

# Wildlife News & Notes ~ Summer 2015



Florida Wild Mammal Association  
Wildlife rescue since 1994

Florida Wild Mammal Association is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the rescue, rehabilitation and release of sick, injured and orphaned wild animals. FWMA is equally committed to public education about wildlife issues.

198 Edgar Poole Road, Crawfordville, FL 32327 / 850.363.2351 / [www.FWMA.org](http://www.FWMA.org)

## Why it is known as "Baby Season"

The doors to the Baby Wildlife Room at FWMA opened at the beginning of May, signaling the start of wildlife baby season. Since then we have provided care for a wide variety of sick, injured and orphaned wildlife patients. Thankfully people seem to have a greater awareness of the existence of orphaned wildlife, which means more lives can be saved and a greater number of animals can be returned to the wild. For example when opossums are injured or killed on our roads, individuals are more inclined to stop and remove the animal from the road and while doing so check for nursing babies. Over 100 baby opossums have been raised at the center this year and more continue to arrive every week.

The center has also cared for a diversity of songbirds: mockingbirds, brown thrashers, cardinals and Carolina wrens, plus more unusual species including white eyed vireo, summer tanager, king birds, pileated woodpeckers and chimney swifts. As fast as one group graduates from the nursery to the outside conditioning cages in preparation for release, another group arrives in need of care. Baby birds require feeding every 20 minutes from sunup to sundown so their demands are endless. Orphaned mammals are coming in too - grey foxes, cottontail rabbits, armadillos, and opossums. Squirrel and fawn season just began so they are arriving too.

The daily summer storms brought more than torrential downpours; they also caused the separation of infant wild animals from their homes and parents and also cause many injuries. Bad weather is directly responsible for

all of the baby raptors who are calling FWMA home until they are ready for release - great horned owls, screech and barred owls, coopers, broad-winged, red shouldered, red tailed hawks, and Mississippi kites. FWMA has a small but highly dedicated team of staff members and we are incredibly fortunate to have their support. They were assisted by passionate volunteers this summer including students from the Internship Program at Wakulla High School as well as students earning community hours for the Scholarship Program. Even work groups from AmeriCorps, Josh and Victoria's YouTube groups, our Facebook group and some awesome friends of FWMA have volunteered their days off and summer vacations. Many thanks to all of these wonderful people - without your help we would not have been able to take care of so many wildlife patients.

Baby season is only halfway through the cycle. This is a very expensive time of year and the intense workload is quite hard on our small group of staff. **Any help you can give would be greatly appreciated.**



Carole Robertson



## THESE BABIES GROW UP SO QUICKLY!



Over 30 mockingbirds have been raised and released so far this year.

A litter of gray foxes who are all ready for release.

**Thank you all so very much for your kind and generous support!**

## Double Your Dollar Easter Event

The Easter Bunny brought a marvelous surprise to FWMA. Because of your compassionate support over \$7,000 was raised for the medical building fund. Donors and recipients were featured on our website with a display that was revealed on Easter Sunday morning. And best of all, every dollar donated was matched by a challenge grant! To see the Easter Bunny and her magnificent eggs, just visit our website at [www.FWMA.org](http://www.FWMA.org) and click on the *News Features* link.



## Wilton Manors Fundraiser



We especially want to thank Michael Reed -- Organizer Extraordinaire, Mary and Guy O'Donnell, and to everyone who attended the FWMA Fundraiser in Wilton Manors.

## St. George Island Mini Vacation Raffle Winners

For 3 nights in the four-bedroom beach house Playin' Hooky:

~Bob Landiss of St. George Island.

For 3 nights in the luxury townhouse Pompano:

~Olivia Crosby Albritton of Lynn Haven.

**CONGRATULATIONS!**

Our gratitude extends to all who purchased and sold tickets and to the Philaco Womens Club of Apalachicola for sponsoring this fundraiser to benefit FWMA.



## Animal cages donated by FSU

Thank you to everyone that came out to help load and distribute animal cages for several local animal rescue groups (including FWMA) on June 26th. Donna Trumbower of FSU did a fabulous job of organizing the event.



## Thank you Capital City Bank Group Foundation



## A few more recent rescues...



This raccoon wants all of you to know that growing this much is really exhausting!



This little bat ended up going for a swim in someone's pool. After a towel dry and a bit of rest, he was released.

