



Letter to the editor,

Hi, my name is Bill and I am a Razor-billed Auk. I am commonly known as the penguin of the northern hemisphere (even though I am not really related to a penguin!) - my cousins are puffins and guillemots. Myself and a group of friends got very, very lost after Super Storm Sandy and, instead of heading north, we headed south. Nobody in our group seemed to realize we were headed the wrong way so we just kept going until we came to a rather warm place called Florida.

After a very long journey and many months I found myself alone, very tired, hungry and wet. I drug myself up onto the beach in a place called Alligator Point where a very nice lady found me and put me in a box. Another very nice lady named Pat Tollefson (who, it turned out, I would get to know very well) gave me a ride to Florida Wild Mammal Association. When I got there I should have been very scared but I was so tired, weak and hungry that I just didn't care. They set me up in a warm place, got me hydrated and gave me some fish that I had never tried before. They had to special order my fish (Capelin from the Atlantic and Arctic oceans) and it tasted just as good as home.

At first it was quite scary being in a strange place but I felt a little more at home when I spotted a northern gannet and a couple of loons as I see a lot of those at certain times of the year where I am from. It was very nice meeting "the locals", new animals that I had never seen before - brown pelicans, all kinds of small songbirds that made the most unusual sounds and furry animals that they called raccoons and possums. I spent quite a lot of time inside their medical facility as I was quite sick; a broken wing, very exhausted, hungry and dehydrated. When I was well enough they set up a wonderful outdoor area for me - it felt like my own little tropical paradise.

Once I was well on the road to recovery a special plan had to be devised to get me back home - this was not going to be as easy as it would be for all the other wildlife patients who came from that area and lived close to FWMA. My home was many hundreds of miles away. My new human friend Pat saved the day once again. She paid for my plane ticket, a ticket for a loon friend of mine and one for herself so we could make the journey together



to Avian Haven, a wildlife rehabilitation center in Maine. There I met a really nice lady named Diane Winn who helped me get my water proofing back as this is an essential part of me being able to float. They had a huge pool there that both the loon and I enjoyed swimming in. After some recovery time at Avian Haven the day finally came when both me and my loon friend could be released on the north side of North Haven Island, in Penobscot Bay, Maine where they had seen some of my family members just a few days earlier.

And so, I write to you today from my home far north of and far cooler than Florida. I have so many stories to tell everyone up here but, the most important one of all is how grateful I am to everyone at FWMA for their magnificent care and for stopping at nothing to get me back home safely. I am so very grateful to Pat, who not only rescued me from Alligator Point and brought me somewhere safe but paid for all my care while I was at FWMA and for my journey home. I am also very grateful to Diane and everyone at Avian Haven for everything they did for me. It's still hard for me to believe that all any of them wanted in return for their kindness was to see my wings fly free, back where I belong.

I am sure FWMA is still full of the most interesting people and animals and I hope somewhere out there there are some more wonderful people like Pat who will be able to offer some financial support to help care for animals just like me. I must close now and get back out to being an Auk.

Forever grateful, Bill

OUR BETTER THAN EVER FLIGHT CAGE!

In June of 2012, Tropical Storm Debby demolished the roof of our bird-of-prey flight cage.

We had been without the use of this very important enclosure for almost a year. When we recently took in an American Bald Eagle (that we named Tyson) with a badly broken wing, probably hit by a car, replacing the roof on this enormous enclosure became Priority #1 on our To-Do List, since this eagle cannot recover without flight conditioning in this cage. This was a HUGE job. First, the old damaged roof needed to be completely removed. Then new supports (20' long) needed to go up, and we needed a crane to help with this. We needed volunteers to work. We needed funding to help pay for the materials



needed, and there were a lot of materials needed.



Luckily, one of our dedicated volunteers, Mr. Rob Olin, stepped in and MADE this project happen. He devoted a lot of time to raising money, finding sponsors, getting half of the supplies donated, organizing the project, finding a crew, getting a crane on site to help, and just worked as hard as he could all day, on several different days, to get this cage ready for our eagle who desperately needed the room to stretch and move around, and hopefully fully recover. The flight cage is now completed,

Tyson the Bald Eagle has been moved into the new habitat, and we are thrilled! There is no way this project would have been completed without Rob and we are so grateful for his commitment and hard work.

