanks to these longtime volunteers who have been working with us throughout the pandemic:

**Vanessa Larsen, Pat Finelli, Gena Smith, Stephanie Sunderman-Barnes, Stephanie Morse and Larry Folsom.**



New volunteers Crystal Garcia and Rose Riley wash animal bedding. Our washers and dryers run 24/7!

KRIS BASS-PETERSON

### This Wildlife Matters newsletter will transition to new digital format

Editor Sandy Beck produced our first *Wildlife Matters* newsletter in 1992. This is issue #53!

Now that most people have a computer, tablet or smart phone, we have decided to go to an all online format this year. It will save St. Francis Wildlife money on printing and postage that can be spent on animal care.

**If you would like to receive *Wildlife Matters* online, please send an email to [admin@stfranciswildlife.org](mailto:admin@stfranciswildlife.org) with the subject "Wildlife Matters" and include your full name in the body of the email.**

We never share your personal information. Thank you!



### Volunteer saves Great Blue Heron

After a long, wet pursuit through five-foot-deep water, volunteer Bobby Edwards captured this Great Blue Heron from Lake Jackson.

Its beak was entangled in a sock!

When you are out on the water, please take the time to collect any trash that you see and properly cut and dispose of any snagged fishing line.

KAYLA GAINER-EDWARDS

## St. Francis Wildlife Donation Form: Please renew your annual support.

**Mail your check to:** St. Francis Wildlife Assoc., P.O. Box 38160, Tallahassee, FL 32315. Or donate online with PayPal at [www.stfranciswildlife.org](http://www.stfranciswildlife.org).

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

To make this donation in honor of someone (for a special occasion, memorial, etc.) please include a note with the honored person's name and the name and address of the 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 "Wild Classroom" wildlife education programs.

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



**Sincere thanks to these veterinary hospitals and their doctors who help us provide the highest quality care for wildlife.**



**Dr. Cavell (above),  
Brumfield & Baumgartner  
Northwood Animal Hospital**  
1881 N. MLK Jr. Blvd.  
Tallahassee



**Dr. Mitch Potter  
Allied Veterinary  
Emergency Hospital**  
2324 Centerville Rd.  
Tallahassee



**Dr. Steve Steverson  
Bradfordville  
Animal Hospital**  
6714 Thomasville Rd.  
Tallahassee



**Dr. Kim Kocel  
Paws & Claws  
Animal Hospital**  
3819 Bradfordville Rd.  
Tallahassee



**Dr. George Simmons  
North Florida  
Animal Hospital**  
2701 N. Monroe Street  
Tallahassee



**Dr. Lynn Hagood  
North Florida  
Animal Hospital**  
2701 N. Monroe Street  
Tallahassee



**Dr. Kitty Remington  
Capital Circle  
Veterinary Hospital**  
1826 Capital Circle NE  
Tallahassee



**Dr. Cindy West  
Alternative Veterinary  
Medicine**  
2431 Florida Georgia Hwy.  
Havana

## Wildlife Matters

**Contributing Editor and Layout**  
Sandy Beck

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### Mail Processing

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

## Wildlife Wish List

Wish List also online at: [www.stfranciswildlife.org/Donate.html](http://www.stfranciswildlife.org/Donate.html).  
Please take items to **St. Francis Wildlife or Allied Veterinary  
Emergency Hospital**. Call us about large items.

### Gift Certificates

- Native Nurseries
- Wild Birds Unlimited
- Panhandle Pet Supply
- COSTCO, Stone's, Home Depot, Walmart
- squirrelsandmore.com
- foxvalleynutrition.com
- armstrongcrickets.com
- rodentsontheroad.com
- amazon.com

