

Drought Affects Wildlife Too

by Sandy Beck

Spring and summer is "baby season" at St. Francis Wildlife, the time of year when staff and volunteers work 24/7. In addition to the usual injured and sick animals, the wildlife hospital is also filled with orphaned babies.

One recent morning, there were 300 animals at our wildlife hospital in Havana. Two thirds were orphaned babies, including: 130 baby song birds, 23 baby hawks and owls, 50 baby mammals – opossums, raccoons and fawns, five baby Canada geese and five baby wood ducks.

The record drought has complicated matters. Not only have some trees and flowers died, but there is has also been less water, food and cover for wildlife.

During the dry season, alligators dig depressions in the mud that collect water. This year, even these "gator holes" have dried up sending alligators, turtles and other wildlife across roads looking for water and places to lay eggs. Recently, I saw two aquatic turtles drinking from a bird bath in our yard. Another laid eggs in our driveway. And we live a quarter mile from Lake Jackson.

A habitat with fewer insects and frogs sends repercussions straight up the food chain. Fewer insects means less food for songbirds. Fewer frogs means less food for red-shouldered hawks.

Less water provides less habitat for geese, herons, egrets, beavers and river otters which may concentrate into smaller areas, driving up competition and making them more vulnerable to predators.

According to Scott Johns, a biologist at the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, "Plant production is very limited during droughts,

especially those favored by wildlife such as blackberry, palmetto berry, mushrooms and low bush blueberries.

Plants shut down new growth during periods of drought and conserve any water available for survival."

Oaks produce fewer acorns or may not produce acorns at all during periods of drought.

Less food for mother deer, raccoons and foxes, also means less milk. With less milk, more babies starve or suffer from diseases, parasites and predation. So all animals have been working harder to find food; they're crossing roads and coming into our backyards.

That's where St. Francis Wildlife comes in.

By noon on a typical day, Jon Johnson, director of St. Francis Wildlife, has received three calls about foxes, 10 calls about armadillos and three calls about raccoons in people's yards.

All animals are working harder to find food now; they're crossing roads and coming into our backyards.

"People who are surprised to see these normally nocturnal animals out during the day call us."

Armadillos, which dig for insects and grubs, need to dig more and deeper holes now. Watered lawns attract more armadillos, because it's easier to dig there. But armadillos also eat many insects that are harmful to people and their lawns – they can dig up and eat an entire yellow jacket nest.

If you really need to move an armadillo, please read the "how to" article in our Spring 2007 newsletter, also online at www.stfranciswildlife.org.

Raccoons prefer not to leave their babies alone at night when they would be most vulnerable to predators, so we are seeing them in our yards during the day.

We're also seeing more foxes now. If you live near a wooded area, the foxes may move into your yard, where there are fewer predators, to have their babies. When the babies are older, they'll all move back into the woods.

"People who are surprised to see these normally nocturnal animals out during the day call us. They're afraid they might have rabies," says Johnson. "Rabies, although very rare, is a serious disease and should never be taken lightly. But what you should look for are neurological symptoms. If the animal is sick looking, wobbly or having seizures, call us right away.

"If they're just looking for food, enjoy looking at them, and, please, be patient with the armadillos," Johnson added.



While searching for water, this yellow-bellied slider (above) and Canada goose, being treated by staff member Kelley Gray (below), were hit by a cars. After several weeks of TLC at St. Francis Wildlife, both recovered and were returned to suitable natural habitats.

PHOTOS/Sandy Beck

Birds, opossums and squirrels – who would rather make their nests in tree cavities – begin moving into our garages, flower planters and attics when their natural habitat becomes scarce.

As Jon implores dozens of concerned callers each day: Please be patient with wildlife. Baby season will be over soon (although baby squirrel season is just beginning).

We are fortunate to live in a part of Florida that is still rich with wildlife. The raccoons, foxes, birds, turtles, and, yes, even the armadillos, need our patience to make it through this stressful season. And please remember to keep your bird baths filled.