We would also like to thank everyone who answered our plea and made donations to help with this project. One-third of the money raised came from our Facebook friends, 1/3 was donated by Talquin Electric, and 1/3 was donated in memory of Rob Olin's mother, Jeanne Brooks Kiefer Olin, who sadly passed away while this project was underway. Also, a very special thanks to Red Blaisdell (Woodbenders, Eastpoint, FL) who designed the construction and donated his amazing carpenter skills. Thank you, too, to Seth Wagner and Mike Beatty, who worked hard hammering and anything else they could do to help. And a huge thanks to the many

people and companies involved: Rob Olin of Olin and Associates and also of Independent Green Technologies; Lloyd "Red" Blaisdell and his company, Woodbenders; John Griffin (Rob's partner at Independent Green Technologies) who underwrote the large hydraulic crane from Able Crane Services (operated by Ernie Wade and Eddie Schul); and a big thank you to Ken and Kim Fish, who own Taylor's Building Supply (Eastpoint, FL) and donated half of the supplies needed for this project. What a team! We are so very grateful for all of you.



GOLF GONE WILD THANK YOU



FWMA would like to give a huge thank you to everyone who was involved with this year's Golf Gone Wild fundraiser at St. James Bay Golf Resort in Carrabelle on May 18, 2013.



This was the second year for this event hosted by Forgotten Coast TV and St. James Bay Golf Resort. Its organizers, John Spohrer, Helen Spohrer, Hollis Vail and Rob Burlison, brought the fundraiser together in magnificent fashion.

The weather was picture perfect and a fantastic day was had by everyone who came together to play golf and help wildlife at the same time.

Funds raised from sponsors, players and the fabulous silent auction topped just over \$5,000, which will enable FWMA to help wildlife patients from Franklin, Wakulla, Jefferson, Taylor and Leon counties. We are so grateful to each and every one of you for your generosity because without you we would not be able to continue our mission to rescue, rehabilitate and return sick, injured and orphaned wildlife patients back to the wild. We are all so happy that you were able to have such a wonderful day, and in the words of John Spohrer, "You did something to help wildlife where you were, because anything is something, and nothing is nothing; a trickle from our plate is food to many".

Also, a huge thank you to every one of our sponsors - without you this event would not have been possible.

Bay Media Services, Apalachicola
Boyd Brothers Printing, Panama City
Sanders & Duncan, P.A., Apalachicola
Dr. & Mrs. Robert Head
Helen Spohrer, Realtor
Apalachicola Bay Animal Clinic, Eastpoint
Weems Memorial Hospital

Riverfront Therapy, Apalachicola
Touchpoint Branding, St. George Island
Prudential Shimmering Sands Realty
Helen W. Gore, Realtor
Friedman and Associates
Pandora Schlitt, Realtor
Kara Landiss, Realtor

Mason & Marilyn Bean, Realtors
MPC Printing Solutions
Artemis Gallery, Apalachicola
Florida Light Tackle and Sportfishing
Franklin County Board of County Commissioners
Garlic Environmental Associate, Apalachicola



We would also like to thank our wonderful hostesses Melanie Williams, Pandora Schlitt, Judi Stokowski, Leigh Coble and Victoria (a friend of our event organizer, Hollis Vail). These ladies volunteered their time for the entire event and were a crucial part of the smooth running of the day. They did their jobs superbly - we could not have done it without them. Thank you to each and every one of you.

Last, but not least, thank you so much to the St. James Bay Golf Resort for hosting this event at their beautiful eco-friendly golf course and resort. We are so grateful to be able to partner with an Audubon-sanctioned course that is very serious about co-existing with God's other creatures.

We look forward to next year and our third Golf Gone Wild fundraiser. We hope everyone who has participated for the past two years will return to keep the tradition going. If you haven't yet been a part of this fabulous event, we welcome you to come join us next year for a fabulous day for a fabulous cause.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

As many of you may know, Baby Season is our busiest time of year and it is a wonderful time to come and volunteer at FWMA. We have all kinds of indoor and outdoor volunteer opportunities to suit everyone's tastes and abilities. If you would like a fun, interesting and rewarding way to spend some of your free time we would love to welcome you to FWMA. Due to the types of animals that we care for you must be 16 or older to volunteer at the facility but there are many offsite projects suitable for younger volunteers. Please e-mail Chris at choppaotta@aol.com for more information (please title your e-mails "Would Like To Volunteer").