### Food/Feeding

- Unsalted peanuts in the shell
- Raw, hard-shelled nuts, like walnuts, pecans, acorns
- Black oil sunflower seed
- Wild bird seed
- Keet seed
- Baby food: fruit, vegetables, beef, and chicken (no noodles)
- Eggs
- EXACT powder (baby bird formula)
- Plain and fruit yogurt
- Live or dried mealworms and crickets (live is more nutritious)
- Waterfowl maintenance pellets
- Waterfowl starter mash
- Plant pot saucers, plastic
- Heavy stoneware food bowls
- Latex-free exam gloves

### Cleaning Supplies

- Laundry detergent, unscented

- Bleach, unscented
- Heavy-duty 39 & 55 gallon trash bags
- Paper towels
- Dawn dish soap
- Odoban, Mr. Clean, Fabulosa
- Scotch-brite heavy duty scrub sponges
- Rakes
- Heavy duty hoses

### Animal Housing

- Baby blankets
- T-shirts, pillowcases, top sheets
- Soft toilet paper or soft tissue

### Office

- Sticky notes
- Letter-size printer paper, white
- Dry erase boards and pens, Sharpies, pens and pencils

### Misc.

- Non-toxic insect repellent for staff such as "Natrapel" (at Native Nurseries & Amazon)

### Big Wish

- A long-term goal is to have a St. Francis Wildlife location in Leon County. If you have acreage you would like to donate, please contact board president, Pat Simmons, (850) 339-5625.

### Help wildlife when you shop at Amazon

Begin your shopping at the **Amazon Smile** page, [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com), and choose "**St. Francis of Assisi Wildlife Association**" (our official name) as your charity.

And please check out our Amazon Wish List:  
<http://bit.ly/stfranciswildlife>

**Yep! We can do that.**

850.671.6600

[www.targetprintmail.com](http://www.targetprintmail.com)



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

**Non-Profit Organization  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
Tallahassee, Florida  
PERMIT NO. 329**

**If you find injured,  
orphaned or sick  
wildlife (New COVID-  
19 safety procedures)**



**Call us so we can help you assess the situation.**

- **8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.:** (850) 627-4151
- **After 5 p.m.:** (850) 933-2735

**If it is injured, sick or truly orphaned, please do the following, and then choose one of the three options:**

**Get a box**, and punch air holes in the lid. Place a t-shirt or pillowcase in the box (not a towel — claws or teeth get caught in the loops). Put the animal in the box and tape securely. Keep babies warm with a sock filled with rice or water bottle heated and wrapped in a t-shirt. Do not give it food or water.

**Keep it quiet**, in the dark, and handle as little as possible. Do not blast AC or play the radio in your car.

**1. 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. Take it to St. Francis Wildlife**, 5580 Salem Rd. Quincy, FL (4 miles NW of Havana), directions at: [www.stfranciswildlife.org](http://www.stfranciswildlife.org). Call us at (850) 627-4151 when you are on your way (cell service is spotty at SFW). There is a table on our covered front porch. Fill out a form on the table, and then knock on the front door. A staff member, wearing a mask and maintaining her distance, will come outside to pick up the animal and your form.

**After 5 p.m.**, we lock our gate on Salem Rd., so please call us, and then leave your box in the metal drop box next to the gate.

**2. 24/7, take it to Northwood Animal Hospital**, 1881 N. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Tallahassee. Call (850) 385-8181 when you arrive. Someone will come out to get your box and give you a form to fill out. Please have your own pen.

**3. 24/7, take it to Allied Emergency Veterinary Hospital**, 2324 Centerville Rd., Tallahassee.

Call (850) 222-0123 when you arrive. Someone will meet you at the door. Please have your own pen.

**If you call us about a large, injured animal or a rabies vector**, please stay nearby to monitor its movement until we arrive. If possible, we will send a rescuer who will wear an ID badge and remain six feet away from you.

**Never handle rabies vectors** such as **raccoons, foxes, or bats** (even babies). **Call us**. Birds and reptiles do not carry rabies. Squirrels, opossums and rabbits are rarely rabies vectors; it is still wise to use gloves.

For more information about wildlife rescue:  
[www.stfranciswildlife.org](http://www.stfranciswildlife.org)