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for 35 years!

St. Francis Wildlife ASSOCIATION

Wildlife Matters

Quarterly newsletter of the St. Francis Wildlife Association
P.O. Box 38160, Tallahassee, FL 32315 / 5580 Salem Rd., Quincy, FL 32352
www.stfranciswildlife.org 850.627.4151

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.12, No. 1 Summer 2013

Please help!

New challenges and opportunities

By Gregg Morton and Ralph DeMeo

For the past thirty-five years, the St. Francis Wildlife Association has provided care for orphaned, injured and sick wildlife. In fact, the community relies on St. Francis for this role and for providing this service. To continue to provide the appropriate level of care to the animals we receive, maintaining reliable and predictable funding is of critical importance.

Historically, in addition to private donations from supporters, St. Francis has received a large portion of its budget from Leon County and the City of Tallahassee. For those of you following local events, you are undoubtedly aware that the City is facing a financial crisis, with a looming shortfall of \$5.3 million being discussed, with future shortfalls also possible.

In addition, St. Francis funding comes from the portion of the City's budget dealing with animal services, which just learned that the ASPCA is withdrawing approximately \$300,000 of funding that it had provided to the Tallahassee-Leon Animal Service Center. Faced with these dire funding issues, in recent budget proposals the City has eliminated the entire annual grant given to St. Francis Wildlife (approximately \$35,000), and we suspect that once the budget is finalized this elimination of funding will remain.

On top of these cuts, St. Francis Wildlife has not been immune from the problems that everyone has experienced with the larger economy. Our donations have dropped significantly from past years and are not on pace to meet our needs.

These cuts and decreases follow our busiest baby animal season ever, and we expect them to keep arriving through October, along with the injured and sick adult animals that we receive year

round. So far this year, we have taken in and cared for more than 1,600 animals. We are asking our friends to step up and help us with additional support in this time of need, so that we can continue the important work we do.

You can contribute in a number of ways. You can renew your financial support by making a tax-deductible donation using the form in this newsletter (Page 7) or make an online donation at our website, www.stfranciswildlife.org. You can donate items from our Wish List (Page 8). We would also encourage you to explore the possibility of making a legacy gift to St. Francis (Page 7). Additionally, check out our calendar of events (Page 8) to come out and provide support, meet our staff, and learn about wildlife. You can also donate your time by becoming a volunteer at our wildlife hospital (Page 4).

Even with these funding challenges, we are excited about St. Francis Wildlife's future. We recently welcomed a new Executive Director and



PHOTOS FROM THIS YEAR'S BABY SEASON: Above, two baby Barred Owls returned to their nest by Tim Roop, tree climber and landscape supervisor with Native Nurseries. Below left, orphaned Carolina Wren nestlings. Below right, Bill Armstrong and Raame Radder (Armstrong Tree Service) with Great Horned Owl nestling.

Photos/Stephanie Neuman

Wildlife Rehabilitator, Stephanie Neumann (Page 5), and in her short tenure she has already made great advances in moving St. Francis Wildlife's mission forward and partnering with other organizations.

We also added six new members to the Board this year — Gregg R. Morton (an attorney and hearing officer with the Public Employees Relations Commission or PERC), Ralph A. DeMeo (an environmental, land use, and animal law attorney with Hopping Green & Sams), Pat Simmons (Health Educator with the Florida Department of Health's Bureau of Communicable Diseases and Director of Southeast K-9 Search and Rescue, Inc.), Koren Taylor (City Environmental Programs Coordinator for Environmental Policy and Energy Resources), Barbara Barnett (Business Analyst with the Florida State University's Budget Office), and Judy Gillan (Conservation Stewardship Coordinator for the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission).

We are also embarking on new ways to communicate with supporters through social media. Some of you may have seen our Facebook page with pictures of the many animals that

come into our wildlife hospital. If not, be sure to find and join the more than 1,400 community members who have "liked" St. Francis Wildlife on Facebook. Also, we recently created an account for Twitter users who are interested in learning more about our day-to-day operations. You can follow us at Twitter@stfranciswild.

Finally, we want to thank you for your continued support. Without you, we would not be able to help the thousands of native wild birds and animals that St. Francis Wildlife rehabilitates and releases back into their natural habitats.

Wild Baby Season sets new record

By Sandy Beck and Stephanie Neumann

This winter, north Florida warmed up earlier, and so did our wild neighbors' instincts to mate and raise their families. Consequently, we began receiving orphaned wildlife at the beginning of February — kicking off the earliest wild baby season we can remember.

Winter babies

By March 5th, we'd already rescued dozens of wild baby birds and animals, including cottontail bunnies, grey squirrels, flying squirrels, Carolina Wrens, Yellow-rumped Warblers, eastern red bats, Brazilian free-tailed bats, Mourning Doves and Northern Mockingbirds.

**CONTINUED, "Baby Season,"
Please see Page 5**





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St. Francis Wildlife staff members, left to right: Kelley Pollock, Stephanie Neumann and Michelle Osborne.

A special thank you to these veterinary hospitals for their professional services and generous donations

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- **Bradfordville Animal Hospital**
- **Bradfordville Paws & Claws**
- **Mahan Animal Clinic**
- **North Florida Animal Hospital**
- **Northampton Veterinary Clinic**
- **Northwood Animal Hospital**

We are also grateful to **Northwood Animal Hospital** for allowing citizens to leave orphaned, injured and sick wildlife for us at their 24-hour Emergency Care Facility.