MANY SPECIAL THANKS TO GEORGE MOONEY

It is with much sadness that we inform everyone that we have lost one of our most dedicated supporters and our friend, George Mooney. George came out to the center over a decade ago with a desire to volunteer. Not realizing his age, we invited him to come and spend the day with me cleaning cages and feeding the wildlife patients and he accepted with much excitement, drive and commitment. After a long day of outdoor hard labor George expressed how much he admired what we did but graciously thought he would be better off bringing us supplies once a week! It took me about three years to find out that he was in his early 80's (George never looked or acted his age) and we felt just terrible about that day that he came and volunteered. George stuck to his word for all these years. Every Tuesday he brought apples for the deer and our blind pony, Frosty, and newspapers for the animal cages. In addition to this weekly dedication we also received monetary support from George on a monthly basis. He was a very kind, family man who loved his dogs and not only supported FWMA but also committed a great deal of his time to Meals on Wheels. The only time we ever remember George missing a Tuesday at FWMA was when he took his trip to China which he thoroughly enjoyed. George will be greatly missed here at FWMA - we were honored to know such a wonderful man.



WOW! Our Facebook page now has 1,187 "likes/friends"...absolutely fabulous. Thanks to Melissa Starbuck for keeping everyone up-to-date on all the latest news from FWMA.

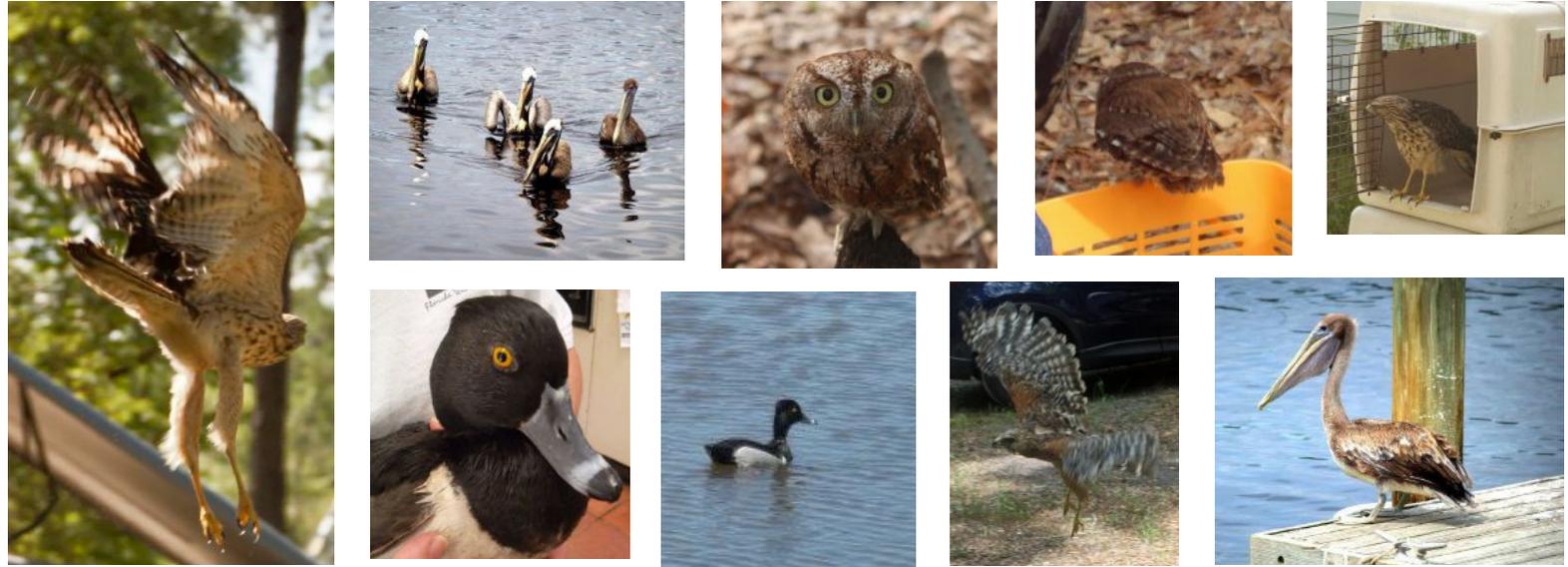
SPONSOR FRANKLIN

Meet Franklin, the Peregrine Falcon who came to FWMA from St. George Island after being hit by a car. He suffered a chest and wing injury in the accident and was unable to fly. Franklin has made great progress in his recovery and has regained 60% of his flying capabilities. Unfortunately, this isn't enough to allow him to fly well enough to survive in the wild and therefore we need to make a permanent home for him here at FWMA. As he is partially flighted, Franklin will need to have a special cage built for him. If you would like to help sponsor Franklin please e-mail Chris at choppaotta@aol.com - please title your e-mail "Funds for Franklin".



RELEASES

FWMA provides care for 800 - 1,000 animals each year. We all look forward to the day when we can watch the release of an animal after its often long road to recovery. Here are just a few of the most recent releases from the center.



WHOOPS, WE MISSED MIGRATION!!

