

Caring for wildlife
for 37 years!

St. Francis
Wildlife
ASSOCIATION

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.

V. 14, No. 3

Fall 2015

Wild and free, again

By Sandy Beck

Wildlife rehabilitation is hard work, physically and emotionally. There are the around-the-clock feedings, tricky rescues, endless scrubbing, and the seriously injured or sick animals that, despite heroic efforts, may not survive. But when everything goes right, when you get to take a recovered, healthy bird, tortoise or fox home and set it free — that's the exhilarating moment that makes it all worthwhile.

In one week this summer, six birds of prey were returned to Tallahassee's skies—a Bald Eagle, that no one thought would make it, and five young Mississippi Kites. It was sheer magic.

Bald Eagle returns to Lake Jackson

Last April, we rescued a Bald Eagle at Lake Jackson. He was emaciated—less than half his normal weight—and suffering from lead poisoning. After expert care at the St.

Francis Wildlife hospital, he was transferred to the Northwest Florida Wildlife Sanctuary in Pensacola for additional treatment and reconditioning in their 100-foot flight cage.

Retired Audubon Florida Eagle Watch coordinator Lynda White helped transport the recovered eagle back to Tallahassee. Friends of Lake Jackson members located the perfect release spot on the lake.

St. Francis Wildlife director Teresa Stevenson gently removed the eagle's leather hood. Lynda White had the honor of carrying the eagle to the shoreline and setting him free, to great applause and a few teary eyes. He flew toward the water, circled back over our heads and disappeared above the trees.

Orphaned kites raised at St. Francis Wildlife head to South America

Two days later, Teresa Stevenson carried five cardboard boxes into the middle of a field off Tram Road. When she opened the boxes, five pairs of bright brown eyes peered up at her.

Mississippi Kites are graceful aerialists that snatch flying insects with their feet and eat them on the wing. Every spring, large flocks of these crow-sized raptors leave South America and head north along the Gulf of Mexico.

Like most birds of prey, Mississippi Kites mate for life. By the time they reach Florida in April, established pairs have already located their partners and started the business of raising a new family.

This summer, St. Francis Wildlife rescued dozens of baby raptors (birds of prey) that had fallen from their nests, including 12 Mississippi Kites. We were able to successfully reneest and reunite many with their natural parents, but not five baby kites. So, after a few weeks of TLC in our wildlife hospital and another few weeks of "flight & forage school" in a

Recovered Bald Eagle returns to Lake Jackson. Photo by Tim Donovan, FWC.



large outdoor cage, it was time to be wild again.

Teresa transported all five kites to the Southeast Farm Wastewater Reuse Facility on Tram Road. A flock of more than 3,000 Mississippi Kites had already been observed there, so it would be an excellent spot for the fledglings to learn from adult kites and then join them on the annual return migration to South America in September.

Five local wildlife lovers had the privilege of setting the kites free. We were joined by many others from the FWC and Audubon.

Teresa lined up the five people in the field, asked them to face the tall trees in the distance, and then removed each bird from its box, placing one in each of their gloved hands. She explained that the kites would head for the trees.

On the count of five, five pairs of hands opened and five birds stretched their wings in a seemingly effortless glide that took them higher and higher across the field.

After the others had left the field, Darcy Abbott stood still, her eyes riveted on the kite she had just released. It was perched at the top of an oak tree.

She said quietly, "It's a beautiful day when you can hold a fledgling in your hands, knowing that it has been given a second chance at survival, release it, and see those amazing wings carry it into the sky."



Darcy Abbott releases a juvenile Mississippi Kite while another sails above them. Photo by Whitney Gray,



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**A special thank you to
these veterinary hospitals
for their services**

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Dr. Mitch Potter, Allied Veterinary Emergency Hospital.



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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Cameron Barton



Michael Merchant is an Eagle Scout!

For his project, Michael Merchant, Troop 114, built three 4x4x4 cages that will be used as opossum and squirrel “half-way houses”—to acclimatize the orphaned babies we raise to the great outdoors. They are perfect—easy to clean and easy to move. Thank you, Michael!

If you would like to do a project that will help wildlife, we care for hundreds of squirrels and opossums every year, so we would love to have more of these cages—please!