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

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

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- Rhonda Work**
from
Byron and Chris Work



CONTINUED on next page

And the outpouring of love continues from this community that deeply cares about its wild neighbors —

IN HONOR OF

Continued from page 2

Claudia Vaccaro

From
Judy Gross

Tallulah King's 1st Communion

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Sister Antonia Cooper's Birthday

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from Faye & WC Webb

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 - **DQP** for discounted printing services.
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 - **Robert's Sand Company** for donating sand.
 - **Claudia Mason** with Claudarondacks Adirondack Furniture and the Painted Pony, for repairing cages for our education birds.
 - **Gulf Winds Track Club** and race organizer **Jeff Nielsen** for donating \$1,389 of proceeds from their annual Prefontaine 5K Forest Run to us.
 - **Native Nurseries** for hosting the Taste of Spain at Native Nurseries event that raised \$11,300 for us!
 - **Juan Ten**, owner and chef of **Real Paella**, for catering the Native Nurseries' fundraiser — yum!
 - **The Big Bend Woodwind Quartet** for making beautiful music at our Native Nurseries fundraiser.
 - **Tallahassee Jewish Federation Teen Board** for awarding us grant funding to build new walls for the large enclosures in our wildlife hospital that temporarily house injured & orphaned birds of prey.
 - **Quarter Moon** at Lake Ella for an all-day "Shop and Share" and donating 10% of purchases.
 - **Fermentation Lounge** for their "Drink a Beer to Save a Deer" event and donating 20% of the night's proceeds to St. Francis Wildlife.
 - **Key Heating and Cooling Inc.** for giving us a great deal on a new AC unit.
 - **The Grosmaire family** for donating a Jeep SUV for our staff to use for rescues and other business.
 - **Charles Morgan** for storage containers & bedding.
 - **Bill Wertman** for donating three chest freezers, a printer and other office supplies.
 - **Alan Strowd** for a utility trailer.
 - **W.N. and Anne Hightower** for cages & stands.
 - **Matthew & Brenda Neumann** for materials for on-site building repairs.
 - **Leslie Campbell** for a refrigerator.
 - **Gerald Megason** for a new chest freezer.
 - **Rebecca Franklin** for a mealworm farm.
 - **Raymond Graf**, Production Support Group, cages.
 - **Don's Shoe Repair** for repairing raptor gloves.
- These businesses that help us renest baby birds —**
- **Tim Roop**, certified arborist, tree climber and landscape supervisor with **Native Nurseries**.
 - **Ron Price** of **AAA Tree Service**.
 - **Bill Armstrong** of **Armstrong Tree Service**.
 - **Eddie Harris & J.T. Harris**, **Tallahassee Crane**.
 - **John Colavecchio** with **Bartlett Tree Experts**.

Osprey rescue brought out the best of Tallahassee

By Diane Ragan

I want to express my thanks to all the individuals who were involved with saving the life of a beautiful Osprey at Chiles High School.

My husband and I are avid bird watchers and wildlife enthusiasts, and we've observed a pair of Osprey return year after year to raise their family in the same nest built at the top of a light pole on the Chiles High School football field.

Late one Friday afternoon, I saw the female at the top of one of the light poles with her wing impaled on a lightening rod. I called St. Francis Wildlife.

Over the next six and a half hours, a team of individuals from **St. Francis Wildlife, Bartlett Tree Experts, the Tallahassee Fire Department, Leon County Schools maintenance department, Chiles High School, and Tallahassee Crane** devoted their time and resources to rescue the Osprey.

Once **Eddie and Jason Harris** set up their crane, they lifted **John Colavecchio** from Bartlett Tree Experts 110 feet up the lighting tower, and he was able to free the Osprey and return to the ground with her safe and sound. It sure was an excit-



ing Friday night for everyone and something I'll never forget.

After the Osprey had recovered at St. Francis Wildlife, wildlife rehabilitator **Daniela Castillo** brought her back and released her at Chiles. Everyone showed up to see the heart-warming sight of the Osprey flying out across the field to rejoin her mate (*photo above*).

We are very fortunate to have an organization like St. Francis Wildlife to respond to and coordinate the amazing rescues of this Osprey and other wildlife in Leon County.

Photo below: the Chiles Osprey rescue team. Photos/Sandy Beck



Thank you, Adam Zierden and Annika Kolar!



For their birthdays, these two special kids asked for items from St. Francis Wildlife's Wish List rather than for gifts for

themselves.

To insure that both of their birthday parties were memorable, education director Sandy Beck showed up with some awesome hawks and owls.

Above is a photo of Annika with her favorite bird, our Red-tailed Hawk, "Jamaica."

On the road again!

Thanks to Don Cooksey of Arrowroad Enterprises and Roberts Sand Company

By Stephanie Neumann



After five days of heavy rain at the end of February, staff and volunteers at St. Francis Wildlife were glad to finally see bright blue sky as they drove into work. Unfortunately, when we arrived, we realized that the accumulated 10-inch deluge had caused a large portion of our road to completely wash out, exposing a drainage pipe and creating a five-foot deep hole in the long, dirt road that leads from our front gate up to the wildlife hospital.

Needless to say, we were unable to drive on a road in that condition. For nearly two weeks, the staff and volunteers had to park at the entrance of our driveway and walk nearly a quarter mile up hill. Normally, that walk through the woods and along the pond would have been pleasant; however, since baby season had already begun we were all weighed

down with containers full of babies we had taken home for night feedings. Getting supplies up the road was also a major issue.

