



# Goose Creek Wildlife Sanctuary, Inc.

Giving native wildlife a second chance ...

Holiday 2012 Newsletter



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## Meet Liberty

For most of our volunteers, seeing the unique and beautiful markings of this piebald fawn was a first! A gentleman found her lying in the road one night and thought she was the typical brown color because she was covered in mosquitoes. He stopped with the intention of moving her out of harm's way and watching from a distance to see if the mother was close by. However, when he picked her up, he realized she was too weak to stand on her own. In that condition, there would have been nothing the mother could do to help this baby, so he contacted GCWS. When she arrived, she was severely dehydrated and starving. You could hold this baby with one hand. To our astonishment, she weighed less than 2 pounds!

You can see in the picture to the right, her bottom jaw is slightly shorter than her top jaw, which is common in piebalds. She had problems nursing due to this deformity, which ultimately led to her malnourishment. Upon arriving at GCWS, we fed her very often and were lucky to get three ounces in her per feeding. She just wasn't able to nurse from the bottle like most fawns. However, over the next few days, our volunteers spent a lot of time working with her and a variety of bottles and nipples to find a combination that worked for her. She



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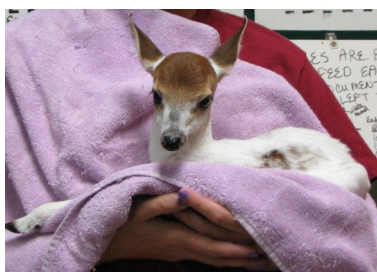
## Did You Know:

- Crows make at least 23 distinct vocalizations in their communications.
- Bald eagles start their mating life at the age of four and remain loyal to their partners throughout life, searching for a second partner only in case the first one dies.
- Flying squirrels are strictly nocturnal and may share a den with up to 20 other adults.
- A normal armadillo litter size is four, all of the same sex and genetically identical because all came from a single egg.

## Wild Thing Auction



We are excited to invite each of you to join us from the comfort of your own home to participate in a new and fun event!! GCWS will be hosting its annual Wild Thing Auction in a different format this year. We have teamed up with BiddingForGood to offer our auction items online. The auction is going on right now! It will close on December 5th. Simply go to [www.BiddingForGood.com](http://www.BiddingForGood.com) and search the auctions for Goose Creek Wildlife Sanctuary, Inc. From there, you can see all of the wonderful items we have up for auction. There is NO fee to participate in the auction. Many people have been asking why the change in format? We decided to change it this year for several reasons. First and foremost, GCWS and our volunteers haven't been immune to the tough economic times. We are a small group of volunteers, and several have had to make personal changes affecting their ability to help. Additionally, GCWS exceeded our highest ever annual number of animals by mid-year!! For the volunteers, this meant everyone focusing more on the care of the animals and less on fundraising events like our annual Wild Thing Auction. Unfortunately, that's a double-edged sword. We rely on the fundraiser to provide money to keep the doors open, but the animals in our care took precedent. So, here we are, trying new opportunities. We are excited about this because it opens the auction up to so many more people. You don't have to be in Tallahassee to attend or go anywhere on a particular day. The online auction is open to everyone, free and open 24 hours a day! Check it out, bid often, win great items & support GCWS!!!



### Meet Liberty (continued from page 1)

just needed a little extra help to learn how to nurse because of her jaw deformity. Within a few days, she was able to drink an entire bottle without any extra assistance. The improvements in her health were quick and warmed the hearts of everyone who fought so hard for her! A few short weeks later, she was up to 5 pounds and exploring like any other fawn.

At that point, keeping her best interest in mind, we made the decision to transfer her to Wildlife Education & Rehabilitation Center, Inc. (WERC) in Anna Marie, FL so she could adjust to her permanent home and bond with her caregivers. She will be taken care of by their staff while she continues to develop and grow. Liberty will ultimately live at nearby Mixon Fruit Farms, which is committed to preserving our wildlife, works closely with WERC and has a wildlife refuge where she can roam with other deer and live her life as normally as possible.

Because she was born on approximately July 4th, she became known as "Liberty".

**What is a piebald?** A piebald is an animal that has a spotting pattern of large white and colored patches. In white-tailed deer, this genetic variation (or defect) causes the color differences. It can range from a few white patches to an almost completely white deer, like Liberty. They typically have other observable conditions such as bowing of the nose (Roman nose), short lower jaw, short legs, bowing of the legs, arching spine and internal issues. Because Liberty already displayed several of these defects (very slightly bowed legs, Roman nose, short lower jaw and abnormal coloration) we decided it would be in her best interest to be in a place where she could be protected and monitored. At Mixon Fruit Farms she can roam with other deer, but yet never worry about being hunted and should she develop problems later, help will be right there for her! She'll have the best of both worlds!

