

# Letter to The Editor,

We've started to arrive at Florida Wild Mammal Association a non-profit that helps critters like us recover after we have become sick, injured or orphaned. When we're feeling better they take us back to our homes in the wild.



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## News & Notes ~ June/July 2011

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FWMA is our little sanctuary nestled on 6+ wooded acres in Wakulla County. The folks there make it their business to try to inform other folks about our plight. You see, as our county has grown, we are facing a whole lot of obstacles such as more cars, cats, dogs, fences – it has become a dangerous place out here. People in our community have learned to bring us here when they find that we are in trouble. You know, those people at FWMA don't even charge anything to take care of us and we certainly don't qualify for MediCare or any Government programs!!! Our cousin Hoot lost his mom a few years ago - a nice lady boxed him up and took him to FWMA. Back then, there were only a few critters at the sanctuary, but now there are hundreds. We have all sorts of friends visiting – birds, deer, raccoons, opossums, hawks and owls just to mention a few.

The place is full of really nice humans who dedicate their time to take care of all of us. They keep our cages clean, keep us well fed and take us to the vet when we need to go. They have helped to build many outdoor cages that look just like home where we can stretch our legs and wings when we are feeling better. These temporary homes were made possible by kind folks who volunteered their time and money. There are rumors that our little sanctuary is in BIG trouble. There are so many of us that need their help and they have run out of money to feed us, take care of us and to pay the vet bills.

When we first arrive at FWMA most of us aren't feeling very well at all and we need to be kept inside on heat and receive tender loving care 24/7. There are rumors going around that many of the humans and their businesses have been having a tough time and haven't been able to donate as much money and volunteer hours as they used to – not something that us furred and feathered critters understand very much about. All we know is that FWMA is our little sanctuary and safe place and we sure would appreciate it if you could help us keep it going. It's the busiest time of year right now at the sanctuary – we call it **Baby Season**. Unfortunately, some of our babies lose their moms and dads or get hurt in a very scary world. FWMA helps raise our youngsters until they are ready to go out and fend for themselves. This is a HUGE job – believe you me, I know, I am a mom and I have to feed my babies every three hours and I only have two this season. I had a conversation with Momma Wren and she told me that she has to feed her babies every fifteen minutes – wow, I'm glad I'm not Momma Wren!

No matter how hard they have tried, the kind folks at FWMA have not been able to raise the money needed. What will happen to all of us if they are not there to help? We have heard a lot of talk about a word called "Eco-friendly" – doesn't that include us? After all, we hear a lot of folks come to this part of town just to see us. Did you know that over 900 of my very dear friends and family came to FWMA for treatment last year. The folks at FWMA say there could be over 1000 of us this year. We don't have anything to sell or trade. There's just us, our lives, our homes and our babies and we need your help. Please help us save our little sanctuary.

Forever grateful,

**Doe Doe**

Doe Doe (and baby friends)  
White Tailed Deer, Crawfordville, FL



### What to do...if you find sick, injured or orphaned wildlife!

- Keep the animal warm (80°) to prevent shock
- Keep the animal in a warm, dark and quiet place to relieve stress and help the animal feel secure (small box with air holes and a paper towel lining)
- Do NOT give any food or water
- Bring the animal to FWMA – 198 Edgar Poole Rd, Crawfordville, FL, 32327. Directions can be found at our website [www.wakullawildlife.org](http://www.wakullawildlife.org)



## Recent Releases~ April 2011

This very large soft shell turtle came to FWMA from Dr Fulmer's office in Apalachicola, FL. He had been hit by a car and had suffered an eight inch gash in his shell. Thanks to Dr Fulmer of Apalachicola and Dr Guhrt of Crawfordville Animal Hospital the turtle

received antibiotics and shell repair. He was a very feisty patient and took every opportunity to intimidate our volunteers (including trying to remove one of the vet tech's fingers – thank goodness without success as Lesley needs all of her fingers!). A very special thanks to our volunteers Barbara and John Shugar for returning our feisty friend back to the wild!