Then **Don Cooksey of Arrowhead Enterprises** (*photo on left*) came to our rescue, graciously donating two full days of his time, equipment and experience to help reconstruct our road. Don transformed our road from an undrivable mess to a smooth slope with new ditches and diversions for the rain to flow into that will prevent rain from creating deep ruts in our road and make driving on our road every day much smoother. Thank you, Don!

We would also like to thank **Chas Shockley of Roberts Sand Company** for working with us to get a good deal on the rock and clay used to fill in the holes and ruts.

Volunteering at St. Francis Wildlife is fun and rewarding

Our college interns have a wild summer

By Sandy Beck



Our college interns, left to right, Sarah Colborne and Shannon Lepre, prepare to re-nest two baby Red-shouldered Hawks that fell from their nest. Photos/ Stephanie Neumann

Do you recall the “on-the-job” experience you had as a young adult that precipitated your interest in the larger world and really helped shape the career you have today?

The St. Francis Wildlife college intern program is aimed at giving young adults meaningful work experience while also providing us with reliable, skilled volunteer workers during the spring and summer “wild baby season,” our busiest time of year.

By learning and working alongside experienced staff to gain hands-on experience in wildlife rehabilitation, some of these young men and women may find that a career in wildlife conservation or animal care is a perfect fit for them — and when they are ready, may even choose to join our staff.

This summer, we are most fortunate to have two outstanding interns.

Sarah Colborne, who is from

Kamloops, Canada, is a biology major at the University of Victoria and hopes to apply to vet school.

Shannon Lepre attends FSU, where she is also a biology major and has her heart set on vet school. Shannon didn’t travel as far to get here. She is from Tampa.

Recently, Sarah and Shannon were thrilled when they got to successfully replace two fledgling Red-shouldered Hawks in their nest.

These programs and others like them are essential if we want to build a new generation of people who will fall in love with wildlife and see the value in protecting it.

For information about our internships or to apply, contact Stephanie Neumann at sneumann@stfranciswildlife.org or call 850.627.4151. Applicants need to submit a resume and two letters of recommendation.

There’s a volunteer opportunity waiting for you

Inspiring people to love and protect nature. That’s part of St. Francis Wildlife’s mission, and it’s what our volunteers do every day.

Pride, satisfaction and a feeling of accomplishment are other worthwhile reasons to volunteer.

Volunteering also provides us with a sense of purpose and meaningful social activity — connecting to others who share our interests and values.

Whatever your interests or talents, there is a volunteer position for you. These include regularly scheduled hours at our center, raising baby squirrels at home, and special projects and events. No previous experience necessary — just a love for wildlife and a willingness to learn new things. To directly care for animals you must be at least 18. Learn more at stfranciswildlife.org or call us at 850.627.4151.



Volunteer carpenter **Claudia Mason** (who also builds beautiful custom furniture —see *Claudarondacks Furniture* at www.paintedpony.us) builds and repairs cages and nest boxes for our disabled Wild Classroom raptors.

We love our volunteers!

Hospital & Rescue

Terri Albrecht-Schmitt
Kelly Craft
Kieran Fry
Donna Hansell
Jess Penny
Stephanie
Sunderman
Lauren Waite
Lindsay Weaver

Clair Harrison
Carmen Reyes
Janet and Jimmy Stringer

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Bob Beck
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Carolyn Coney
Jan Collier
Louise Barker
Claudia Mason
Jean Smith
Robbie Estevez

Foster Parents

Teresa Bush
Nathan Epps
Janet Gay
Donna Hansell



Staff member **Mary Krehely** teaches volunteer **Edward Nabong** how to feed an orphaned fawn. PHOTO/Sandy Beck



Above, volunteer **Sue DeLuca** introduces “Polly” the gopher tortoise to visitors at our Wildlife Baby Shower.

Below, Maclay teacher **Bertha Williams** and her **PAWS Club** members, presented us with a truck load of supplies for our wildlife hospital.



A three-day whirlwind by 50 youngsters transforms St. Francis Wildlife

St. Francis was extremely touched by the volunteer group **Alive In You** which sent 50 youth volunteers (photo above) from all over the region to help beautify our facility.

These young people spent three days and accomplished an incredible amount of work. What a huge help they all were to all our staff and wild patients!

Boy Scout Troop 114 has a new Eagle Scout, and St. Francis Wildlife has a new shed

By Tony Murray

During a visit to our wildlife refuge, **Ty Murray**, a Life Scout with Troop 114 and student at Chiles H.S., asked if there was a project he could do that would help the organization fulfill its mission.

A thirty-year-old shed needed to be torn down and rebuilt. Ty decided to make this his Eagle project. First, he carefully planned the project and raised the funds to complete it.

Then, for two months, Ty coordinated all the work performed by him, his troop members and family to completely dismantle the old structure and rebuild it with a large lean-to side extension. Ty reused all the wood that was salvageable with other materials found on-site from other projects. In addition, he raised \$850 for new materials. Stones Hardware and Lowes generously supplied the new materials at their cost. The Scouts put a total of 264 volunteer hours into completing the



Ty Murray proudly stands by his Eagle Scout project, St. Francis Wildlife’s beautiful new shed. PHOTO/Tony Murray

entire project.

Ty fulfilled his goal by completing an enjoyable and meaningful project that would help St. Francis Wildlife.

A small plaque was placed on the new structure with a quote from St. Francis of Assisi: “Keep trying to do what is necessary, then what’s possible, and suddenly you’re doing the impossible.”

