



Goose Creek Wildlife Sanctuary, Inc.

Giving native wildlife a second chance ...



Holiday 2020 Newsletter

Order your 2020 shirts now!!
Limited time offering.



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Did you know:

- Anhingas often use thermals for soaring and may achieve altitudes of several thousand feet.
- The anhinga swims lower in the water than most birds due to dense bones and wetted plumage.
- The anhinga typically nests in loose groups of several to hundreds of pairs.

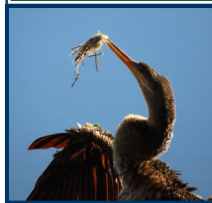
Quick Or Lengthy... Whatever it Takes

Some patients are here for a short while (like the anhinga in the story below) and some are here for the entire time allowed (180 days per FWC regulations) like this raccoon, Claire. Whatever they need, we always do everything in our power to make sure they have the best chance for a successful release.

Claire came in as a baby and had some severe hip issues. When she walked, she would wobble and sometimes fall down. She needed a lot of rehab work to have any chance. For the first part of her rehab, we weren't certain that she would ever be able walk/run, much less climb like she needed to for a successful release, but we were determined to give her every opportunity possible. As weeks turned into months, Claire's prognosis slowly improved...very slowly. But as long as we were seeing improvement, she was thriving and we were still within our timeframe we weren't giving up on her. She continued to improve and eventually became nimble and strong enough to move to a large outdoor cage where she could work on her climbing skills on a larger scale. Here, she had access to large tree limbs and a specially built ladder. As her allowed time started nearing an end, we had to make a decision on her future. Claire had worked hard for the last 6 months to overcome major issues. And while she was doing well, she still preferred her ladder to the tree limbs. We decided to release Claire where she could be monitored and where we could send her ladder with her. With the use of cameras, we were able to watch her. She used her ladder for a few weeks and eventually started climbing the trees instead. During this time, we observed other raccoons and even opossums climbing and playing on Claire's ladder while it was there. To this day, Claire still makes appearances on our cameras (she has a slightly different gait) and we are ecstatic to report that she is doing fabulous! Way to go Claire!!



If You See Something, Do Something



that, we've seen an increase in the wildlife negatively affected by the carelessness of humans. A majority of the wildlife that rehabilitation centers take in are a result of human actions and interactions. Often times it's an accidental encounter with a car, domestic pet or window. But many times it is simply the result of carelessness on the part of humans, such as leaving fishing tackle on the ground, in the water or tangled in trees. These items become extremely dangerous and sometimes deadly to wildlife. From the hooks and tackle, to the fishing line, all become dangerous obstacles. Anhingas are some of the most common water birds to find themselves in trouble from discarded trash and fishing tackle. Because they have serrated

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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 check out our Amazon "Charity Wish List" showing current items needed. You can purchase online and have shipped directly to us.



Congratulations To Our T-shirt Contest Winners!!



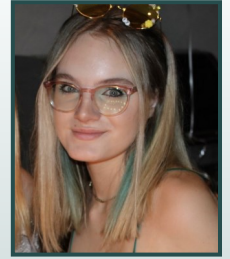
Photography winner:

Marilyn Van Dusseldorp

Marilyn took the winning photo of the great horned owl while volunteering at the Tallahassee Museum. Being on the animal care team there provided her with many fabulous opportunities to get really close to the many wonders of nature living there. She claims that even scooping cow manure and scrubbing the various habitats were exquisite tasks since they provided her with more one-on-one time with the wildlife. Fortunately for Goose Creek, Marilyn was introduced to Florida Wild Mammal Association by one of the other museum volunteers, which led to her introduction to GCWS. She started volunteering as a wildlife transporter in 2002 and has been hooked on that intake task for FWMA and GCWS ever since, traveling over 10,000 miles some years! The challenge of capturing the animal in some cases requires going beyond the call of duty. In the photo above, Marilyn found a friendly boat owner to bring her close to an injured pelican in a Keaton Beach canal. A few seconds after the photo was taken, she had dropped the net over the pelican and was in the water with it. She says that getting all wet with a pelican, getting nailed by an eagle talon or calming a frightened fawn are all part of the joys of wildlife encounters, but the absolute BEST part of the whole process is returning a rehabilitated animal back to its home in the wild- "WOW"!!



Art winner: **Lauren Gaubert**



This seventeen year old Pensacola native is currently in 11th grade. She is a member of the National Honor Society, PCHS French Team, Greater Pensacola Figure Skating Club, Crusaders Band, and an Assistant Culinary Instructor for Pensacola Cooks Kitchen.

Lauren has a pet Lovebird, Sunshine, and has always had a soft spot for all animals. She loves skateboarding and playing the saxophone. Lauren is a talented artist and has participated in several local art shows, including the Great Gulf Coast Arts Festival. Her artwork was recently selected for the 2020 First City Art Center Pumpkin Patch t-shirt and previously for her middle school's 8th grade class shirt. Her talent is incredible!