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FSU Intern, Thomas Borchet

- **Rick Clevenger,** Clevenger Woodworks & **Tim O'Brien,** O'Brien/Silvestri Construction for our Wildlife Hospital.
- **Panhandle Pet Supply** for printing and selling gift certificates for us.
- **Modern Mailers** for their invaluable mailing services!
- **ElectroNet** for hosting our Web site and email.
- **Durra Quick Print** for printing.
- **The Tallahassee Downtown Improvement Authority, the Downtown Market Place and Allen Thompson** for donating our tent space at the Downtown MarketPlace
- Artists **Brian Bryson** and **Liz West** for creating and donating spectacular artwork for our T-shirts
- **Cornell Lab of Ornithology** for a subscription to *Birds of North America Online*, <http://bna.birds.cornell.edu/BNA>
- **Roberts Sand Company** for a donating sand for our cages.

Local Children Help Wildlife!

Girl Scout Troop 18 sat wide-eyed during our Wild Classroom program as they learned about Havana, a non-releasable Mississippi kite.

After the program, the girls proudly presented us with items from our Wish List and a \$50 gift certificate to Panhandle Pet Supply.

Cub Scout Pack 001, which meets at Sealey Elementary, donated \$145 in checks and Panhandle Pet Supply certificates plus a load of wish list supplies.

Students in the **PAWS Club** at the **Maclay School** and teachers **Lou Lewis** and **Bertha Williams** presented us with \$250 after a lunchtime Wild Classroom program.

Sixth graders at **Temple Israel's Block Family Religious School** also donated all the "Tsdekah" (charitable money) they collected to St. Francis Wildlife.

Tallahassee has the greatest and **WILDEST** kids!



Girl Scout Troop 18 and co-leader Kim Ross with items they collected from our Wish List.

PHOTO/Sandy Beck



Left: Volunteer Joan Crow looks on as a visitor fills out a dozen tickets for the wildlife art drawing. Right: Artist Judy Mick shows a young admirer her painting of a wood duck, which she donated to the drawing.

PHOTO/Sandy Beck



5th Annual Wild Art in the Park

They came out of the woods again on May 12th – hawks, owls, and you! – and headed straight for Park Avenue and Monroe Street where the Downtown Marketplace hosted the 5th Annual Wild Art in the Park to benefit St. Francis Wildlife. A drawing for original

wildlife art raised nearly \$800.

Thank you to the following artists for their generous donations: Candalee Jones, Pat Elliot, Lucrezia Bieler, John Douglas, Judy Mick, Dawn Pepper, Barbara Doremus, Robin Rodgers, James Valentine, Lourdes Moody, Lydia Keith, Rick Kiser and Jan Calhoun.

We also appreciate

the great volunteers who helped that day: Sue DeLuca, Joan Crow, Erin Canter, Kirstin Ohlsen, Sandy Beck, Jack Brennan, Elenita Gomez, Rick Kiser, Laura Phipps and Alicia Ten.

Special thanks to Allen Thompson, the Tallahassee Downtown Improvement Authority and the Downtown Marketplace!



Thank You, Dr. and Mrs. Fred Q. Vroom,
from the bottom of our wild hearts,
for your wonderful donation.

St. Francis Wildlife gratefully acknowledges these thoughtful gifts

In memory of

Shollie McConnell
From
Sara Leviten
Jerri Patterson
Alison Pope

Janet Neel
From
Martitia & Douglas Beach

Micheal Leroy, Jr.

From
Catherine Kelly
Keith Cureton
From
Martha Cureton

Ruth Graham
From
Linda Nichols

C.J. Malphurs

From
Bette Baldwin
Mary Jane Kozman
Vanessa & Richard Crisler

Adopt-an-Animal Program

Wild Birds Unlimited is the proud "adoptive parent" of a non-releasable great horned owl

In honor of the marriage of

Nancy Adams & David Salmon III
From
Edwin Levine
Thomas & Mardelle Walk
Cecilia Miller



What is it like to volunteer at St. Francis Wildlife?

It's hard work, and the rewards are all in your head.

by Janice Pattillo

If you are dependable, reliable, have your own health insurance and transportation and want to make a difference, please email volunteer coordinator Janice Pattillo at jpattillo@mchsi.com or call 386-6296 to schedule a training session. For more details, log on to www.stfranciswildlife.org.

Taking care of sick, injured and orphaned wild animals requires more than love and compassion.