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Meet Stephanie Neumann, our new executive director and wildlife rehabilitator

Story and photo by Sandy Beck

We are happy to welcome Stephanie Neumann, a young woman who comes to us with a wide range of experience and a ton of enthusiasm.

While she was still in high school in Pensacola, Stephanie began volunteering at the Wildlife Sanctuary of Northwest Florida with our good friend and colleague, director Dorothy Kaufmann, where she got hooked on the wild babies, especially squirrels. By the time the fawns arrived in the fall, she could see her future.

"Being able to help animals that depended on me for their care and well being was a huge thrill because I knew I was making a difference, not only for these particular animals but for wildlife conservation as a whole."

Stephanie went on to get her A.S. in zoo animal technology at Pensacola Junior College and then her B.S. in zoo science at the University of West Florida. While attending school, she continued to get hands-on experience at the WSNWF and then at Emerald Coast Wildlife Refuge in Destin, both as a volunteer and staff member.

For the past three years, she has continued her education by attending conferences and workshops hosted by the Florida Wildlife Rehabilitator's Association (FWRA), the National Opossum Society and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) where she learned necropsy procedures and oil spill protocols.



"I enjoy going to conferences," she says. "It's a good way to network and learn from other rehabbers who have different specialties."

Stephanie would like to see more people get involved as volunteers at St. Francis Wildlife.

"We are always looking for dedicated and motivated individuals. Another way that people can get involved is through donations of funds or supplies. We are always in need of basic, everyday supplies such as soap and bleach and larger supplies like plastic totes and reptariums. We keep an updated Wish List on our website."

When asked what part of her job she likes the most, Stephanie said, "It is an incredible experience to see animals that you have raised or rehabilitated take those first few steps back into the wild where they belong."

Commission, and her intern Andrea Wylie helped us determine that she was releasable. We were very happy to return her to her burrow.

A Model Citizen

The gopher tortoise is an industrious and ancient reptile that has evolved a special adaptation enabling it to survive Florida's temperature extremes and seasonal fires.

This living backhoe excavates a burrow that averages 15 feet long and six to seven feet deep. More than 350 different creatures can share its refuge.

Tortoises in Trouble

Sadly, gopher tortoise numbers in Florida have been plummeting. A female does not reproduce until she is at least nine years of age, and very few eggs and hatchlings survive predators. Adults, like this one, sometimes become doggie chew toys.

In 2006, the Florida FWCC uplisted the gopher tortoise to threatened species status, making it illegal to harm it or its burrow.

Help tortoises by protecting their habitat and controlling your pets.



This gopher tortoise got a second chance. PHOTO/Stephanie Neumann

Threatened gopher tortoise returns to burrow

By Sandy Beck

This gopher tortoise was admitted in June after she had been chewed on by a dog and was missing the part of her shell known as the gular, the first scute on the bottom of her shell or plastron.

Allie Perryman, Gopher Tortoise Local Government Coordinator with the Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation

Baby Season,

Continued from Page 1

High numbers of rescues continued into spring and summer. Because so many birds and animals began their families early, if food is plentiful there is a good possibility that some may raise a second family before fall.

A short stay at St. Francis Wildlife, then home sweet home

Because nobody knows how to raise a baby better than its natural mother, we try to reunite young birds and mammals with their families if at all possible. If we are not able to return displaced babies to their original nest, we create an artificial nest.

Injured, sick or truly orphaned wildlife remain at our wildlife hospital only until they are able to live independently in the wild. While in our care we make every effort to minimize human contact so they will keep their healthy fear of humans and not become "tame" or imprinted.

These stories about some of our wild patients from the past few months will give you a small window on what this unusual baby season at St. Francis Wildlife looks like.

Barred Owls in trouble

The first week in April, we received a baby Barred Owl that had been found on the ground in San Luis Mission Park. Two days later, another chick was found in a different part of town. With the help of tree climber Tim Roop, we set out to renest both chicks in San Luis Mission Park.

After locating a possible nest, Tim climbed up, and then we used a pulley system to send up owlets. The smaller of the two nestled in with no problem, but the other owl was feeling more adventurous and hopped out on a branch (photo on Page 1).

Around 8 pm, we noticed that the adventurous owl had moved even further out on his branch. Unfortunately, this got him back where he started — on the ground. We took him back to the wildlife hospital and planned to check on the other owl in the morning.

The next morning, we were overjoyed to find that both parents had returned and were protecting their chick. Since we had brought the other owlet along, just in case, we were able to successfully renest the second baby in a more secure location, while both parents closely monitored. That was an exciting weekend.

Some bunny loves us

A homeowner's dog uncovered a nest with two newborn cottontail bunnies whose eyes were still closed. Assuming they were orphaned, the woman brought the babies to us. When we examined them, their bellies were full of mom's milk, indicating that they had recently been fed.

The homeowner allowed us to replace the bunnies in their original nest and add a third orphaned bunny.

We did not see an adult rabbit either, but mother rabbits (like deer)



These three cottontail bunnies were returned to their nest.

PHOTO/Stephanie Neumann

do not stay at their nest all the time so as not to attract attention to their vulnerable babies.

The following evening when we returned to check on them, all three had bellies full of milk.

Armstrong Tree Service to the rescue

On March 3rd, when a Great Horned Owl nestling was found on the ground in Myers Park, Bill Armstrong, with Armstrong Tree Service, and his tree climber Raame Radder responded to our call for help.

Raame climbed 60 feet up in a pine tree, wired a plastic basket to a limb and placed the baby in his new nest. We played recorded Great Horned Owllet calls to lure the parents back.