## Wildlife Education News from FWMA



### What To Do If You Find A Baby Squirrel

Wildlife baby season is halfway through, but apparently the squirrels didn't get that memo! So their baby season is just beginning. If you find a baby squirrel (or any orphaned mammal) here are the steps you need to take to make sure you don't do more harm than good.

- Make sure he/she is actually orphaned – unless the baby is in imminent danger, injured in some way or cold to the touch give the parents enough time and space to rescue their own babies.
- If you have determined from this assessment that you need to intervene, put the orphan in a cardboard box lined with soft blanket type material.

- Keep the animal warm, dark and quiet. Transport to FWMA or your nearest wildlife rehabilitator as soon as possible. (If transporting to FWMA do not call or send e-mails; bring animals directly to the center anytime.)
- Please do not feed the animal ANYTHING. Feeding the wrong diet or giving any type of fluids incorrectly can be fatal!
- If you would like to learn how to be a foster parent for injured / orphaned wildlife please become a volunteer. Contact FWMA or your nearest wildlife rehabilitation center for more information.

### Wildlife Ambassadors At Work

Our educational animals - Doofy the pelican, Gordon the tortoise, and Gizmo the screech owl - had a very busy schedule during May including visits with:

- Kindergarten through 2nd grade students at Shadeville Elementary on the 8th;
- 3rd graders at Crawfordville Elementary during the Project Learning Tree program on the 14th,, and
- An event at the Wakulla Diving Center on the 16th.

These wildlife teachers wanted us to pass along their gratitude for being asked to participate in so many community educational activities. A special thanks to Betsy Jones, Charlie Mallow, and Travis Kersting for the invites!

### A Note to FWMA

On behalf of Riversink Elementary School's faculty, staff, and students we would like to extend our sincere appreciation for your participation in our Project Learning Tree week, "A Beautiful World Starts With You." Your willingness to nurture our students' curiosity about nature and helping them become good stewards of the environment has had a positive impact on their views about the natural environment. We look forward to a continued partnership between you and Riverside Elementary Project Learning Tree program.

With warm regards,  
Mrs. Jackie High, Principal

#### Land Fund

Target: \$80,000



#### Medical Building Fund

Target: \$107,850



### Seeking land for FWMA's New Home

As you may already know, FWMA is urgently seeking a 10 to 25 acre tract of land to call our new home. The project fund is steadily growing but there is still a long ways to go. A donation of land would allow FWMA to relocate to its own property, thus ensuring its sustainability for upcoming generations.

For more information about our vision for the future, visit our website at:

[www.youcaring.com/fwma](http://www.youcaring.com/fwma)

**Fourth Annual GOLF GONE WILD Tournament**



Thank you, St. James Bay Golf Resort for hosting the Golf Gone Wild fundraising tournament on May 2nd to benefit the animals at FWMA. The event raised \$5000 to help cover the cost of animal feed, formulas, and veterinary care for the very busy start of baby season.

Thanks also to Faith Eide (guest speaker), Rob Burlison (golf pro), Nola Tolbert (restaurant manager), and all of the sponsors, golfers, and donors who made this event possible. We also want to extend a HUGE THANK YOU to three marvelous ladies who volunteered their time to organize and run this event and ensure the day ran smoothly: Jo Lewis, Hollis Vail, and Lois Swoboda

Event sponsors included:

- John and Helen Spohrer
- Mingledorff's, Inc.
- Up the Stairs Restaurant
- MPC Smart Promotions
- Lynn Cooper of Harbor Point Realty
- Garlick Environmental Associates
- Apalachicola and Carrabelle Times
- Artemis Gallery
- Up the Creek Raw Bar
- Marks Insurance
- Gibson Inn
- Oyster Radio
- Auto Trim and Design
- Jeff Galloway Real Estate



**WOW!**

Our Facebook page now has 2,097 "likes/friends".....absolutely fabulous. Please join us on Facebook to get all the latest news at FWMA!



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**Calendar of Upcoming Events**

- August** – Baby season is going strong!
- September 17th thru 19th** – FWMA Yard Sale, Nad's Storage, Shadeville Hwy, Crawfordville, FL.
- October 18th** – Sharks and Chablis at Gulf Specimen Marine Lab in Panacea.
- November 21st** – Hearts Gone Wild Music Festival. Hosted by Rick and Nelle Ott and From The Heart Music Studio.

**FWMA Donation Form      Yes, I want to help orphaned and injured wild animals.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail to: FWMA, 198 Edgar Poole Road, Crawfordville FL 32327