Sincere Thanks To

- **Modern Mailers** for their mailing services.
- **ElectroNet** for our web site & email.
- **COSTCO** for donating the fresh produce that we have fed our animals for the last five years!
- **DQP** for discounted printing services.
- **Joanie Delbert Trotman**, for a brand new Maytag high efficiency clothes washer.
- **Nancy Thomas**, for a brand new baby bird incubator.
- **Shelby Jean & W. Charles Wingate**, for a large Brother Printer (it does everything ☺), office supplies, and indoor animal gate.
- **Karen Gray**, for a gently used G.E. clothes washer.
- **Dana O. Bryan**, for aquariums, small cages, bedding and a humidity reader.
- **Southern Seafood**, for donating fresh fish for our injured osprey.
- **Spears Seafood**, for donating fresh fish for our injured osprey.
- **Lucy Baer**, for donating a lovely hand-crafted, hand-painted nest box.
- **Wild Birds Unlimited**, for raffling off Lucy Baer’s nestbox for us (see Calendar, Page 8) & for donating a sign for our Owl-O-Ween event.
- **Artists Pattie Maney, Ken Pease & Mershell Sherman**, for donating a portion of their October sales (at Kool Beanz) to St. Francis Wildlife!
- **Community Thrift Market**, 1211 N. Monroe Street, for donating a portion of their October sales to St. Francis Wildlife.
- **Gulf Winds Track Club**, for donating \$489.48 in proceeds from their annual Prefontaine 5K Forest Run.
- **Pete Winter, Winterstone Productions**, for formatting our videos and compiling all our wildlife photography into a slide show.
- **Birdsong Nature Center**, for donating plants and **Nancy & Mike Thomas** for planting them to create a natural visual barrier between cages.

Fox headed for trouble saved by alert bicyclists

Story and photo by Emily Shaw

Early one Saturday morning, we received calls from several Tallahassee bicyclists. "There's a grey fox with his head stuck in a fence. Please come help him!"

When I arrived, I saw that the fence was on private property. I didn't want to damage the fence, and there wasn't time to ask the owner for permission to cut it. Because the fox was so stressed, I knew I had to work quickly.

There was already a significant amount of fur stuck to the wires around her little head where she had been thrashing, so to minimize stress, I wrapped her in a blanket, making a little "fox burrito."

I then placed her body between my knees to prevent further thrashing and injury, and put my hand under her chin so she could breathe easier and relax, which she did. Despite my fingers being near her muzzle, she never once tried to bite me.

The good thing about her placement was that I was able to conduct a brief head-to-toe exam to determine if she needed to come back to the hospital with me.



The only issue she had was a little missing fur around the neck and some minor dehydration, but no injuries, no parasite infestations, no apparent illness, and she had good body mass. I was going to be able to simply release her, which is a rare and wonderful opportunity for a rescuer.

I tried bending the wires with some tools, but the fox's neck was already in such a tight space that any manipulation would have

caused her further distress and possible breathing difficulty, so I decided that if she was able to get her head in there, I could find a way to get it back out.

I folded one ear back under the wire, then the other, then slowly and gently began wriggling her head through. It was really stuck in there, but inch by inch, she was coming loose. She let out a tiny whimper at one point, then, pop! Out she came! I expected her to begin thrashing and trying to break free, but she was exhausted and just relaxed for a moment.

The bicyclists pointed out that there were large dogs on the property across the street, so I decided to release the fox in a wooded area on the same property she was headed to.

I placed the "fox burrito" on the ground, said, "Please run away," pulled the blanket away, and off she ran!

This sweet little girl would not have made it if it weren't for the kind bicyclists who called and waited with her—Deborah Burr, Jim Linn, and others. I shudder to think what the outcome would have been if they hadn't seen her on their trip. Always keep an eye out and be vigilant in your surroundings; you never know when someone's (or something's) life may depend on it!

Emily Shaw is a St. Francis Wildlife volunteer. Emily's late mom, Mary Jane Mahoney Shaw, started St. Francis Wildlife in the 1970s, working from her home near Leon High School. We know Mary Jane would be so proud of Emily!



Dr. Daniel Brown at the Animal Eye Clinic examined our Barred Owl "Cedar," one of our raptor ambassadors. Cedar, who at 30+ years may be the oldest living Barred Owl in this country, is beginning to show age-related cornea degeneration. Thanks to generous and caring veterinarians like Dr. Brown, who work closely with our wildlife rehabilitator Teresa Stevenson and her staff, St. Francis Wildlife's patients receive the highest level of medical care available.