Before March was over, we had successfully renested a total of four Great Horned Owl chicks.

It's raining songbirds

If a vocal, little, brown bird singing "chewy, chewy, chewy," makes a nest in your hanging plant or garage, you have Carolina Wrens.

One day this spring, we received 12 orphaned Carolina Wrens! The photo on Page 1 shows hatchlings from two separate nests. Two were orphaned by storms; the other two were orphaned as the result of a cat attack at their nest.

At this size, the babies need to be fed every 15 minutes, 14 to 16 hours a day for two weeks.

Imagine one hundred baby songbirds in a wide assortment of shapes and colors producing a medley of hungry calls all at once. That's what baby season looks and sounds like at St. Francis Wildlife's wildlife hospital.

Both natural wild moms and surrogate wild moms — St. Francis Wildlife staff and volunteers — are a very busy and dedicated crew. But we couldn't do it without you. So, thank you!

Don Cooksey
President

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Winning teachers of this year's Wild Classroom grant

CONGRATULATIONS to these classroom teachers who received St. Francis Wildlife's Wild Classroom Grants for the 2012 - 2013 school year:

1. **Marilyn Griffith**, 4th grade, Apalachee Tapestry Magnet School of the Arts
2. **Pamela Dunn**, 1st grade, Gilchrist Elementary
3. **Matt Gowens**, Adult ESOL, Adult and Community Education
4. **Tracy Bethea**, Kindergarten, Hartsfield Elementary
5. **Michelle Rosero**, 1st grade, Astoria Park Elementary

Our Wild Classroom Grant, is made possible by the *Suzanne E. Plescia Endowed Education Fund*, established by Dr. Louis W. Bender and his wife, the late Elizabeth N. Bender, who was a longtime and much loved St. Francis Wildlife volunteer.

Each classroom teacher received a free Wild Classroom wildlife program for up to 49 students.

Teachers who apply for this grant must submit a proposal that briefly describes a multi-disciplinary unit they are teaching that would be enriched by one of our Wild Classroom wildlife programs.

For a grant application for the 2013 - 2014 school year, go to www.wildclassroom.net

Dear Dr. Bender,

I wanted to say "thank you" for giving classrooms the opportunity to experience the "wild." I am a huge owl lover myself, so this was just as much of a treat for me as it was for my students. We all learned a great deal about owls.

Sincerely,
Ms. Rosero, 1st grade teacher
Astoria Park Elementary



"Cedar," a disabled Barred Owl who has been one of our Wild Classroom teachers for 24 years, helps education director Sandy Beck teach children about wildlife.

It's Wild Baby Season. Do you know what to do?

By Sandy Beck



Northern Cardinal nestlings
PHOTO/Rosie LeRoy

Between March and October, we will care for at least 1,600 orphans, in addition to the sick and injured adults. Would you know what to do if you find a helpless baby? Take our Wild Baby Quiz.

1. You see a nearly featherless baby bird on the ground. When you approach, it opens its beak wide. What would you do?

- A. Use an eyedropper to give it some water, and then take it to St. Francis Wildlife.
- B. Quickly pick it up before your pet can get to it, and then raise the baby yourself because, after they get a whiff of your human scent, its parents will reject it.
- C. Pick it up and try to return it to its nest.

Answer: Birds breathe through a hole in their tongue. If you drip water into the beak, it could inhale the water and drown. And most birds do not have a sense of smell. So, if you picked "C," you are right!

If you can't find the nest, put pine straw in a small, plastic berry basket. Attach it to the shady side of the closest tree. Place the baby inside and observe from a distance. If the parents don't show or if the baby is injured, take it to St. Francis Wildlife ASAP.

Some fledglings (fully-feathered youngsters with short tails) may hop on the ground for a few days; parents feed them until they can fly. If they are not in

immediate danger from pets or traffic, leave them alone.

If you find a baby raptor (owl, hawk, etc.), call St. Francis Wildlife; we are experienced at reneating these big babies.

2. You are picking up branches that fell during a storm. You see a baby squirrel on the ground. What would you do?

- A. Leave the baby alone; it could have rabies.
- B. Decide it must be orphaned, pick it up, take it inside and give it some warm milk.
- C. Pick it up and examine it. If it is cold, but appears otherwise healthy, first warm it and then try to reunite it with its mother.

Answer: Yes, "C" again. Just because a baby squirrel fell out of the nest doesn't mean it's orphaned. When the baby is warm, place it in a small box at the foot of the tree where you found it. Then watch from a window. If the mother doesn't return in two hours or if the baby is injured, take it to St. Francis Wildlife. Never feed it. Cow's milk will make it sick.

Squirrels, rabbits and opossums in Florida are uncommon rabies vectors; it is okay to handle these babies. However, never touch other wild mammals, even babies. If one scratches or nips you, it will need to be killed to be tested for rabies. Call St. Francis Wildlife.

Learn more about how to help wild babies on our web site at:

www.stfranciswildlife.org/HelpWildBabies.pdf

As we deepen our imprint on the natural world, we increase our responsibility for it.