### Eagle Rescue and Release



This beautiful eagle was spotted hopping along beside Highway 90 near Madison. Two of our volunteers, along with the gentleman who called about the eagle, were able to catch and transport her to GCWS. Assuming she had been hit by a car, we were surprised to find no apparent injuries. Lab work was performed next. While inconclusive, a suspected lead poisoning may have been causing her illness. She had not been shot herself, but may have simply eaten something that had been shot

with lead. While more tests were run, we began treating her for lead poisoning, just in case. Within a short period of time, she began showing great improvement and getting off the ground for short distances of flight. She was then transported to Audubon Bird of Prey Center in Maitland where she was put into one of their large flight cages for reconditioning. When she was ready for release, we picked her up and brought her back. The very people who assisted in helping save her were on hand to watch her release. She was released back in the area where she was found. She was home! It's a moment no one who witnessed her release will forget!



**Any glimpse into the life of an animal quickens our own and makes it so much the larger and better in every way.—John Muir**

### Cormorant Rescue

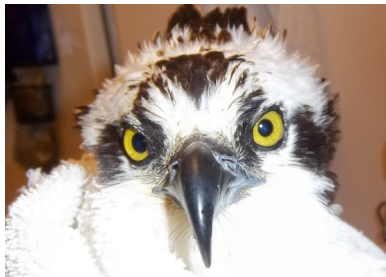


A GCWS volunteer, Carol Allen, was walking at Waverly Pond and spotted a cormorant entangled in fishing line stuck on the turtle pad in the middle of the pond. She called her son, Rod Allen, who attempted to reach the cormorant while wearing waders. However, with all of the recent rains the pond was much deeper than normal, which Rod soon discovered the hard way! Waverly resident Tom Swihart volunteered the use of his hand carved one-of-a-kind canoe to rescue this bird in trouble. GCWS volunteer Sheila Basu and Rod took to the water in the canoe to attempt the rescue.

Once they reached the concrete dock they were able to remove the fishing line from the pad and bring the cormorant to shore to free entangled fishing line from his body. Afterward, the cormorant was transported to GCWS for evaluation and a good meal. In less than 24 hours, he was ready for release!



Another successful year,  
thanks to you!  
Enjoy a few of the Faces of  
2012 that your contributions  
helped save.



# 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 Address:  
3400 Williams Rd.  
Tallahassee, FL 32311



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

## Announcements and Events

**Holiday Gift Sale**—Our t-shirts are 100% cotton and feature one of our rescued animals. The pewter ornaments were designed and donated by Fool Moon Treasures. T-shirts are on sale now at Wild Birds Unlimited (save S&H) located at 1505 Governor's Square Blvd., or use the order form below. Your purchase helps us support the animals throughout the year. Purchase a combination t-shirt & ornament set

for \$25.

Sizes are limited, so call ahead to confirm & reserve your size! (Sizes range from kids M to adult XXXL.)

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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### Calendar of Events

- December 4th**-Share Night at Red Elephant Restaurants  
\*both locations\* (See insert for details)
- December 5th**-Online auction closes (See story on pg 1)
- December 15th**-Silent auction at Elks Lodge (See below)

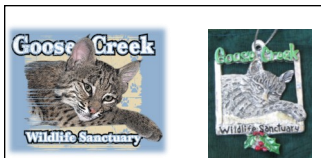
\*\*Like us on Facebook to see information on events as they are added to our calendar!!

### Silent Auction

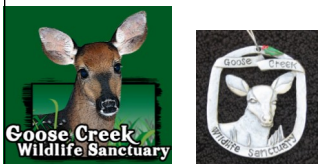
December 15th GCWS and Florida Wild Mammal Association will hold a joint silent auction from 2-5 pm at the Elks Lodge, 276 N Magnolia, Tallahassee!! Entry is free!

#### Shipping & Handling Chart

Total	Add:	Total	Add:
0-\$10	\$3	\$71-\$90	\$7
\$11-\$30	\$4	\$91-\$110	\$8
\$31-\$50	\$5	\$111-\$130	\$9



Bobcat T-shirt (blue) \$18  
Pewter Bobcat Ornament \$8



Fawn T-shirt (green) \$18  
Pewter Fawn Ornament \$8



Fox T-shirt (black) \$18  
Pewter Fox Ornament \$8

Item Name	Size	Quantity	Total
Shipping & Handling Charges			
Donation			
<b>Total</b>			

Fax credit card (MC, VISA or AMEX) orders to 850-893-8244 or mail payments to our business address below:

CC Number: \_\_\_\_\_

CC Exp Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name (ship to): \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

If this is a gift, check here: \_\_\_\_\_ We will include a gift card.

Goose Creek Wildlife Sanctuary  
3400 Williams Rd.  
Tallahassee, FL 32311

Avoid S&H charges by opting to pick up your purchase! Be sure to leave a phone number where we can reach you when your order is ready.