We recently received this Osprey after he flew into the side of a house in Sopchoppy. He was emaciated, infested with parasites, had broken feathers and head trauma. Thanks to donations of fresh fish from Southern Seafood and Spears Seafood and TLC at our wildlife hospital, he is getting stronger every day but still can not fly. **We would greatly appreciate donations of whole fish—any kind!** We will come pick it up. To donate fish, please call us at (850) 627-4151.



Local artists get wild at Native Nurseries

By Sandy Beck

Photo by Eleanor Dietrich

Artists—dancers, musicians, writers and visual artists—who are seduced by wildlife encounters can record and share their experiences in vibrant tones, movement and colors. Because Tallahassee is rich with wildlife, local artists have a lush palette of wild experiences from which to draw.

This summer, local artists blended their wildlife-inspired work into a collaborative production to benefit St. Francis Wildlife, at “An Evening of Dessert & Eco-dance at Native Nurseries.”

Guests relaxed beside **Native Nurseries’** tranquil garden pond, designed by artist Brian Bryson, and were treated to homemade

desserts and shade-grown coffee while they enjoyed the performance.

Wearing animal masks created by artist Linda Hall, dancers from the FSU School of Dance Community Arts Initiative—Alayna Lee, Amanda Sieradzki, Sharon Carelock, Cheri Stokes, and Jennie Petuch—moved among the trees and our live owls to poetry by Sandy Beck and the evocative rhythms of musicians Bradley White and Willis Rabon (didgeridoos), David “KIP” Ritchey (hand-pan), and Kent Hutchinson (African drum).

Our volunteers stayed busy hawking tickets for the St. Francis Wildlife Summer-Get-Away-from-it-all Raffle! Winning tickets were chosen at the end of the evening.

“Your event was one of the finest cultural events I have participated in. Thank you for

including us!” Kent Hutchinson said.

Mask maker Linda Hall said, “St. Francis Wildlife is a wonderful organization that provides an important service. They serve as an advocate for the wildness around us not only by caring for injured and orphaned animals, but also by educating people to respect what is wild. We are all thrilled to be able to use our art to support them.”

Thanks to **Native Nurseries**, the artists and musicians, the businesses who donated 13 spectacular raffle prizes, and all of you who bought raffle tickets and shared the evening. This unique event raised \$5,000!

Please patronize these businesses who support St. Francis Wildlife by donating spectacular raffle prizes.

- ✦ **Native Nurseries**, Tallahassee’s store for nature lovers for 35 years.
- ✦ **Wakulla Springs Lodge**, Wakulla Springs State Park, Wakulla Springs, FL
- ✦ **Turtle Beach Inn Bed & Breakfast**, Port St. Joe, FL
- ✦ **Highland Falls Cabins**, Blairsville, GA
- ✦ **So Pure Salon & Spa**, Tallahassee, FL
- ✦ **The Wilderness Way** paddlesport outfitter, Crawfordville, FL
- ✦ **The Highlands House Bed & Breakfast**, Santa Rosa Beach Beach, FL
- ✦ **Lion Country Safari**, Loxahatchee, FL
- ✦ **Trail & Ski**, Tallahassee’s premier outdoor shop for over 30 years.

Kool Beanz Cafe celebrates St. Francis Wildlife’s 37th year

By Sandy Beck

One of Keith Baxter’s most moving memories is the day he saw a wild hawk get a second chance at life.

Keith and a friend rescued a hawk that collided with their car and dropped it off for us at Northwood Animal Hospital. When the bird had recovered, Keith met us at the spot where the hawk had been hit.

The cage door opened, and she flew into her forest. “It was a most satisfying feeling—and unforgettable,” said Keith.

“I wanted to help St. Francis Wildlife the best way I could—through my business with fundraising and by letting others know what an important community resource they are. When friends find a hurt possum, a baby bird or an injured snake, my advice is always the same: Call St. Francis Wildlife.”

Most people know Keith Baxter as the owner and executive chef of Kool Beanz Cafe



St. Francis Wildlife volunteer Keith Baxter and Red-shouldered Hawk “Rudy.” Photo by Sandy Beck.

in Tallahassee, but he is also a huge animal lover and advocate.