They don't purr or lick your hand. They don't want to be petted. Most view you as a predator. A healthy fear of humans is a good thing – so we don't want them to lose that.

These are wild animals. They want to be free again. And that's our goal too.

When you walk in the door at St. Francis Wildlife, the first thing you notice is the smell. Dedicated hospital staff clean and change papers in cages constantly, but excrement smells. Especially when you have about 200 animals housed together. Simple as that.

After a few minutes you really don't notice it because you're immersed in sound. Birds twittering, singing, honking and cawing. Raccoons chattering. Red foxes barking and, occasionally, an owl hooting.

You know the cacophony of bird calls you hear at sunrise? Well, that's about as close as you can get to the sound of 150 orphaned baby birds crying for food, at the same time.

And these are just the animals inside the hospital.

St. Francis Wildlife is a local, non-profit organization. We depend on donations and, believe me, there is never enough. This is why volunteers are critical to our success. We need dedicated, reliable animal lovers who will clean messy cages and sweep and scrub floors.

In the reptile room, injured turtles and tortoises need to be cleaned and fed often. Aquatic turtles need their water changed daily.

In 40 outdoor enclosures are rabbits, geese, turkeys, deer, raccoons, skunks, opossums, squirrels – just about any animal native to our area – are in different stages of recovery. They all need clean cages, daily food, fresh water and exercise.

We need people to work in the kitchen preparing special recipes – chopping fruits and vegetables, blending baby bird formulas, thawing crickets. We need volunteers to transport animals to and from the veterinarian. We need people to launder and fold towels, blankets and stuffed animal toys that orphaned baby mammals like to snuggle with. We need people to build and repair cages. We need people.

Volunteering with sick, injured and orphaned wild animals can be frustrating, backbreaking and sometimes sad. However, when you see the hawk that had been hit by a car finally released to the wild, and a lump forms in your throat when you hear its cry of freedom, you know you have done something worthwhile.

PHOTOS/Sandy Beck

Clockwise from bottom left: Rachel Walsh feeds baby mockingbirds; FSU intern Tom Brochet prepares special diets in the hospital kitchen; Dave Foreman medicates a baby blue jay; an orphaned, injured fawn; two of the hundreds of baby birds – each is fed every 20 minutes; volunteer Melissa Angel feeds a juvenile robin, great crested flycatcher and yellow-billed cuckoo; orphaned baby opossum.



Saving one animal may not change the world, but it will change the world for that animal.

Raccoons can make interesting neighbors; just don't invite one to dinner.

By Sandy Beck



A raccoon's usual territory is one to three square miles, but an abundant food source will draw more individuals to an area.

People who enjoy watching raccoons sometimes set out tidbits to attract them. This is a bad idea for both people and raccoons. After scoring an easy meal, they will return nightly. Soon a dozen "masked bandits" are stealing pet food, overturning garbage cans, tearing screens and using pet doors to enter homes. It takes just one person feeding one cute raccoon to start trouble for the whole neighborhood.

In fact, it is illegal to feed raccoons, bears and foxes in Florida. People who do risk a \$500 fine.

Another potential problem with attracting a large population of rac-



Adult raccoons are agile climbers (left).

Orphaned baby raccoon (above)

Photos/Sandy Beck

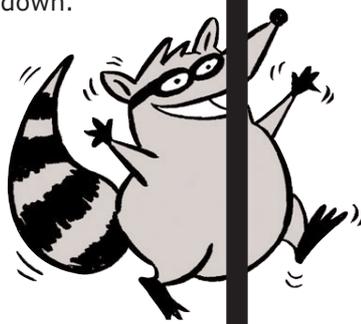
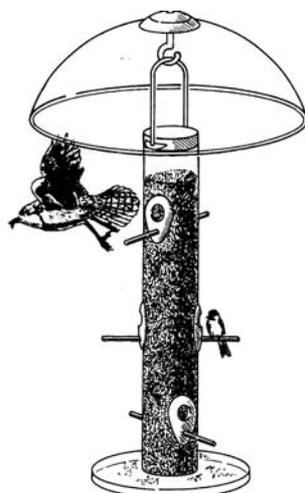
How to raccoon-proof your bird feeders

- For pole-mounted feeders squirrel baffles won't deter raccoons from gorging themselves on sunflower seed and suet.