This beautiful female great horned owl was rescued by Jo Lewis, one of our Apalachicola volunteers. He was hit by a car and suffered a severe wing injury. Jo took her to Dr Fulmer who stabilized the wing and then Erik Lovstrand (one of our most dedicated rescue volunteers) transported her to FWMA. After four days at FWMA she was stable enough to undergo surgery. Dr Guhrt of Crawfordville Animal Hospital did a fantastic job putting her wing back together. She remained at FWMA for six more weeks and, after receiving flight

conditioning, Red Gasche very kindly transported her back to Franklin County for release. Thanks to all who make this owl's journey a success!



In addition to these success stories, FWMA has made many releases this year (unfortunately without photographs!). 16 barred owls found themselves in need of care and were returned to the wild within just a couple of months. 6 screech owls also received treatment at FWMA for a variety of reasons - a very special thank you to John and Theresa Glunn for setting up a screech owl release habitat to provide a place for their to transition back the wild. A big thank you to our FWC officers who, since January, have rescued and released 4 red tailed hawks.

In October 2010 we received a Bald Eagle from Larry Anderson (USFWS) with a severe wing injury – a very special thank you to our FWC officer, Seth Wagner, who helped in the care of the bird while it was being stabilized at FWMA. This magnificent bird was transferred to Goosecreek Wildlife Sanctuary in Tallahassee where it was under the caring hands of Noni Beck and Dr David Hale (Cross Creek Animal Hospital). After many weeks of intense treatment the bird was transferred to Audubon for conditioning. The greatest news of all came when Audubon returned the Eagle to Wakulla for release in March of this year.

### T-Shirt Reminder!!

Many thanks to Progress Energy for sponsoring our 2011 t-shirts and to Carole Robertson ([www.robertsonartgallery.com](http://www.robertsonartgallery.com)) for her time and talents in designing the t-shirt. We have already raised over \$1000 and need your help to triple that figure by the end of the year. We are so proud to offer these shirts for a suggested donation of \$20 (plus \$5 shipping and handling) – this design will only be available this year so hurry, please use the form enclosed to order your shirts.



**Woodstork 2011** ~ 4th Annual Woodstork Festival 2011. We are in the process of planning for the Woodstork Festival. This year's event will be held on Saturday, October 8th 2011 at 3Y Ranch in Crawfordville. There will be live music, auction, photo contest, arts and crafts exhibits and food vendors. This is our biggest event and fundraiser of the year. All proceeds raised from the event will go towards helping sick, injured and orphaned wildlife from our local area. Check out the Woodstork website [www.woodstorkfestival.com](http://www.woodstorkfestival.com). We are in need of sponsors for the event, auction items and dedicated volunteers. If you are interested in helping please contact Chris at [choppaotta@aol.com](mailto:choppaotta@aol.com) or call 850-363-2351.

### More Upcoming Events...

September 1st, 2nd and 3rd 2011 at Nads Storage, 59 Shadeville Rd, Crawfordville. Come out and see what bargains we have or donate your unwanted items to help us raise money for our wildlife patients (items can be dropped of at Nads after August 1st or brought to the yard sale on Sept 1st). All donations are greatly appreciated



**Wanna know the latest happenings at FWMA???** Join us as a friend on **facebook**.



**Wakulla News Food Drive...**A very special thanks to Joan Robertson and The Wakulla News for starting the food drive. Donations of food and cleaning supplies for FWMA can be dropped at The Wakulla News, 3119A Crawfordville Rd, Crawfordville.

### The 3rd Annual FWMA Photo Contest

The third annual Nature and Wildlife photo contest is underway. All entries must be received by Tuesday September 6, 2011 (see website for details). Winners will be announced by Oct 8, 2011. All entries will on display at the Wood Stork Festival. There two divisions - Youth (under 18) and Adult. Cost is \$5 per photo entry. Youth entries are free. All photos must have an entry form attached to the back. For official entry forms and rules go to our website at [www.woodstorkfestival.com](http://www.woodstorkfestival.com). While you are on summer vacation, stop and take a look at the nature and wildlife around you. Then take a picture and enter it in the FWMA Nature and Wildlife Photo Contest.