Saturday, September 26, Kool Beanz Cafe

held the **Kool Beanz Cafe Wine & Dine Benefit** to celebrate St. Francis Wildlife’s 37th anniversary.

Keith and his staff created the most amazing full-course, gourmet dinner with wine pairings for 30 guests—donating every bit, to raise \$6,000 for wildlife!

Guests of honor were Julie Wraithmell, Audubon Florida’s director of wildlife conservation and her British expat-comedian-birder husband, Andy Wraithmell, the “Limeybirder.”

Guests also enjoyed musical and visual delights—Tiffany Vaughn’s classical guitar; wildlife images by local wildlife photographers including Andy Wraithmell and Tara Tanaka, and lovely flowers from Clinton Nurseries, Katharine Gossman and Barbara Barnett.

Special thanks to the evening’s sponsors: Lynne Liska, Keller Williams Realty; James Donohue, Ausley McMullen; Westwood Animal Hospital; Native Nurseries; Wild Birds Unlimited; Brennan Law Office, PA; and Kia Autosport.

Meet Francis Wildlife’s hospital staff—a rare breed

By Teresa Stevenson

Clockwise from top left: Nancy Thomas with a juvenile Red-bellied Woodpecker. Vanessa Thomas feeds baby Northern Mockingbirds. Michelle Osborne with a baby beaver. Mary Krehely releases a Barred Owl. Kelley Gray tube-feeds a baby opossum. Sara Bell feeds a baby grey squirrel. Cecil Castro feeds baby Chimney Swifts.

Photos by Teresa Stevenson and Sandy Beck.



During our busy “baby season,” April through October, our wildlife caretakers care for more than 200 wild animals every day. Every one of these women is conscientious, com-

passionate, skilled and invaluable.

When they arrive early in the morning, each wildlife caretaker heads for a different animal room.

Nancy Thomas and **Cecil Castro** go to the Songbird Room. The moment they turn on the lights and open the window blinds, baby Cardinals, Carolina Wrens, Downy Woodpeckers and dozens of other feathered orphans open their colorful beaks and begin to call, “Feed me, feed me, now!”

When their little tummies are full, they poop, and then begin calling again—every 10 or 15 minutes. Nancy and Cecil spend the entire day conducting this incessant songbird symphony—feeding and cleaning, feeding and cleaning. Until evening

when lights are turned off, the blinds close and baby bird eyelids grow heavy.

Kelley Gray, who has worked at St. Francis Wildlife for 15 years, spends her day in the Mammal Nursery feeding each baby squirrel every two or three hours. With 43 tiny babies in the incubator today, by the time Kelley fed them all, it was time to begin again.



Vanessa Thomas feeds and cleans the baby opossums. There are few things in this world more endearing than a baby opossum, which is a good thing since Vanessa raised over 300 of them this summer!



In the Bird of Prey Room, to avoid imprinting the youngest baby raptors, **Mary Krehely** wears a camouflage hood and uses puppets to feed them. Hawks are “projectile poopers,” and because baby hawks like to play the “I can poop further than you can game,” cage walls, doors, and the surrounding floor area require frequent scrubbing. Never walk beneath a hawk nest!



Mary also bottle feeds baby raccoons in our Rabies Vector Species Room, three or four times every day. No job is too tedious or too dirty for Mary who can smile

through the smelliest job.

Sara Bell, crazy about reptiles, takes care of the turtles and snakes—many hit by cars—in our Reptile Room.

Jeannie Thayer and **Sissy Hosay**, our baby-season temporary staff, clean and feed animals in the outdoor enclosures and help wherever needed inside the hospital.



Michelle Robinson admits new patients in the Exam Room—anything from a bunny attacked by a cat, to a Barred Owl hit by a car.

After a thorough exam, Michelle helps determine the best treatment and sends each new patient to the appropriate room.

Michelle also cares for critical patients in our ICU Room, giving medications, tube-feeding, and sterilizing cages and equipment. Michelle is high-energy and works nonstop, but also has a silliness that is contagious.

One thing Michelle is always serious about is caring for the sickest and most badly injured animals.