E. O. Wilson



Baby grey squirrel
PHOTO/Barb Barnett

Eyeshine

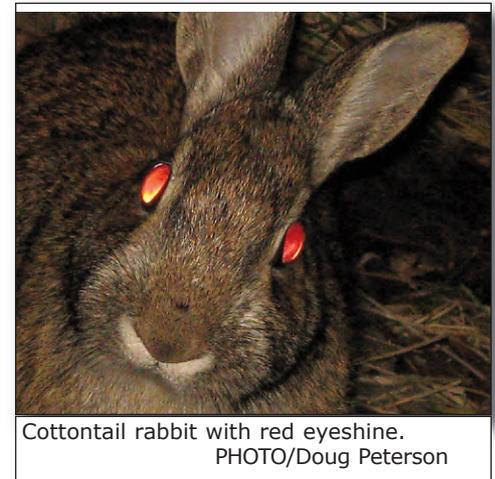
By Ann Morrow

Who hasn't noticed the bright eyes of an animal at night, reflecting the light of an automobile? Even a domestic cat sitting in a darkened room while facing a brightly lit one, can stare back with two bright orbs that seem to glow from within.

It can be disconcerting to spot a pair of eyes at night and not know to whom or what they belong. Images of marauding wolf packs closing in on an encampment of early settlers come to mind. But more than likely, the eyes belong to a nocturnal raccoon or possum. The "evil glow" is just eyeshine, the term used to describe the reflected light that bounces off a mirror-like layer near the back of the animal's eyes.

This light capturing system is one way a nocturnal animal increases its ability to see in dim light. The reflecting layer of cells is called the *tapetum lucidum*, which means "bright carpet." As incoming light passes through the eye, some is absorbed by photoreceptor cells (rods); the rest bounces back through the eye, giving it a second chance to be absorbed by the cells. Human eyes reflect a little light too, as seen in some flash photography, but they don't do it efficiently. We are diurnal, adapted for daylight activity, and our problem is often too much light, not too little.

The color of eyeshine in nocturnal animals varies from species to species. For example, rac-



Cottontail rabbit with red eyeshine.
PHOTO/Doug Peterson

coons reflect a bright yellow light, frogs a greenish one. Alligators, as I have discovered in the Okefenokee Swamp, have a deep red eyeshine.

Why not pull out a flashlight and lead the family on an eyeshine exploration in your backyard.

Try searching for spiders — they have pink-tinted eyeshine and are usually fairly common in most habitats.

If you're lucky, you may also see a flying squirrel or tree frog. Investigating eyeshine can be a wonderful way to discover the natural world after dark, replacing imagined terrors with fun and discovery.

Eyeshine Exploration

- Look low along a woody edge where spiders may hunt, or shine your light across the surface of a pond to see frogs, fishing spiders or alligators.

- Because eyeshine is reflected directly back toward the light source, it is easier to observe the phenomenon if you hold a flashlight on top of your head so that you are looking down the beam. A miner's type of head lamp, available in some camping and hardware stores, is the perfect tool. If possible, give everyone their own light source, as it is difficult for someone standing beside you to see the reflection.

- Keep the beam directed at the eyeshine and move closer until you can spot its owner. With practice, you'll become adept at spotting eyeshine and following it to its source.
- Observe but don't disturb.

Ann Morrow, a St. Francis Wildlife supporter, writes about the Florida landscape for a variety of publications. She especially likes to explore the relationship between children and the natural world.



Our widely acclaimed and innovative wildlife programs meet the needs and interests of a variety of audiences — school groups, special events, club meetings and conferences.

Programs feature live birds of prey, mammals or reptiles from St. Francis Wildlife and promote an appreciation and understanding of native wildlife. Post-program lesson plans are included for teachers. Wild Classroom programs reached over 7,000 people last year. During the school year, our calendar fills up quickly, so we recommend scheduling early.

850.528.0823 sbeck@wildclassroom.net www.wildclassroom.net

Presented by the **Tallahassee Film Society & St. Francis Wildlife**
Sat., Sept. 28
5 PM & 7:30 PM



All Saint Cinema
 Amtrak Station
 918 1/2 Railroad Ave.

THE LEGEND of PALE MALE

This is the true account of one of the most surprising and remarkable birds in the history of New York City — a hawk. Not just any hawk, but a wild Red-tailed Hawk, a fierce predator that has not lived in New York City for almost a hundred years.

Affectionately known to New Yorkers as Pale Male, the hawk becomes a magnificent obsession and a metaphor for triumph against all odds. His nest and his family, perched on a posh Fifth Avenue co-op, starts out as a novel curiosity to a handful of avid birdwatchers but becomes an international tourist destination — a place of pilgrimage. What happens next, as they say, could only happen in New York.

For filmmaker Frederic Lilien, the project was an 18-year journey into how nature can transform the soul of a city.

AWARDS

National Audubon Society "Extraordinary story"	San Francisco Chronicle "FOUR STARS!"
The New York Times "A New York love story"	International Wildlife Film Festival "The triumph of wildlife and the human spirit"

"Best of Festival"—International Wildlife Film Festival
 "Best of Festival"—Wild & Scenic Environmental Film Festival
 "Audience Favorite Award"—Santa Barbara International Film Festival
 "Audience Favorite Award"—Palm Beach International Film Festival
 "Best Script"—Jackson Hole Wildlife Film Festival

All tickets — \$10
 Seating is limited.
 Reservations may be made by emailing TFS at:
 filmnews@tallahasseefilms.com

A portion of ticket sales will benefit St. Francis Wildlife's Red-tailed Hawk patients and their wild friends.

Pre-show Wildlife Presentation
 by education director Sandy Beck and Tallahassee's two native hawk species, "Jamaica," a Red-tailed Hawk and "Cypress," a Red-shouldered Hawk.

We will also be hawking hawk artwork and photography!