Purchase a special raccoon baffle at a local nursery.

- To make your own raccoon baffle: Wrap a two-foot wide strip of sheet metal around the pole or slip a two-foot long, eight-inch diameter PVC pipe over the pole and secure at least two feet above the ground.

- Or spray the poles with olive oil each time you refill your feeders, and enjoy the show as squirrels and raccoons slide down.



coons is infectious diseases like distemper and rabies. The risk of rabies is very small, but it should never be taken lightly.

Keep pets' vaccinations up to date. Never touch raccoons or any wild mammals. If you find a sick or injured animal or an orphaned baby, call St. Francis Wildlife at 386-6296. Florida's squirrels, opossums and rabbits are not known to carry rabies.

If you feed pets indoors, secure garbage can lids with bungee cords and make your bird feeders inaccessible to raccoons, you can enjoy the surprise of a raccoon crossing your lawn in the moonlight.

Wildlife Wish List

- Checks and cash
 - Gift certificate to Panhandle Pet Supply
 - Carpenters to repair cages
 - Heating pads, NOT auto shut-off
 - Plastic kennels
 - Large parrot cages
 - Humane, live traps
 - Esbilac puppy milk replacer
 - KMR kitten milk replacer
 - Paper towels
 - Unsalted peanuts in the shell
 - Sunflower seed
 - Wild bird seed
 - Cracked corn
 - Laundry detergent
 - Bleach, unscented
 - Liquid anti-bacterial hand soap
- Medical Supplies, such as**
- sterile gauze pads
 - gloves
 - syringes
 - Lactated Ringers
- Office Supplies**
- late model FAX machine
 - printer paper
- Big Items**
- Vinyl Floor for Hospital
 - Incubator
 - Brooder
 - Golf Cart
 - ATV
 - Utility Trailer

I live in Midtown Tallahassee. For the past several nights, I've seen a raccoon in my driveway and back yard. Can St. Francis Wildlife come out and set a live trap? - Amanda Clements

Raccoons, foxes, opossums and even coyotes live in all parts of Tallahassee, including downtown. Most people don't see them because they are nocturnal. Removing one raccoon will just open up territory for others to move in.

Raccoons are clever and adaptable, traits that have enabled them to acclimate to city life as their natural habitats shrink. While they prefer to den in a tree cavity near a stream or marsh, city-slicker raccoons set up housekeeping in drain pipes, culverts, beneath homes and sometimes in attics.

Officially classified as carnivores, they relish insects, crayfish, frogs, fish, eggs and small mammals. They also consume plant material including berries, acorns and vegetables - something that gardeners know well.

Raccoons are generally harmless, interesting neighbors. Although these 10 to 30-pound animals have sharp teeth and claws, they're not normally aggressive, except during mating season or when defending young. A cornered raccoon may also attack, and kittens are easy prey. Best to keep all pets inside at night.

Panhandle Pet Supply

The Experts Who Love Animals



Three Convenient Locations

3661 N. Monroe
Next to the Post Office

400 Capital Circle SE
Harvey's shopping center

1700 N. Monroe
Publix/Lake Ella Shopping Center

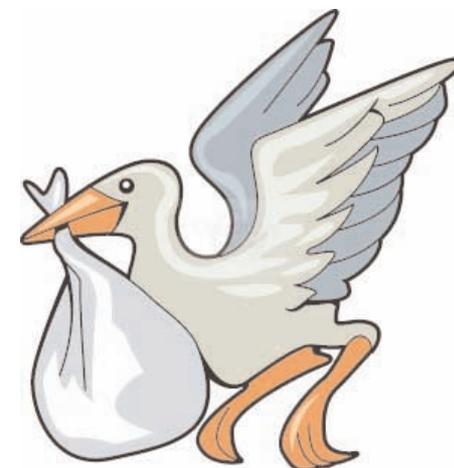
Help St. Francis Wildlife feed animals!

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.

NANCY E. PHILLIPS, D.D.S.

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The stork has been busy at St. Francis Wildlife!

Congratulations to . . .

Elenita Gomez and Jack Brennan on the birth of their baby boy, **John Joseph Canizales Brennan**.

