



# Goose Creek Wildlife Sanctuary, Inc.

Giving native wildlife a second chance ...



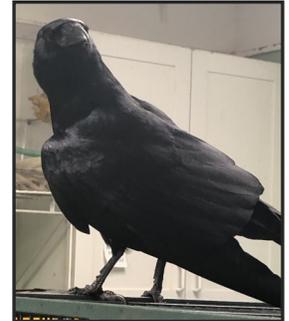
Holiday 2019 Newsletter

See insert for ordering information!



## Brandon says "Hello"

When animals are received for rehab the goal is to return them to the wild. When an animal can't be released, our options are fairly limited. One option is to consider whether the animal might be used for education. Some animals, just by their nature, are shy and may never be comfortable being handled or displayed and it would be unfair to put them in those situations. If the animal is determined to be appropriate for education then the proper permits must be obtained. Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) issue the permits for mammals and reptiles while birds require permits from both FWC and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Mammals are also under the purview of the Department of Agriculture.



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### Enter Brandon

Brandon is an American crow. He came to us as an injured fledgling. Unfortunately, he had a broken wing which had already healed incorrectly. From day one this crow's personality won the love and admiration of all of our volunteers. He immediately seemed to relish in the attention and he's the first one everyone greets as they enter GCWS. Because Brandon can't survive on his own, he isn't releasable. The decision to apply for education permits for Brandon was an easy one since he thrives around humans.



Because crows are extremely intelligent, use problem solving skills and have amazing communication skills, keeping Brandon entertained and stimulated means providing all kinds of enrichment. Brandon's favorite human, Alyssa Cohen, always comes up with exciting enrichment activities to keep him busy and she always gives him his favorite treats, blueberries and mealworms.

*Cont'd on page 2*

## Mother Nature Lands a Blow



It happened suddenly on a clear day...in the blink of an eye a tree came crashing down and took out one of our hutches and a very large walk-in cage, neither of which we could afford to lose. The good news is that both were empty at the time the tree crashed down.

The bad news is, we are minus a critical cage and hutch. Before the busy spring season begins, we really need to replace each of these. We need to raise funds to purchase the supplies needed to rebuild. If you can help us, please donate. Follow us on Facebook for announcements regarding

work days to clean up and work days to rebuild these cages. If you can donate time and/or materials, please contact us!



When you #StartWithaSmile and choose Goose Creek Wildlife Sanctuary as your charity to support, Amazon donates 0.5% of every item you purchase to GCWS. Also now available on Amazon is our "Charity Wish List" showing current items needed.

You can purchase online and have shipped directly to us.



### Did you know:

- Crows have a single mate for life.
- Crows have the largest brain to body ratio of all birds.
- Older siblings can help their parents raise newborn crows.
- Crows are very old, first appearing nearly 17 million years ago during the Miocene Period.



Many thanks to Eli, Mason and Connor for five hours of raking, hauling off tree limbs, pressure washing and repairing cages. What a great team!! Brandon enjoyed their company too!



*Brandon (continued from page 1)*

While we realized quickly, Brandon was special, our big surprise came when he starting talking. His first word was “what”. Since then he has added “hi”, “hello”, “bye”, “okay”, “stop” and “huh?”. If you ask him “What you doing” he comes back with “What doin”. Brandon copies barking dogs and the barred owls’ clicks. He makes a train noise and clucks like a chicken. When he hears a cell phone ring, he answers with “hello”. What a delight and learning experience he is for all of us. While we sincerely wish Brandon could have been released, it is such a joy to have him in our lives!

**Congratulations to our featured t-shirt designer, Kristen Gaubert!!!**



Kristen’s design was such a hit in our t-shirt contest last year that we are featuring her artwork and design on our 2019 shirt. (See order form included in this newsletter or visit us online to order yours!) Kristen is a 12 year old student at Episcopal Day School in Pensacola. She loves the outdoors, animals and wildlife. Kristen has a dog named Ruby and two pet turtles. Her hobbies include art and figure skating. She is a member of the Greater Pensacola Figure Skating Club, the EDS Robojags robotics team and has competed on math and science teams. Her artwork has been featured on a Celebrating Brownsville life-size mural, ECAT bus stop and the Ronald McDonald House Charities annual fundraising t-shirt. Pretty amazing accomplishments at 12 years young! Congratulations Kristen!



Please support GCWS so we can continue our mission of saving our wildlife in need! 3 shirt styles available: short sleeve t-shirt, long sleeve shirt and v-neck short sleeve shirt in a large variety of colors to pick from in each style. These limited edition shirts will be available for order from November 9th through December 4th. Our order will placed immediately to ensure the shirts will be received before Christmas in the event that any of these are gifts.