“I get my joy from taking an animal that arrives on death’s door, giving him whatever he needs, and seeing him get a little stronger every day—until we can set him free again. Watching that animal run or fly away from us is the best part of this job.”

My wonderful staff also do laundry, answer the phone, transport wildlife to and from veterinary clinics, respond to rescue calls, and help in other animal rooms when needed.

Every day they work hard, often under pressure, while staying focused on the animals’ welfare. They also smile and laugh a lot, and go home very tired. I appreciate all these women—the heart of St. Francis Wildlife, and a very rare breed, indeed.





This juvenile Red-tailed Hawk was hit by a car and had a fractured wing. After six weeks of care and reconditioning at St. Francis Wildlife, her wing had healed, and she was free!

Wildlife rescue—do you have what it takes?

By Pat Simmons

Early one Sunday morning, a raccoon drew the attention of several people living near a Tallahassee park. It appeared “drunk” as it lurched from yard to yard; at one point it attempted to climb into the back of a Jeep.

A call was made to St. Francis Wildlife (SFW) for assistance. Our rescuer found the animal collapsed in a carport and took it to Allied Veterinary Emergency Hospital where it was determined to have end stage Canine Distemper, a disease that is highly infectious to family pets and other animals.

During a rainy evening, an adult Great Blue Heron, a large shore bird equipped with a beak that doubles as a spear, was seen trapped in a drainpipe. City animal control was unable to assist and referred a concerned person to SFW. After hours of squirming through muck, a SFW rescuer safely removed the bird, which was stuck long enough to have become severely dehydrated. After a short stay at our wildlife hospital, it was released at Killarn’s Long Pond.

Since 1978, incidents similar to these are repeated hundreds of times each year. It is the mission of SFW to help any and all native wild animals brought into our care. SFW

does not deny any wild animal our attention, nor do we charge for our rescue and care services.

SFW admits more than 3,000 animals each year, many of them rescued by trained staff or volunteers. To fulfill this mission by helping critters like the raccoon and heron—and the thousands of others that cross our threshold, there are many volunteer, and sometimes staff, opportunities at SFW. One of the most exciting is that of Wildlife Rescuer.

Wildlife rescue work requires commitment, endurance, patience and training. To handle animals that may carry rabies (rabies vectors), staff and volunteers must be vaccinated.

If you would like to learn more about St. Francis Wildlife’s rescue services, please visit our web site, www.stfranciswildlife.org, contact me, patsimmons@stfranciswildlife.org, or call Teresa Stevenson at (850) 627-4151.

Road warrior needed!

The dirt road from Salem Rd. to our wildlife hospital is a challenge to maintain. Many thanks go to Charles Davis and Capital City Bank Group Foundation for awarding SFW a grant of \$1,500, which we used to improve this road.

Roberts Sand Company delivered seven cubic yards of rock. Reetz Tractor Service graded rough sections and spread the rock at a reduced cost to keep us within budget. We also thank Donald Boyett of Attapulcus, GA, for his work to keep the road open and safe.

We need another 15 cubic yards of crushed limerock or asphalt and seven cubic yards of clay/sand mix. Areas need grading and leveling, swales and ditches deepened and cleaned, and clay and rock spread. What we REALLY could use is a small tractor so we can maintain all this ourselves.



St. Francis WildlifeFest

It was just meant to be—right down the road from St. Francis Wildlife, at beautiful White Dog Plantation (the former Nicholson Farmhouse) in Havana—our first ever St. Francis WildlifeFest, on July 26. There was plenty of family fun with our awesome birds of prey, cool reptiles from FWC, good food, live music, and children's activities.

White Dog owner Lynn Badger gave tours of her plantation’s impressively restored historic buildings and natural areas.

St. Francis Wildlife board president Pat Simmons said, “It was also an awareness event where people in the community learned about local wildlife and how to help them.”

We are indebted to the following for making this a wonderful event:

Lynn Badger, who generously donated the use of White Dog Plantation; Christy Crandall, Gordon Scott and the entire Bothys band for hours of old-time music; David Cook, FWC, reptile exhibit and program; Chase D. Yarborough, FWC, children’s activities; Gadsden County Humane Society volunteers helped set up, serve food and clean up; Scott Mann, Mann’s Doghouse donated proceeds; Bruce Screws, Bill’s Signs for banners; A to Z Rentals for snow cone and popcorn machines; Hopkins for gallons of iced tea; Pepsi for drinks and cups; Publix for food; The Brennan Law Office sponsored Edwin the Balloon Artist; St. Stephen Lutheran Church for their coffee machine; Gadsden County Times for ads; and Ultimate Fencing for mounting and removing banners.

