

## News & Notes June/July 2012



### SPRING HAS SPRUNG!!

Florida Wild Mammal Association has received many calls on orphaned birds. Baby season will run from April to September. Here is some information that may help determine if a bird needs to be brought to FWMA or any other rehab center.

If you find a young bird alone on the ground or away from its nest, you must first determine if it is a baby in need of assistance. Many songbird fledglings leave the nest several days before they can fly and the parent birds are still caring for them and watching for their safety. A fledgling will have almost fully formed feathers though the wings and tail may be short, and it will be able to fly or hop short distances. In this circumstance fledglings do not require any intervention unless it is in immediate danger of becoming lunch for a cat or dog; then pick it up and put it in a nearby bush or shrub out of harm's way. The dog or cat may need to be kept inside for several days to give the young bird time for it to become flighted.

A hatchling is much younger and needs assistance. If you find a baby bird with little or no feathers and you know where the nest is, then return the bird to its nest. If the nest has been destroyed, you can construct a makeshift nest using a small berry basket (like the one strawberries come in) where water can go through so the babies don't drown. Line the container with material from the old nest or dry grass or leaves. Wire your nest to a branch about 5 or 6 feet off the ground or wire it securely in a branch fork near the old nest. The best chance for survival for a baby animal is for it to be raised by its own parents.

**A BIRD SHOULD BE RESCUED WHEN:**

- If you know for certain that a young bird is an orphan because you have seen the parent birds killed by a predator or a window strike.
- If pet dog or cat has picked up or played with a young bird, it will need to be brought in for



medical treatment. Even the smallest puncture can get infected very quickly.

- Very often the center receives calls on abandoned nests where the baby birds are still alive in the nest but the parents are nowhere to be found. If you feel a nest has been abandoned observe it at a distance for at least 45 minutes. With a pair of binoculars and a little bit of patience you should be able to tell if the nest is actually abandoned.

If after 45 minutes you are quite certain that the parents are not visiting the nest, then it will be necessary to collect the young birds and turn them over to a licensed wildlife rehabilitator for proper care.

- If the baby bird appears sick or injured in any way it will need assistance of a rehabilitation center.

**ONCE IT IS DETERMINED A BIRD NEEDS TO BE RESCUED HERE ARE SOME THINGS TO KEEP IN MIND:**

- It is illegal to keep wild birds in captivity even if you plan to release them.
- Young birds require specialized diets and the company of their own kind to learn necessary skills for survival in the wild. Birds eat a lot and very often to maintain their high body temperature and fast metabolism. Because they are growing so fast, some may consume almost their own body weight daily. They must be fed at least every 20-30 minutes. This makes it imperative that orphaned birds are brought to a rehabilitation facility immediately after being found.
- Do NOT attempt to feed food or water to the baby birds.
- The best container to keep the bird in is a small cardboard box/shoe box with some tiny holes for air to get through.
- Put the bird in a dark warm place. You can use a heating pad under it if you keep the setting on LOW. Or, fill an old sock with rice and tie a knot in the end of it, then place it in the microwave for 1 minute. Test the sock/towel to make sure it is warm and not hot. Place a thin towel between the





## Baby Season 2012

YES - I would like to help fund baby season with my donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to order \_\_\_\_\_ Carole Robertson t-shirt(s) @ a donation of \$20 each (suggested) + \$5 Shipping  
 Small  Med  Lge  X-Lge  XX-Lge

I am interested in volunteering.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail : \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Please send your donation, shirt order and/or volunteering interest to: FWMA, 198 Edgar Poole Road, Crawfordville, FL, 32327

SPRING HAS SPRUNG CONT'D... bird and the rice-filled sock. Keep the bird where it is QUIET , stress-free, and away from children or pets. Wildlife Rehabilitation Centers in Our Area:

**Florida Wild Mammal Association**, wakullawildlife.org or facebook at: Florida Wild Mammal Association, (850) 363-2351. Animals can be dropped off at 198 Edgar Poole Rd., Crawfordville, Fl., e-mail- Choppaotta@aol.com.

**Goosecreek Wildlife Sanctuary**, goosecreekwildlifesanctuary.org, (850) 545-3491, e-mail-info@goosecreekwildlifesanctuary.org.

**St. Francis Wildlife Sanctuary**, (850) 627-2291, stfranciswildlife.org, e-mail-sandybeck@stfranciswildlife.org.

**Emerald Coast Wildlife Refuge**, (850) 650-1880, ecwildliferefuge.com, e-mail-ecwr@ecwildliferefuge.com.

**Wildlife Sanctuary of Northwest Florida**, (850) 433-9453, pensacolawildlife.com



# Woodstork



## WOODSTORK

Florida Wild Mammal Association is hosting the Fifth Annual Woodstork Music Festival and Silent Auction on October 13th, 2012, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The event will take place at 3-Y Ranch, located at 195 Harvey Young Farm Road in Crawfordville, FL. The event features live bands, huge silent auction, photo contest, raffles, local artists and more! Some proceeds help pay for the festival.....all profits go to animal care to benefit sick, injured and orphaned wildlife in our area. Admission: \$5.00 per person, with children under 12 free. Come out and have a great day for a great cause. For more information please visit [www.wakullawildlife.org](http://www.wakullawildlife.org) and [www.woodstorkfestival.com](http://www.woodstorkfestival.com).