*In The Kitchen...*

Winter can be hard on our feathered and furry friends. Days are often windy and cold. Nights are long and even colder. Most of the abundant spring and summer vegetation is gone and nutritious insects have died or gone dormant. Finding food during the winter can be very challenging. Here’s a bit of great news for our feathered friends.....an estimated 55 million people provide food for wild birds. During the cold winter months when you’re looking for indoor activities, try making your own suet for the birds. It’s also a great way to spend quality time with your kids while teaching them about the importance of our wildlife. Suet also makes great gift ideas!!! If you’ve never made suet, it’s really easy. Here’s one to try:



**Ingredients:**

- 2 cups quick-cooking oats
- 2 cups cornmeal
- 1 cup flour
- 1 cup Crisco
- 1 cup crunchy peanut butter



**Directions:**

Melt the Crisco and peanut butter together (stove or microwave). Add the dry ingredients to the melted fats. Done! You can spread directly onto tree limbs. You can put into a container and scoop out as needed or spread onto a parchment paper lined pan and cut into squares. (We recommend crumbling and sprinkling if you put into your feeder so a greedy squirrel doesn’t snatch the whole cake and run.)

Fresh clean water is also important year round!

\*\*Optional additions: birdseed with nuts; dehydrated mealworms; raisins, sunflower seeds; chopped nuts



Need some activities for all ages? Want to include some outdoor time as well? Take a nature walk and gather pine cones. Attach some twine or pipe cleaners to the top of each pine cone (for hanging). Coat the pine cone in all-natural peanut butter (creamy or crunchy) and then roll in birdseed. Head back outside to find a place to hang the pine cones. Then sit back and watch the birds enjoy!





From every one of us,  
thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your help and support!



## Goose Creek Wildlife Sanctuary, Inc.

Like us on Facebook to keep up to date with stories, events and fundraisers!

**Animal Hotline: 850-545-3491**

Business (mailing only) Address:  
3400 Williams Rd.  
Tallahassee, FL 32311

Business Phone: 850-508-7587  
E-mail: [info@goosecreekwildlifesanctuary.org](mailto:info@goosecreekwildlifesanctuary.org)

Goose Creek Wildlife Sanctuary, Inc., 3400 Williams Road, Tallahassee, FL 32311 registers annually with the State of Florida. (Registration number FL CH 5849.) A copy of the official registration and financial information may be obtained from the Division of Consumer Services by calling toll-free within the State (800) 435-7352. Registration does not imply endorsement, approval or recommendation by the State.

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**One of a kind jewelry from "Kiss My Glass" Nov. 9-25th**



Every one of these animals deserve a second chance at life! Please help us give them that chance!! Simply go to <http://kissmyglassart.com/shop> and LOOK at these beautiful jewelry pieces! **Mention Goose Creek Wildlife Sanctuary in the note section** when you place your order between November 9th–25th and 25% of your purchase will be donated to GCWS. Every piece is handcrafted by Laurie Freeman. Each piece is one of a kind. Once something sells, it is removed from the website so don't delay your shopping for the biggest and best selection!! Laurie is an avid animal rescue supporter. She has been supporting rescues and other non profit missions since 2009. She is a volunteer in MI, a foster mom and currently has 3 rescues in her own family! We would LOVE your support!!!! Helping=caring. Thank you so much!!

### *It Takes A Village...*



### **Meet Shelby Bush!** Shelby is a long time volunteer with Goose Creek Wildlife Sanctuary. She has

extensive experience with wildlife and we are so incredibly fortunate to have her assistance!! She began doing rescues and helping with rehabilitation of wildlife with Sawgrass Nature Center in Broward County in 2000. When she moved to Tallahassee, she continued helping our area wildlife with St. Francis Wildlife. After receiving her BS from FSU, she decided to further her passion and enrolled at Santa Fe Community College in the Zoo Animal Technology program. During those two years, Shelby worked extensively with Florida Wildlife Care. After completing the program in 2007, she returned to Tallahassee and started working at the Tallahassee Museum and volunteering with GCWS. Special congratulations to Shelby as she has recently been promoted to Animal Operations Supervisor/Registrar at the Tallahassee Museum. We are all lucky to have you!



### *How can you help?*

- Like to cook? We need food prepped.
- Available during the day? We need help with pick ups and transports.
- Like to hold fun events? We need fundraisers.
- Like to clean? We need help cleaning daily.
- Like to work with animals? We need help feeding.
- Have property? We need release sights. (We will work with you regarding which animals.)
- Like to build? We need cages built and repaired.
- Like working with kids? Volunteer with our educational programs.

And the list goes on and on....contact us for more information. 850-545-3491

***Yes, I care! I want to help give these animals a second chance at life!***

Send your donation to our mailing address:

**Goose Creek Wildlife Sanctuary\***

**3400 Williams Road**

**Tallahassee, FL 32311**

Or visit our website at [www.goosecreekwildlifesanctuary.org](http://www.goosecreekwildlifesanctuary.org) to donate via PayPal.

\*Mailing address only. Wildlife can be dropped off at Cross Creek Animal Clinic, 2728 Apalachee Parkway, Tallahassee during open hours or at 830 Watt Drive, Tallahassee but please call our animal hotline first at 850-545-3491.