We also appreciate these individuals and businesses who donated items for the silent auction: Traditions Antiques, On The Fly Outdoor Art, Katharine Gossman, Disney World, Sea World, The High Museum, BJ Restaurant, Wild Adventures, James Houston, and Wakulla Springs State Park.

See ya next year!

(Left) David Cook, FWC biologist, wowed WildlifeFest visitors with his extensive knowledge of reptiles and amphibians, the huge collection of herps he brought, and his cold-blooded sense of humor! These children are learning about a green tree frog. Photo by Bob Beck.

WILDLIFE PROGRAMS WITH LIVE BIRDS OF PREY

Innovative wildlife education programs presented by an award-winning educator can be adapted to meet the needs of a variety of audiences—school groups, special events, club meetings and conferences.

Our programs feature a variety of raptors—owls, hawks, and more— from St. Francis Wildlife and promote an appreciation and understanding of native wildlife.

For details about the different programs and reasonable program fees, download a brochure at www.wildclassroom.net or call education director Sandy Beck at 850.528.0823.



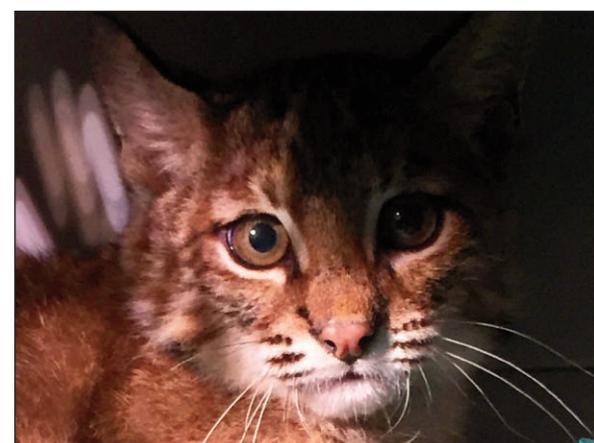
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Photo by Teresa Stevenson, left: Otus, our disabled Screech Owl (on right) has visited classrooms for 10 years. This summer, she raised this orphaned baby Screech Owl.

Photo by Teresa Stevenson, center: Orphaned Baby Chimney Swift.

Photo by Dr. Kathleen Cavell, right: This baby bobcat was found on the road near the Miccosukee Canopy Road Greenway and brought to St. Francis Wildlife. Thanks to Northwood Animal Hospital for examining and vaccinating him.



Thank you, City of Tallahassee Commission!

Non-profit organizations like St. Francis Wildlife rely heavily on the kindness of individual supporters, small business and corporate giving, estate bequeathals, grants, and municipal funding to survive.

Since 1996, the City of Tallahassee (COT) has provided funding to St. Francis Wildlife to compensate us for the important services we are uniquely qualified to provide its citizens.

In a previous newsletter, the SFW board wrote that the City of Tallahassee (COT) abruptly discontinued this funding for fiscal year 2015. Even without this critical funding, SFW continued to provide the quality services the people of Tallahassee have come to expect.

On September 24, a large group of St. Francis Wildlife board members, staff, and volunteers attended the last COT public hearing for fiscal year 2016. After testimony provided by our education director Sandy Beck and board members Dr. Mitch Potter and Pat Simmons, Commissioner Gil Ziffer put forward

the motion to resume funding for SFW at a level of \$30,000. Commissioner Nancy Miller seconded the motion. The mayor and all commissioners, except Commissioner Maddox, voted for this line item that will be funded from savings resulting from a reduction of COT temporary employees.

Commissioner Maddox said he would have voted to fund SFW, but since he could not support the proposed budget, he could not support the amendment that included SFW.

Continued funding from the City of Tallahassee, especially during these times of economic instability, will help ensure that SFW meets its mission to rescue and rehabilitate sick, injured, and orphaned wildlife and provide public education services.

SFW is grateful that the Leon County Board of Commissioners has chosen to continue funding our services to those who live in the unincorporated areas of Leon through 2017.

