



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)

Florida Wild Mammal Association  
Wildlife rescue since 1994

## Letter to The Editor:

Hello everyone! My name is Simon and I am the youngest (I think ☺) of four. I was born in a place that humans call *Sopchoppy*, a quiet little rural town in the Panhandle of Florida. Our house was built in the top of a tall, tall oak tree, well away from danger (or so we thought). My Mom and Dad worked very hard to build our house and once we were born, were so very proud that we were all warm and safe. Then early one morning the sky got dark, the thunder rumbled and the lightning flashed. We found out just how good our home was when the rain came down yet we were still dry and safe. Then came the wind and suddenly everything changed...

A few hours later we heard humans talking. First a quiet, sweet voice: *Oh kids, look at this place - we will all be doing yard work this weekend.* Next a little voice: *Mom, look there's a nest. And the babies... ewwwww! They have no fur and their eyes are closed!* Gentle hands picked up our shattered home. It had broken our fall from that tall, tall tree but our parents were nowhere to be



found. Our four cold little bodies all huddled together felt a little warmer when the quiet, sweet voiced human put us in a box with a warm towel, and off we went in their speedy, loud metal box on wheels.

When the loud metal box stopped, all I remember was another human voice: *Don't worry, they are the sixth batch of babies we've taken in because of that ferocious summer storm yesterday. They will be fine and you did the right thing.* Did the right thing? Where on earth were we? No Mom or Dad, no tall, tall tree. We did have each other but who would feed us? Who would snuggle with us at night and keep us safe from predators?

The first few days in this new 'home' were quite different. More quiet, sweet voice humans (and different from those in our *Sopchoppy* home) fed us as regularly as mom used to. The milk tasted really funny at first, none of us liked it and it took a lot of persuasion to get us to drink it. But after about a week we were sucking down gallons of it - well, not quite gallons, but our tummies were really full!



When our eyes finally opened, we could put faces to voices and discovered that it took many very kind humans to raise our little family (funny, only one Mom and Dad squirrel, but lots of foster parent humans!). Then the excitement began... more than once, my sister jumped out of our 'home' when the older human came to feed us. She ran around the house while they chased her and they kept calling her *Naughty Squirrel* (funny, we just know her as Stella!).



One day our food changed. We were used to milk (and there was still plenty) but on that special day, we tried nuts and Cheerios and fruit for the very first time. Oh, how, messy... but oh, how, GOOD!

Shortly after our food changed so did our house. Definitely not as scary as leaving our tree house was, and this time we got to move into a big house - outdoors! It was very safe, made of wood with special wire to protect us from predators that might hurt us.

Well, life in our new house is really great. Lots of food, lots of space to run around and plenty of opportunities to be *Naughty Squirrels*; I really like it here. Yesterday I overheard the younger human: *The squirrels rescued from Sopchoppy have been rehabilitated and are ready for release.* How thrilling: you see, the quiet sweet voice human and the little voice human want us back! They have been inquiring about us every week through something called Facebook and they have made us a new house - a very sturdy one out of wood. Who knows, maybe our Mom and Dad are still there?

Now it's time to go back to my home in the forest. I will miss this place a lot - they call it the *Florida Wild Mammal Association* - and **they saved our lives!** These humans urgently need your help to continue rescuing hundreds of young animals like me that are brought here every year - opossums, bunnies, songbirds, pelicans, deer, otters, hawks, owls (yes, they should be saved even though they might eat me!) and lots, lots more critters!

Have a great day, and thank you for reading my letter.



Joyful Regards,

**Simon Horatio Squirrel**



Join us on Facebook: FLORIDA WILD MAMMAL ASSOCIATION



**Baby season is underway!** Dozens of animals are arriving at the center every week. As of mid-April we took in:

-  113 birds including 26 owls, 19 pelicans, 10 loons, 3 eagles (siblings) and a wide variety of songbirds.
-  97 mammals including 57 squirrels (*Simon had plenty of company*), 10 grey foxes, and 10 opossums.
-  An assortment of deer, raccoons, skunks, armadillos and many other critters!

These are a few recent wildlife patients. Thank you **Kristen Bailey** for the captivating photos.



### Building for the Future

The search continues for a tract of land in Wakulla County where FWMA can relocate. Stay tuned for an exciting fundraiser coming in June to support this initiative, and keep up with current news through our Facebook page and email updates (be sure we have your email address on file). To learn more about the project and how you can help, please visit our website at [www.FWMA.org/building-for-the-future](http://www.FWMA.org/building-for-the-future).

### You found a baby mammal - Now what?

**TAKE THESE STEPS** to ensure that 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 decided that you need to intervene, put the orphan in a cardboard box lined with soft blanket type material.
- Keep the animal warm, quiet and dark as possible. 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.**
- Do not feed the animal ANYTHING. Feeding 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, become a volunteer. Contact FWMA or your nearest wildlife rehabilitation center for more information.



### Wildlife Education Corner

PROJECT LEARNING TREE is a nationwide environmental education program for elementary school children. FWMA was invited to participate again this year and introduced some of the center's wildlife ambassadors to students at Crawfordville and Shadeville Elementary Schools.



*Terri Albrecht-Schmitt with Moonlight, a Great Horned Owl.*

### Fifth Annual GOLF GONE WILD!

Thank you, St. James Bay Golf Resort in Franklin County for hosting the Golf Gone Wild fundraiser on May 7th to benefit the animals at FWMA. The golf tournament and silent auction raised money to help cover the cost of animal feed, formulas, and veterinary care for the very busy start of baby season.



Mark your calendar: Giant Yard Sale to benefit wildlife is September 1<sup>st</sup> - 3<sup>rd</sup> at Townsend's Nads Storage, 59 Shadeville Road, Crawfordville Florida.

We are in URGENT NEED OF FUNDING - over 100 wildlife patients are presently receiving care and treatment at the center. Please consider making a donation today.

**FWMA Donation Form**  Yes, I want to support FWMA during baby season.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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