April Arrington and Stu Gash on the new additions to their family: **Samantha, Hannah and Brett**.



Native Nurseries June 9th Garden Pond Tour Benefit

A lovely morning spent with friends raised \$3,010 for sick, injured and orphaned wildlife.

by Sandy Beck

At 7 a.m. Donna Legare and Jody Walthall, co-owners of Native Nurseries, nursery staff and friends were setting up tables, flowers and a buffet beside their beautiful garden pond.

Almost 50 guests – who'd preregistered with a \$40 donation to St. Francis Wildlife – were treated to a delicious outdoor breakfast prepared and donated by: Tracey Hellgren, Mary McMullen, Donna Legare, Jody Walthall, Audrey Alessi, Joseph Walthall, Mary Ann Bryson, Norma Skaggs, Ann Morrow, Sue Walthall and Mary Galvin. Adam Reid's classical guitar blended with the trickling pond water.

After breakfast, there was a drawing for a Water Lily Garden in a large Oronoco bowl, designed by pond artist Brian Bryson. Evelyn Gonzolez had the winning ticket!

Other guests won a gift certificate for dinner donated by Kool Beanz Cafe and an autographed copy of *Florida, Magnificent Wilderness*, by James Valentine and Dr. Bruce Means, donated by James Valentine.

The rest of the morning was spent visiting and learning about three unique garden ponds, designed and installed by Brian – at the homes of Steve Evan, Jan Jarret and Dr. Paul Elliott.

We greatly appreciate all the hard work, organization, time and creativity that made this event possible, our garden pond hosts, the donations of drawing prizes and the exceptionally nice group of people who attended. What a great morning!

PHOTOS/Sandy and Bob Beck

Clockwise: Native Nurseries staff, family and friends serve breakfast; Louise Clay (on right) and friend Carol relax beside a garden pond; screech owl Otus watches over breakfast guests; Dr. Paul Elliott, seated at the head of the table enjoys breakfast with other nature lovers; guests learn about Steve Evans' pond; St. Francis Wildlife volunteer Nancy Bivens (on right) talks about volunteer opportunities at our wildlife hospital with Brian Bryson and Sandy Beck.

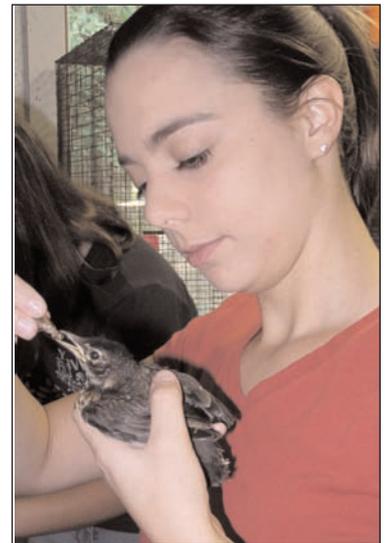


A Dream Come True

by Laney Poire

Right: Jessie feeds a baby robin at St. Francis Wildlife.

Below: Jessie works with Winter, a disabled baby dolphin, at the Clearwater Marine Aquarium.



After a visit to Sea World in Orlando at the age of five, Jessie Euliano's dream was to work with animals.

This summer, Jessie graduated with honors from FSU with a major in behavioral psychology and a minor in biology. She was busy sending announcements, packing up her apartment, mailing resumes and seeking recommendations for graduate school.

Yet Jessie also found the time to volunteer at St. Francis Wildlife during the entire baby bird season, showing up consistently, two afternoons per week. Jessie's help was invaluable, especially at one point when there were more than 150 hungry baby bird mouths to feed. She was as efficient and dedicated as any paid staff member.

Her reward, aside from the occasional "Thank you," was the deep satisfaction of watching baby birds thrive under her care.

"Working in the baby bird room has been a great experience for me. I have never worked with wild birds before. I've found myself paying closer attention to the birds that I see and hear when I am outdoors now."

Last summer, Jessie completed an internship at the Clearwater Marine Aquarium. Her eyes glisten as she describes her experiences with "Winter," a rescued baby dolphin who had lost its tail. During rehabilitation exercises in the pool, the baby nestled its soft snout in her neck.