Vendor spaces are still available and all forms can be downloaded from the web site. We would also like to thank Nancy and Jerry Wood for the kayak they have donated that will be used as our grand raffle prize!

# GOLF GONE WILD~JUNE 16

Mark your calendar for Golf Gone Wild hosted by Forgotten Coast TV and St. James Bay Golf Resort. Come out for golf with cash prizes, a silent auction with many surprise offerings and a nature photography slide-show and presentation, "The Seasons of Apalachicola Bay," by award-winning nature photographer John Spohrer. Golf Gone Wild will benefit the Florida Wild Mammal Association. Enjoy golf at the gorgeous, Audubon-sanctioned St. James Bay Golf Resort, 151 Laughing Gull Lane in Carrabelle. Purchase amazing artwork and more at the silent auction, and finish the evening with a delicious prime rib dinner at the Crooked River Grill located at the golf resort.

If you would like to help by sponsoring the event or donating auction items, please contact Lois Swoboda at 850-653-5857. If you would like to be a golfer, or for more details, please see the brochure on the website at [wakullawildlife.org](http://wakullawildlife.org) or call Lynne Cooper at 850-697-9507. We hope to see you there for a spectacular day in support of our area wildlife.



## A Little Teamwork Goes A Long Way!

Meet a very lucky girl. In April, Officer Raker of FWC brought in a very dirty and very injured mature Bald Eagle. She had been electrocuted-probably on a power line. After two weeks of intensive care at FWMA she was transferred to Dorothy Kaufmann Wildlife Sanctuary of Northwest Florida where she underwent a major surgery to repair the tendons in her wing. Dorothy has named her Cindy Crawford as she came from Crawfordville and reports she is eating well and is making a nice recovery. Thanks so much to everyone who helped Cindy; hopefully one day soon she will fly free again.



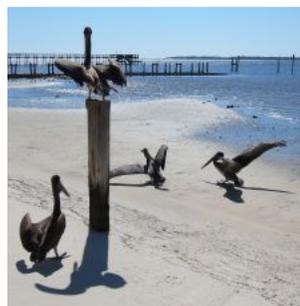
We would like to thank the following students for helping us at FWMA and congratulate them on their recent graduation - they have all worked very hard and this is a tremendous accomplishment. All of the students will be leaving our area to pursue bigger and better things and we wish them all the best in their new endeavors. They will all be greatly missed, leaving behind some huge shoes to fill!



Rochelle Bennett, Catherine Given, Hillary Kirtland, Jessica Beatty, Sean Miles, Jordan Smith and Kelly Fernandez (graduating this summer!!).

FWMA is very proud of all of you and you have been a huge asset in helping us achieve our mission to rescue, rehabilitate and return to the wild our area's wildlife patients! Thanks, Chris

## These are our baby pelicans that wintered over....released by Jerry and Nancy Wood



**FWMA Welcomed VIP's** On April 26, 2012, FWMA was delighted to welcome Ashley Hardaway, Program Director for the Gulf Coast Citizen Diplomacy Council along with her Executive Director, Jena Gissendanner. Together they brought a group of international visitors invited to the United States under the auspices of the Department of State's International Visitor Leadership Program. Their national program is arranged by Graduate School, International Institute and their local program is arranged by the Gulf Coast Citizen Diplomacy Council. The international participants traveled from Indonesia, Jordan, Mexico, Mozambique, Portugal and Sri Lanka.

It was a tremendous honor to be one of the few stops chosen for such esteemed guests to visit during their stay in the Florida Big Bend Region. The delegates seemed to be truly intrigued by what we do here at FWMA. It was a rare treat to meet people from all over the world who were striving for the same end goal that we do.



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**BINGO COMES TO AN END** As we all know its been a very tough economic climate for several years and unfortunately that has caused many of our volunteers to have to commit their time to other things....such as paying jobs. Our weekly BINGO has been a tremendous opportunity to raise funds for FWMA and introduced us to many wonderful people. Lesley Baker and her mom Trish have done an extraordinary job keeping this going for the past several years. Thanks so much to all the dedicated Bingo players who have supported this event through thick and thin and to Lesley and Trish for devoting every Thursday to raise much needing funds for all the critters in need at FWMA. We would also like to thank La Cantina Grille for providing a great venue to hold this event.

### **Florida Wild Mammal Association**

198 Edgar Poole Road,  
Crawfordville, FL, 32327

**We are presently  
in URGENT NEED  
of funding, please  
consider making a  
donation today!**