FWMA is located in the Florida Panhandle which is in the middle of the migration routes for many bird species. In an ideal world, these birds use our area as either a stopping point in their long journey, a retreat away from chilly weather or a nice spot to have their babies. However, some of these frequent fliers miss their migration window due to injury or illness and many of them find their way to FWMA.

This year has been especially busy with "snow birds". Here are some pictures of just a few who are spending their recovery time here at FWMA. Many of these birds will have to spend the entire summer season here at the center and wait for their fellow snow birds to return for the winter season.



UPCOMING EVENTS



At Townsend's Nads Mini Storage, 59 Shadeville Rd, Crawfordville
Thurs., Sept. 26 ~ 8am - 3pm (Set Up)
Fri., Sept. 27 ~ 8 am - 3 pm
Sat., Sept. 28 ~ 8 am - 1 pm
All Donations Greatly Appreciated. Donations can be brought to the yard sale on Thurs., Sept. 26th or Fri., Sept. 27th.

ANIMAL RESCUES!

Due to the high volume of animals that we are receiving this summer all of our time is spent caring for them and, unfortunately, funds do not allow for us to have a member of staff to monitor the phone. Therefore, if you find sick, injured or orphaned wildlife please bring them directly to the center so that the animal can receive care as soon as possible. Although we are not open to the public, animals can be brought to the center 24 hours a day, seven days a week.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO FWMA AND ALL THE CRITTERS!

19 YEARS!

THANK YOU!

Attention Wildlife Photographers!

The 6th annual wildlife photo contest is coming soon. This year we have added new categories - black & white and macro - to the previous categories - bird, other wildlife, flower, landscape and altered. Photo subjects can be local or anywhere in the world. We are also pleased to modify the requirements to permit three entries per category for the same entry fee (\$10 per category for adults). We are very interested in encouraging more young photographers to participate, so we have dropped the entry fee for youth entries (age 17 and under). In addition, we are accepting either printed or digital entries. Printed entries can be mailed to or dropped off at the FWMA facility at 198 Edgar Poole Rd., Crawfordville FL 32327. Digital entries are emailed to fwmaeast@aol.com. Detailed contest rules and the entry form will be available on the FWMA website (wakullawildlife.org) and the FWMA facebook page as of August 1st. Entries must be postmarked or received no later than September 30th. Blind judging will be done by a team of local photographers. Winners will be notified by October 30th, and all entrants will receive an email shortly thereafter. Winners will get a photo tour of the FWMA facility and donated prizes, as well as certificates. All entries can be seen on the FWMA facebook page, and winners will also be displayed at a location TBD. Entrants who are willing to donate their photo entries will generate additional funds for the animals when the photos are subsequently sold. FWMA has limited fundraisers this year, so let's make this a great one! Pick out some of your super shots and share them with us - for the animals!!

NEW SIGNS FOR FWMA

We would like to say a very special thank you to Gulf Specimen Marine Lab and Wakulla Sign Company for our awesome new signs; one in Panacea, one on Hwy 98 and one outside the facility.



WALMART WISH-LIST

- There are so many ways to help the wildlife patients here at FWMA; they range from making monetary donations and volunteering, to liking us on Facebook and everything in between. For many reasons, not everyone is able to come and volunteer and some people don't want to just write a check. Well, now we have a new way that anyone who has access to a computer can help FWMA. Thanks to one of our volunteers FWMA now has a wish-list on the Walmart.com website which can be accessed by following these simple steps;
- Step One: Go to www.walmart.com
- Step Two: Click on Registry
- Step Three: Find a Registry (Select Wishlist then First Name: FWMA, Last Name: Inc, State: Florida)
- Step Four: Click on FWMA INC under Registrant
- **START SHOPPING**
- All donations will be delivered straight to FWMA, no need to go to the post office or make the delivery yourself! All donations are tax deductible. Even if you can't shop for FWMA please pass this wonderful online opportunity to all your friends and family, e-mail contacts and Facebook friends.

We Love

Crawfordville Animal Hospital & Apalachicola Bay Animal Clinic

URGENT WISH-LIST

- Green Outdoor Carpeting • Wheel Barrows
- Chest Freezers • New Washer and Dryer
- Side-by-side Refrigerator • Truckload of Gravel
- If you can help e-mail Chris at choppaotta@aol.com (please title your e-mails "Wish List Donation").

Yes! I want to help orphaned and injured animals...and FWMA thanks you!

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

E-Mail: _____

Phone: _____

Please send your donation to: FWMA, 198 Edgar Poole Road, Crawfordville, FL 32327