Jessie's goal is to divide her time between raising baby birds and caring for squirrels and other small mammals in her backyard and working with a marine mammal rehabilitation center.

Her dream is almost certain, because Jessie was accepted for an internship at Mote Marine Laboratory in Sarasota to work in the whale and dolphin hospital this fall!

Jessie, we are certain that any animals you work with will benefit from your dedication and compassion - the baby birds at St. Francis Wildlife certainly have.



NATIVE NURSERIES

The Store for Nature Lovers

Native Plants • Wildlife Gardening • Bird Shop
Herbs • See our newsletter at www.nativenurseries.com



850.386.8882
1661 Centerville Road
Tallahassee, FL 32308

Community Treasure – Now a St. Francis Wildlife Board Member

Barbara Barnett Sullivan sets up pet shelters for animals caught in disasters, raises tiny orphaned babies, can handle a great horned owl and tame a computer gone wild – all this with a full-time position at FSU. This soft-spoken, determined woman is a dynamo. And we're lucky to have her.

By Sandy Beck

When St. Francis Wildlife looks for a new board member, we look for people who have already shown a commitment and have an interest in our success. We look for people already involved in the community who know how to network and raise money. And we look for someone who is passionate about our mission – helping sick, injured and orphaned wildlife. Passion and energy motivate others.

Barbara Barnett Sullivan, our newest board member, is a perfect fit.

Barbara, who has lived in Tallahassee all her life, was lucky to have parents who indulged her love of animals, from a pigeon that she found and took to the vet with an injured wing (and later released) to an orphaned squirrel that she raised then set free at the Junior Museum (now Tallahassee Museum).

Six years ago, Barbara knocked at my door. "We've never met, but I know you work with St. Francis Wildlife, and there is an injured hawk on the road near my house."

I grabbed my gloves, a towel and a cardboard box and hopped in her car. Barb kept the red-shouldered hawk's attention while I walked up quietly from behind, dropped the towel over him, quickly got his feet and talons under control and placed him in the box.

Barbara was wide-eyed, excited and hooked. Soon after that, I received a phone call. Her son needed service hours for his college scholarship.



Barbara teaches a young visitor about red rat snake *Chilly*, in our tent at the Downtown Marketplace. PHOTO/Sandy Beck

"Could he help you clean cages?"

It was a package deal. Each week she scrubbed water pans, fed the gopher tortoise and helped her son Travis clean the cages where our non-releasable Wild Classroom raptors live.

One day, after she had become comfortable with the hawk and owls, she asked, "Have I cleaned enough cages to earn a lesson on how to work with the birds?"

Yes, Grasshopper (remember *Kung Fu*?).

That was the beginning of a wonderful, symbiotic relationship. Barbara – soft-spoken and gentle, yet confident and strongly motivated – was a natural.

It wasn't long before she became a sub-permittee on the Wild Classroom's U.S. Fish & Wildlife permit which has enabled her to care for two non-releasable American kestrels.

Today, you will see Barbara teaching children about birds and reptiles at our public events, from Owl-O-Ween at the Downtown Marketplace to the Pinewoods Bird Festival at Pebblehill Plantation.

Her skills – acquired as a business analyst in the Budget Office at FSU – also make her a major asset at St. Francis Wildlife fund-raising events. We couldn't have done the two Tallahassee Wildlife Festivals without her as an assistant festival director, helping acquire and track hundreds of silent auction donations.

Barbara also uses her computer and organizational skills to help St. Francis Wildlife record med-

ical data on our wild patients.

After successfully raising dozens of orphaned baby squirrels, she accepted the job of Squirrel Foster Care Coordinator when April Arrington resigned from the position to raise her own (human) babies.

During Baby Squirrel Season (August – November), Barbara is responsible for training volunteers to raise baby squirrels (see Page 7) and then picking up orphans and delivering them to volunteers. She usually keeps the newborn and sick ones until they are stabilized.

And, as if this weren't enough, Barbara is also an active member of Big Bend DART (Disaster Animal Response Team) which sets up pet shelters in conjunction with Red Cross shelters.

When a position on the board of directors opened recently, Barbara was a unanimous choice.