We cared for 1,500 wild birds, mammals and reptiles, January 1 to June 30

41 Owls

31 Barred Owls, 4 Eastern Screech Owls, 6 Great Horned Owls

53 Diurnal Raptors

1 Bald Eagle, 3 Black Vultures, 2 Broad-winged Hawks, 3 Coopers Hawks, 2 Mississippi Kites, 3 Osprey, 26 Red-shouldered Hawks, 11 Red-tailed Hawks, 1 Sharp-shinned Hawk, 1 Turkey Vulture

Examples of Songbirds

33 Blue Jays, 32 Brown Thrashers, 15 Carolina Chickadees, 134 Carolina Wrens, 5 Cedar Waxwings, 13 Eastern Bluebirds, 39 Chimney Swifts, 32 House Finches, 23 Mourning Doves, 80 Northern Cardinals, 58 Northern Mockingbirds, 3 Pileated Woodpeckers, 10 Red-bellied Woodpeckers, 5 Red-headed Woodpeckers, 6 Ruby-throated Hummingbirds, 9 Tufted Titmice, 9 White-breasted Nuthatches, 6 Yellow-rumped Warblers

Examples of Shore and Pelagic Birds

2 Common Loons, 1 Double-crested Cormorant, 1 Great Blue Heron, 1 Green Heron, 4 Laughing Gulls, 1 Red-breasted Merganser, 1 Redhead, 28 Wood Ducks

Examples of Mammals

2 Beavers, 5 Brazilian free-tailed bats, 99 Eastern

Cottontail Rabbits, 3 Evening Bats, 2 Grey Foxes, 158 Grey Squirrels, 2 Hoary Bats, 9 Southern Flying Squirrels, 1 Marsh Rabbit, 169 Opossums, 9 Red Foxes, 10 Seminole bats, 5 Striped Skunks, 7 White-tailed Deer

Examples of Reptiles

35 Box Turtles, 3 Gopher Tortoises, 2 Softshell Turtles, 12 Yellow-bellied Sliders, 9 Florida Cooters, 1 Alligator

Common Problems

Most problems are the result of interactions with humans, their pets or machines.

- 455 — Orphaned
- 232 — Collisions with motor vehicles
- 227 — Nest fell, disturbed or destroyed, e.g., when tree was cut
- 159 — Cat attacks
- 91 — Dog attacks

Unusual Rescues

- Yellow-billed Cuckoo run over by bike in bike lane.
- Ruby-throated Hummingbird stuck in a spider web.
- Red-shouldered Hawk caught in a chain link fence.
- White-tailed deer broke leg jumping a fence.
- Barred Owl hanging from a tree, wrapped in fishing line.
- Eastern Bluebird stuck on glue board in chimney.
- Beaver found in Gem Mazda car lot.
- Cedar Waxwing shot by BB gun.
- Grey Rat Snake swallowed a golf ball.



We gratefully acknowledge the following memorial gifts



and are deeply honored that these people bequeathed to us their hope for the future of the wild things they dearly loved.

- William H. Long Estate
- Anna Maria Erdman Estate
- Elsie Hightower Estate
- Sylvia Harrup Trust
- Paul & Marie Heins Trust

*Hope is the thing with feathers
 That perches in the soul,
 And sings the tune without the words,
 And never stops at all.*

Life insurance for wildlife

Are you updating your will or thinking about an estate plan?

Because shrinking natural habitat pushes wildlife ever closer to us, our vehicles and our pets, it is easy to see why the number of our wild patients increases each year, along with the cost of their care.

A deferred donation to St. Francis Wildlife will ensure that your legacy will live on in the abundance of songbirds, owls, eagles, bunnies, deer, river otters, foxes and the other wildlife we are so fortunate to enjoy in our area.

One need not be wealthy to leave a bequest. Bequests large and small speak powerfully about who you are and what is important to you.

Please consider creating a "life insurance policy" for orphaned, injured and sick wildlife in our community by including St. Francis Wildlife in your will. Your foresight and generosity will ensure that our community can continue to rely on the critical service St. Francis Wildlife provides.

To make an official bequest to St. Francis Wildlife, please speak with your estate planner who will want the following information. Thank you.

St. Francis Of Assisi Wildlife Association, Inc.
 5580 Salem Rd.
 Quincy, FL 32352-0711
 St. Francis Charitable Tax ID#: 59-1888022

Your donation helps local wildlife

Your tax-deductible donation to St. Francis Wildlife ensures that we'll be only a phone call or a short drive away when you find a baby bird in your yard or when you see an injured fox on the road.

We've been doing this for 35 years. We are the largest and most respected wildlife rehabilitation facility in north Florida, but we can't do it without your help. Please renew your annual support for St. Francis Wildlife today by sending a check with this Donation Form (on right) or by making a secure online donation with PayPal at www.stfranciswildlife.org.

For your tax-deductible donation, you will receive: our *Wildlife Matters* newsletter and the satisfaction of helping local wildlife 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) 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

Name _____ Date _____

E-mail Address _____

Home Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

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

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

___ I prefer to read it on-line. (It is a large PDF file.)

Please check the appropriate box 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 Education Programs (Summer 2013)

Calendar of Events

• **Thursday, August 15, 10:30 am - 12:30 pm.**
Lunch & Learn with St. Francis Wildlife at the **Lake Jackson Community Center, N. Monroe & Fred George Rd.** Learn about our work in this community— caring for orphaned, injured and sick wildlife — and how you can help. Meet and learn about our wild neighbors. Live birds and animals. Optional catered lunch for \$6.