Thank you Mayor Gillum and Gil Ziffer, Nancy Miller and Curtis Richardson. We understand the position of Scott Maddox and thank him for his words of support.

We cared for 1,390 wild birds, mammals and reptiles between January 1 and June 30, 2015

Most Common Problems

1. Orphaned.
2. Collision with motor vehicle.
3. Domestic cat attack.
4. Dog attack.
5. Nest or habitat destruction caused by human activity.

Unusual Rescues

Eastern Screech Owl found in wheel well of car. Barred Owl stuck in SUV grill. Brazilian Free-tailed Bat on windowsill inside Publix. Carolina Wren nest discovered inside heated barbecue grill. Fox chased into swimming pool by dogs. Great Blue Heron trapped in drainage culvert. Grey fox's head stuck in fence.

Nocturnal Raptors—Owls

35 Barred Owls, 2 Eastern Screech Owls, 6 Great Horned Owls

Diurnal Raptors

2 Bald Eagles, 6 Black Vultures, 5 Broad-winged Hawks, 4 Mississippi Kites, 31 Red-shouldered Hawks, 9 Red-tailed Hawks, 1 Sharp-shinned Hawk, 4 Turkey Vultures

Examples of Songbirds and Woodpeckers

6 American Robins, 15 Blue Jays, 25 Brown Thrashers, 160 Carolina Wrens, 5 Cedar Waxwings, 17 Downy Woodpeckers, 8 Great-crested Flycatchers, 1 Ruby-throated Hummingbird, 12 Chimney Swifts, 13 Eastern Bluebirds, 54 Northern Cardinals, 84 Northern Mockingbirds, 6 Pileated Woodpeckers, 5 Red-bellied Woodpeckers, 8 Yellow-rumped Warblers

Examples of Shore Birds

1 Common Loon, 1 Common Merganser, 1 Great Blue Heron, 1 Laughing Gull, 1 Mallard, 2 Pied-billed Grebes, 1 Tricolored Heron, 8 Wood Ducks, 1 Yellow-crowned Night Heron

Examples of Mammals

1 Beaver, 1 Bobcat, 31 Grey Squirrels, 113 Cottontail Rabbits, 2 Fox Squirrels, 4 Grey Foxes, 3 Red foxes, 4 Southern Flying Squirrels, 3 White-tailed Deer, 256 Opossums

Examples of Reptiles

2 Alligators, 2 Alligator Snapping Turtles, 17 Box Turtles, 2 Common Snapping Turtles, 6 Florida Cooters, 1 Florida Softshell Turtle, 5 Gopher Tortoises, 1 Grey Rat Snake, 1 Southern Ring-necked Snake, 13 Yellow-bellied Sliders

Donation Form: Please renew your annual support.

Mail your check to: St. Francis Wildlife Assoc., P.O. Box 38160, Tallahassee, FL32315
Or make a secure **online donation** with PayPal at www.stfranciswildlife.org.

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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.

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To make this donation in honor of someone else (for a special occasion, memorial, etc.) please include a note with the honored person's name and the name and address of 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
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Please contact me about: Volunteering Your Wildlife Education Programs

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St. Francis of Assisi Wildlife Association, Inc. Registration #: CH4537.



St. Francis Wildlife Calendar

Saturday, Nov. 21, Talon Talk raptor program, 10 - 11:30 am, Lake Jackson Mounds State Park, 3600 Indian Mounds Rd., Tallahassee. St. Francis Wildlife's educator Sandy Beck, with several remarkable birds of prey, will explain the unique adaptations that make them spectacular aerial predators and what we can do to help them. Program is free for adults and school-aged children with paid park admission of \$3 per vehicle and an item from St. Francis Wildlife's wish list (below).

Monday, November 30th, 6 pm, Wild Birds Unlimited Drawing for unique, hand-crafted, hand-painted nest box. Raffle tickets, \$1 each or \$5 for 6, are available at WBU, 1505-2 Governor's Square Blvd., now until the drawing. All proceeds benefit St. Francis Wildlife.

Wednesday, Dec. 2: Talon Talk raptor program at Waterworks, 8:30 - 9:30 pm, 1133 Thomasville Rd.