Short sleeve and long sleeve shirts are available in each style of the winning entries. These limited edition shirts will be available for order from November 9th through December 6th. Free pick up and shipping are both available per your choosing. Our order will be placed December 10th to ensure the shirts will be received before Christmas in the event that any of these are gifts. Please support GCWS so we can continue to help these animals. See insert for order form.



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bills, it often becomes difficult if not impossible for them to dislodge foreign objects from their bills. They are also very susceptible to discarded fishing line. Unlike most water birds, Anhingas' feathers are not waterproofed which means they can't fly when their feathers are wet. After swimming and hunting for food, they need to climb out of the water and allow their feathers to dry before taking flight. Often times the same logs and low tree limbs they climb on are the same low limbs that snag fishing line and tackle, thereby creating a dangerous situation for these birds. **If your fishing line becomes caught in a tree, don't cut the line and leave it. If you see discarded fishing line, pick it up. If you see fishing line tangled in trees that you can't reach, report it to the owner of the property, whether that's an individual, a homeowner's association or a municipality. Ask them to clean it up. If you see something, say something...do something If not you, then who??** We were recently called to a small pond where an anhinga was so tangled in fishing line, she couldn't move. Her only life saver was that she was on a log when this happened so she didn't drown. Someone taking pictures noticed she was not perching as they normally do and zoomed in and realized she was in trouble and called for help. We took a small paddle boat out to the tree and were able to cut her free. After securing her in a crate on the bank, we went back to clean up the mess in the tree where she was tangled. Below is the fishing line and tackle from just that tree. As for the anhinga, we brought her back to GCWS that night for a thorough check up. She was young and in good shape so we returned her to her family and cleaned up pond the next morning. As we were writing this newsletter, another call came in about a hawk hanging in a tree by it's wing tangled in fishing line nearly 2 hours away. Volunteers hit the road immediately and the hawk in now on its way to GCWS.

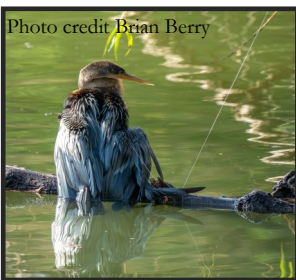
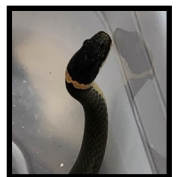
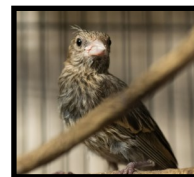


Photo credit Brian Berry





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

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Tallahassee, FL 32311

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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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It Takes A Village...

Meet Sara Chamlis! Sara has always had a special affinity for animals. From her early days spoiling her cats and her grandparents' dogs, it was always clear that she had a real gift for relating to animals.



Hats off to Sara and her mother Bonnie for always identifying unknown songbirds for us.

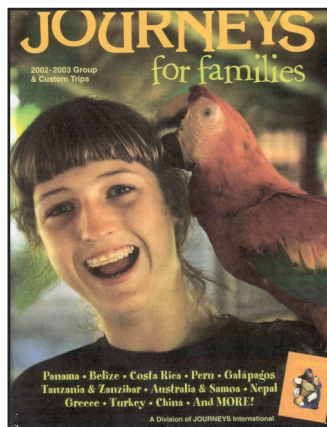
At age 11, she began volunteering at Goose Creek, beginning what has blossomed into an almost twenty year friendship with the Director Noni Beck. Over the years she's cared for her share of opossums, hawks, eagles, anhingas, deer, ducks, rabbits and songbirds. Almost every week, her smiling face pays a Sunday visit to the emporium on Watt Drive. When Goose Creek had their moment of international fame after caring for "the lucky duck", it was a picture of Sara with "Perky" that appeared in newspapers world-wide.

In addition to volunteering, Sara eventually found paid employment as a kennel tech at Northwood Animal Hospital in 2008 where she has made hundreds of human and furry friends. If it's true that a key to happiness is finding a job that you love with all your heart, Sara has found her pot of gold. She recently celebrated her 12th year on the job.

In addition to animals, Sara's other interests include writing and travel. Almost any night at home, she can be found adding another chapter to the dozens of creative tales she's spun that feature both her friends and fictional characters. As for travel, Sara will proudly tell anyone that she's visited all seven continents. It wouldn't be a surprise to the people at both GCWS and Northwood to learn that her favorite trips have involved animals and wildlife. From the rainforests of Peru, the penguin-laden shores of Antarctica and even a visit to a cheetah reserve in Namibia, she is always ready for another animal encounter. A highlight of her life was a visit to The Crocodile Hunter's (Beerwah) Australia Zoo in 2005.

Sara is a loving daughter, granddaughter, sister, aunt and cousin to the members of her extended family. They are all very proud of the special young lady that she is. And GCWS is lucky to have Sara as a volunteer!

In addition to animals, Sara's other interests include writing and travel. Almost any



Sara and one of our first education screench owls at a holiday event.

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 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.