• **Saturday, September 7, 10:30 am.**
Talon Talk wildlife program at **Mission San Luis.** Education director Sandy Beck will dive into the characteristics that define raptors. Meet and learn about several species native to north Florida and how each is perfectly adapted to its particular habitat. Free, but a donation to St. Francis Wildlife is suggested. Mission San Luis, 2100 W. Tennessee St.

• **Saturday, September 21, 8:30 am.**
Gulf Winds Track Club's Annual 5K Prefontaine race, benefit for St. Francis Wildlife at **Silver Lake Recreation Area.** For details, call Jeff Nielsen, 850.459-8859.

• **Wednesday, September 25, 8:30 pm.**
Talon Talk wildlife program at **Waterworks.** Last year's owl program was such a hit, they invited us back to their weekly Science Salon. Come early; seating is limited. See program description above. Free, but a donation to St. Francis Wildlife is suggested, Waterworks, 1133 Thomasville Rd.

• **Saturday, September 28, 5 pm & 7:30 pm.**
The Legend of Pale Male and Pre-show hawk presentation. Please see Page 7 for details.

• **Saturday, October 19, 10 am.**
Your Owl Neighbors wildlife program at **Native Nurseries.** All four native species — the Great Horned Owl, Barred Owl, Barn Owl and Screech Owl help education director Sandy Beck explain the adaptations that make these birds spectacular nocturnal hunters and what we can do to help them. Native Nurseries, 1661 Centerville Rd.

• **Saturday, October 26, 9 am - 2 pm.**
12th Annual Owl-O-Ween Party at the Downtown Marketplace. Meet and learn about our four native owl species! Owl arts and crafts and face painting for children. Pick up a cool St. Francis Wildlife owl t-shirt. Ponce de Leon Park, N. Monroe & Park Ave.

Wildlife Matters

Editor and Layout

Sandy Beck

Writers, Photographers & Artists

Sandy Beck, Stephanie Neumann, Ann Morrow, Diane Ragan, Barbara Barnett, Glenda Simmons, Tony Murray, Brian Bryson, Doug Peterson, Rosie LeRoy, Gregg Morton, Ralph DeMeo

Proofreaders

Louise Barker, Barbara Barnett, Bob Beck

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

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If you find sick, injured or orphaned wildlife



You can —

- Call us at **850.627.4151** between **8:30 AM and 5 PM.**
- After 5 PM, call our **After-hours Rescue Hotline, 850.933.2735.**
- Take it to our **wildlife hospital**, 4 miles NW of Havana, between 8:30 AM and 5 pm. Directions at www.stfranciswildlife.org.
- Take it, **24/7, to the Northwood Animal Hospital**, 1881 N. Martin Luther King Blvd., Tallahassee (just north of the Post Office).

Important Information

- Transport **wildlife** in a warm, dark box with holes punched in the lid. Keep it quiet, and handle it as little as possible.
- **NEVER** give it food or water.
- **NEVER handle raccoons, foxes, bats or any mammals (even babies)** that could carry rabies. **CALL US.** Squirrels, opossums and rabbits are uncommon rabies vectors.
- When calling to report an **animal injured on a road**, note exactly where it is, i.e. "1.4 miles west of exit 27 on the north side of I-10," and, if possible, leave a marker, such as a towel tied to a tree limb.

For more information about wildlife rescue:

www.stfranciswildlife.org

Wildlife Wish List

Please drop off these tax-deductible items at our facility or at Northwood Animal Hospital, 1881 N. MLK Blvd., Tallahassee. Thank you!

Gift Certificates

- Stone's
- Lowe's/Home Depot
- Native Nurseries
- Wild Birds Unlimited
- Panhandle Pet Supply
- Costco
- Squirrelsandmore.com
- Foxvalleynutrition.com

Animal Care Supplies

- Baby blankets
- Towels/sheets/pillowcases
- Baby/Pet toys
- Baby bottles & nipples
- Bottle brush cleaners
- Pet water bottles
- Bleach
- Dawn Dish Detergent
- Laundry Detergent
- Anti-bacterial Hand Soap
- Crab nets
- Plastic storage tubs & lids
- Plastic laundry baskets
- Reptariums
- Reptile UVA/UVB bulbs
- Heat lamps
- Incubator
- Pine Straw
- Snuggle safe heat pads

(not auto shutoff)

- Paper towels, toilet paper, tissues (no aloe)
- Trash bags (large and kitchen)
- Zip-lock bags (quart & gallon)

Food Items

- Nuts-acorns, pecans, walnuts
- Suet
- Bird seed (variety)
- Fresh/Frozen Fish
- Fresh/Frozen Chicken
- Eggs
- Baby food (Meat, fruit, veggies)
- Fresh berries, collard greens, kale
- Cooking spices (new or used for enrichment)
- Coffee/Chocolate (for the staff)
- Yogurt
- Mealworms, Crickets, Wax worms

Maintenance Supplies

- Rope
- PVC

- Zip Ties
- Bungees
- Heavy Duty Hoses
- Hose Nozzles
- Duct/Masking Tape
- Hand tools (hammer, nails, screw driver, etc.)
- Shovels, Rakes
- Power Tools
- Lumber
- Hardware cloth

Medical Supplies

- Gauze (all sizes)
- Vet Wrap
- Lactated Ringers
- Pedialyte
- Latex or Kitchen gloves (sizes s/m)
- Syringes
- Sterile needles

Office Supplies

- Printer Paper
- Post-it Notes
- Dry erase markers
- Staples
- Clip boards
- Binders

Big Wish

- Electric Generator