She plans to raise funds by also becoming our new Community Conservation Partnership program coordinator, soliciting support from local businesses. And she has ideas for building the volunteer program and for new fund-raising events.

What would this dynamo like to say to our community?

"We can't do it without your help. Help us care for the wildlife we are so fortunate to have here in Tallahassee. You will get so much satisfaction from being a part of it all, You can donate money. You can donate your time. There is some way that everyone can help."

Would you like to see your 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 more details about this Community Conservation Partnership program for local businesses, contact Barbara Sullivan at bbsullivan@comcast.net or 562-4379 or log on to www.stfranciswildlife.org/ccp.html.

Please renew your support today!

You will receive the . . .

- **Wildlife Matters** quarterly newsletter.
- **Satisfaction of helping wild animals** unable to care for themselves.
- **Wild Card**
New and renewing supporters at the \$50 level or higher also receive the **St. Francis Wildlife Wild Card**. Present it at many of our Community Conservation Partner businesses. See list on-line at www.stfranciswildlife.org

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

Donation Form

(Summer 2007)

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

PLEASE PRINT

Name _____ Date _____

E-mail Address _____

Home Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

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

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

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

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

Donor Levels: Chickadee, \$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.



PHOTO/Sandy Beck

Baby Squirrel Season Is Here

By Sandy Beck

Would you like to help raise baby squirrels?

Psst! Hey, Bro. Move over. You're hogging the blanket again.

Lighten up, Peanut. We're just lucky that nice woman adopted us after we fell from our nest and Mom couldn't find us. Be happy you HAVE a blanket. I heard the woman say that more orphaned squirrels just arrived at Northwood Animal Hospital

Oh, no, Bro. These digs are going to get really crowded.

Probably so, Peanut. Too many orphans, not enough homes. Well, in just three months we'll be out on our own. Try to get some sleep.

*ZZZZZZZ.
Peanut?*

It's Baby Squirrel Season. That means St. Francis Wildlife is going to rescue about 600 of the little darlings again. Possibly more if any big storms blow their leafy nests from the trees. Every time that happens,

You can be a squirrel foster parent if you . . .

- are at least 18,
- have a quiet space in your home away from pets and
- are able to dedicate the time and effort it takes to feed and care for the orphans (tiny babies are fed every three to four hours) until they are releasable at the age of 12 weeks.

St. Francis Wildlife receives hundreds more.

If you would like be a surrogate squirrel mother or father St. Francis Wildlife will train you.

When we receive orphaned baby squirrels, we call on our trained volunteers to raise the babies in their own homes. When the orphans are grown, we release them in safe squirrel habitat – on private property far from roads and cats.

If you are interested in learning how to raise baby squirrels, please e-mail squirrel foster care coordinator Barbara Barnett Sullivan at bbsullivan@comcast.net or call her at 562-4379 and leave a message.

Plan to attend one of our training workshops. Details about workshops are on the right.

For information on how to rescue squirrels and other wildlife, please log on to our web site: www.stfranciswildlife.org.

Free Squirrel Workshops



Squirrel Foster Care Tuesday, August 21 7 p.m.–8p.m.

Learn how we raise orphaned baby squirrels and possibly take babies home with you (see article on left). Pre-registration required.

When you register, we will send details and directions.

To register, email Barbara Sullivan at bbsullivan@comcast.net or call her at 562-4379 and leave a message.

In a Nutshell, Living with Squirrels and Foster Care Workshop

Sandy Beck, Education Director
Barbara Barnett Sullivan,
Squirrel Foster Care Coordinator

Saturday, September 8 10 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
Native Nurseries
1661 Centerville Rd.
386-8882

These crafty and entertaining little guys are here to stay, so you might as well enjoy them. Learn about their interesting natural history, high-wire dating rituals and real estate investments . . . also, how to keep these nuts out of your birdseed.

Foster squirrel care workshop follows program. Graduates may be able to take babies to raise at home (see article on left).

The Wild Classroom

Acclaimed programs feature non-releasable wildlife from St. Francis Wildlife.

Contact us to schedule a Wild Classroom program for your Classroom, Assembly or Special Event.