Saturday, Dec. 5, 9 am - 4 pm & Sunday, Dec. 6, 1 pm - 4 pm, Annual Alternative Christmas Market, John Wesley Church, 1689 Old St Augustine Rd, Tallahassee.

Friday, Dec. 11, 6 - 9 pm & Saturday, Dec. 12, 9 am - 2 pm, Alternative Christmas Market, Christ Presbyterian Church, 2317 Bannerman Rd, Tallahassee.

Saturday, Feb. 27, Spring House Institute and St. Francis Wildlife present "Lake Jackson Neighborhood Birds of Prey," 2 - 6 pm, 3117 Okeehoopkee Road, Tallahassee. For details and ticket information: www.preservespringhouse.org.

Wildlife Matters

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St. Francis Wildlife Association
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Wildlife Wish List

Please take these tax-deductible items to St. Francis Wildlife, Northwood Animal Hospital or Allied Emergency Veterinary Clinic. THANK YOU!

Gift Certificates

- Stone's, Lowe's or Home Depot
- Native Nurseries
- Wild Birds Unlimited
- Panhandle Pet Supply
- COSTCO
- Squirrelsandmore.com
- Foxvalleynutrition.com
- Target or Walmart

Food/Feeding

- Unsalted peanuts in the shell
- Raw, hard-shelled nuts, like walnuts, pecans, hickory
- Black oil sunflower seed
- Whole fish, any kind, for injured Osprey—we will pick up!
- Wild bird seed
- Keet seed
- Cat and dog food (dry and canned)
- Baby food: only fruit, vegetables, and chicken (no noodles, beef, gravy, etc)
- Eggs
- EXACT powder (baby bird formula)
- Plain and fruit yogurt
- Live or dried worms and crickets
- Waterfowl maintenance pellets
- Waterfowl starter mash
- Ziploc bags (quart & gallon, freezer)
- Jar lids — peanut butter kind only
- Plant pot saucers, plastic or ceramic
- Heavy stoneware food bowls

Cleaning Supplies

- Laundry liquid detergent (unscented)
- Bleach, unscented
- Heavy-duty 39 gallons trash bags
- Paper towels
- Dish soap
- Pine Sol
- Odoban
- Scotch-brite heavy duty scrub sponges
- Hand sanitizer
- Rakes

- Heavy duty hoses
- **Animal Housing**
- 10-gallon aquarium tanks with tops
- Heating pads, not automatic shut-off
- Humane live traps
- Baby blankets
- Unfrayed T-shirts, sweatshirts, pillow cases, top sheets, towels, baby blankets. No buttons, zippers, elastic.
- Soft toilet paper or soft tissue

Maintenance

- Lumber: plywood, 1x2s, 2x4s, etc.
- Nails, screws, tools
- Hardware cloth

Office

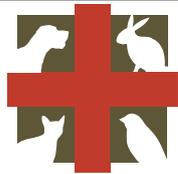
- Sticky notes
- Clip boards

Medical Supplies

- Alcohol
- Cotton balls
- Johnson and Johnson waterproof tape
- Penlights
- Q-tips
- Sterile gauze
- Sterile insulin syringes – 1 cc or 30 units (29G, 30G)
- Sterile needles for injection – 27G, 25G (1/2 inch long, 3/4 inch long)
- Sterile syringes for injection (from 1 cc to 100 cc)
- Surgical gloves (small or medium)
- Tissue adhesive
- Vet Wrap

Big Wishes

- Incubator
- Golf cart
- Homeopathy kit ("30C Remedy Kit")
- Chain saw
- Gasoline pressure washer
- Tractor (See Page 6, "Road Warriors")



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If you find sick, injured or orphaned wildlife

• Call us at 850.627.4151 8:30am to 5pm.

• After 5pm, 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 or to Allied Emergency Veterinary Clinic, 2324 Centerville Rd., Tallahassee.

• During their regular, daytime business hours, you may also take it to North Florida Animal Hospital at 2701 N Monroe St., Tall.

Important Information

• Transport wildlife in a warm, dark box with air holes punched in the lid. Place an old t-shirt or blanket in the box, not a towel. Keep it quiet, and handle it as little as possible.

• NEVER feed it or give it water.

• NEVER handle raccoons, foxes, bats or any mammals (even babies) that could carry rabies. CALL US. Squirrels, opossums and rabbits are very 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