Sandy Beck, Education Director
sbeck@wildclassroom.net
850.528.0823

www.WildClassroom.net

Learn how screech owls blend into tree bark, how a hawk can soar for hours without flapping a wing, how a barn owl can hunt in total darkness. And learn what you can do to help wildlife.



Camouflaged screech owl

PHOTO/ Mike Ewen, Tallahassee Democrat



Susan Teisciero
Mary L. Huggins
Owners

1505-2 Governor's Square Blvd
Tallahassee, FL 32301
Phone: 850-576-0002
Fax: 850-576-0009

Community Conservation Partner in the Spotlight: Kool Beanz Cafe



Keith Baxter with four of his best friends.

by Sandy Beck

Most people know Keith Baxter as the owner of Kool Beanz Cafe, one of the most consistently excellent restaurants in town, but many don't know that he is also one all-around good guy.

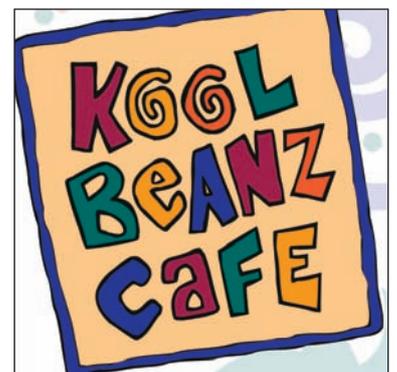
For the last five years, Keith has donated food or gift certificates to his restaurant for nearly every St. Francis Wildlife fundraiser. He also gives, from his heart, even when we don't ask.

Recently, we received an email from him: "I bought a few things on your Wish List, could you come pick them up?"

Keith had doubled his cleaning supplies order for Kool Beanz and gave us half. We filled our van with paper towels and bleach! And of course, Keith is a serious animal lover.

"I cannot remember a time in my life when there has not been at least one dog around my home. Most times, two to three at a time and currently four."

Our community, and certainly St. Francis Wildlife, is a better place because of people like Keith.



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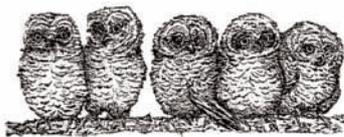


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Events Calendar

Please join us at these community events.
On-line calendar: www.stfranciswildlife.org.

- **Tuesday, August 21**
Baby Squirrel Foster Care Workshop,
7 p.m. - 8 p.m.
Details on Page 7.
- **Saturday, September 8**
Squirrel Program and Baby Squirrel
Foster Care Workshop, 10 a.m.
Native Nurseries, 1661 Centerville Rd.
Details on Page 7.
- **Saturday, September 22**
Wild Birds Unlimited Anniversary
Celebration
1505-2 Governor's Square Blvd.
Meet birds of prey and learn about St. Francis
Wildlife from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Details: 850.576.0002
or www.wbu.com/tallahassee.
- **Saturday, October 6**
Blessing of the Animals and La Florida
Celebration Day, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Mission San Luis de Apalachee, 2020 Mission Road,
Tallahassee. Bring your animals and meet ours.
Theatre, music and dance performances; Hispanic
cuisine; free treats for pets; free admission.
Details: 850.487.3711
- **Saturday, October 27**
6th Annual OWL-O-WEEN Party, 8 a.m. -
2 p.m. The Downtown Marketplace, Ponce de
Leon Park, Park Ave. & N. Monroe St.
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.

- **Sunday, October 29**
Birdsong Nature Center Fall Festival,
Noon - 4 p.m.
Meridian Rd., 4 miles north of the state line.
Music, food, crafts, hayrides, birding, St. Francis
Wildlife's animals and more! Always a great event!
Details: 229.377.8723 or
www.birdsongnaturecenter.org

**Please be
a responsible
pet owner.**



Twenty percent of all injured and orphaned
wildlife St. Francis Wildlife rescues every year
have been attacked by pets. Help wildlife by
making your cat an indoor pet. And, please don't
allow your dog to roam or to chase wildlife.



THE PHOENIX ENVIRONMENTAL
GROUP, INCORPORATED

2916 EAST PARK AVENUE
TALLAHASSEE, FL 32301
850.878.3331

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 possi-
ble, leave a marker, like a towel tied to a
tree limb.

**For more information
on wildlife rescue:**
www.stfranciswildlife.org