



Goose Creek Wildlife Sanctuary, Inc.

Giving native wildlife a second chance ...



Holiday 2018 Newsletter



It's already been a record year at GCWS...receiving more injured & orphaned wildlife than ever before. We need your support now more than ever!

Squirrels, Squirrels, Squirrels

Flying squirrels, grey squirrels and fox squirrels, that is! After an extremely heavy spring and summer baby season, the fall turned out to be an even greater challenge. Each rehabilitator is allowed to have only ten off site volunteers. This limit of 10 includes anywhere an animal is offsite...fosters, release cages, conditioning cages, or one-on-one specialty care. When St. Francis Wildlife Sanctuary was at maximum capacity (over 200 baby squirrels!) for their staff and off-site volunteers, Teresa called to ask if it was okay to refer people with baby squirrels to Florida Wild Mammal Association and Goose Creek Wildlife Sanctuary. Both of us said yes. Once we were nearing capacity we had to get creative as there was no where else to refer people to and we were instructed to then tell people to put them back where they found them and let nature take its course or have them euthanized. We couldn't stand the thought of either of those options so we turned to Facebook for help and the response was phenomenal! People volunteered to come feed baby squirrels before work, on their lunch hours and after work. It meant we were able to handle many more animals than we regularly do and we never had to turn



any away.

Time passed and squirrels grew and became more self sufficient. St. Francis was able to start taking squirrels again and then Hurri- *Cont'd on page 4*

Inside this issue:

Fox Squirrels (continued) 2

T-shirt winners!! 2

I Found a Baby Raccoon, Can I Keep It? 2

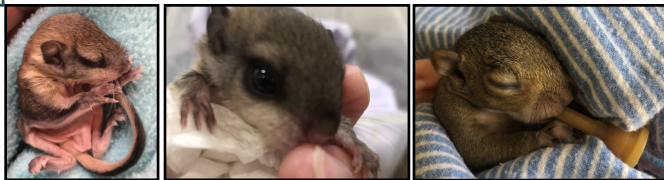
Faces of 2018 3

Squirrels, Squirrels, Squirrels (continued from pg 1) 4

It Takes A Village... 4

Insert-Adopt An Animal

Insert-T-shirt ordering information



Fox Squirrels



The family who rescued two baby fox squirrels right after Hurricane Michael did everything right by leaving the babies out to see if the mother would come get them. When the mother didn't show up to claim the babies, they called GCWS.

In Florida the fox squirrel, the largest species of tree squirrel native to North America, is found in open woods, pine and cypress stands, and mangrove swamps. Of the four subspecies found in Florida, two are listed as protected species. Sherman's Fox Squirrels, a species of special concern, are found in the open piney woods of central and North-eastern Florida. The Big Cypress Fox Squirrel, a threatened species, is found from the Everglades region in Lee county to the southern part of Dade county. Fox squirrels in the western panhandle belong to a less vulnerable, more widespread subspecies. Fox squirrels are protected from hunting in Florida.

Did you know:

- Flying squirrels are nocturnal.
- Flying squirrels average glide is 30-50 ft.
- Flying squirrels only weigh between 2-4 ounces.
- Fox squirrels weigh between 1-3 pounds.

Fox squirrels weigh between one to three pounds and exhibit color variations which range from a buff color to gray, and in some instances black. The under parts are usually lighter and typical specimens have white noses and ears with black faces and feet. They are known for their long, bushy tails and for strong hind legs which allow them to leap easily from place to place. Fox squirrels have two types of shelters: leaf nests and tree dens. They may have two tree cavity homes or a tree cavity and a leaf nest. Leaf nests are built during the summer months in forks of deciduous trees about 30 feet above the ground. Fox squirrels may make their own den in a hollow tree by cutting through the interior, but they generally use natural cavities or cavities created by northern flickers or red-headed woodpeckers. Crow nests have also been used by fox squirrels. Cohabitation of dens is not uncommon, particularly among



Fox Squirrels (continued from page 1)



breeding pairs.

Fox squirrels diets include mast (fruit of forest trees like acorns and other nuts), tree buds, insects, tubers, bulbs, roots, bird eggs, seeds of pines and spring-fruited trees, and fungi. Agricultural crops such as corn, soybeans, oats, wheat, and fruit are also eaten. Fox squirrels are non-territorial and spend more of their time on the ground than most other tree squirrels and they are agile climbers. They are impressive jumpers, easily spanning fifteen feet in horizontal leaps and free-falling twenty feet or more to a soft landing on a limb or trunk. Fox



squirrels have a large vocabulary consisting of an assortment of clucking and chucking sounds and they warn the listening world of approaching threats with distress screams. They also make high-pitched whines during mating. When threatening another fox squirrel, they will stand upright with their tail over their back and flick it.

In captivity fox squirrels have been known to live 18 years, but in the wild most die before they become adults. Their maximum life expectancy is typically 12.6 years for females and 8.6 years for males. Because of overhunting and the destruction of mature forests, many subspecies of fox squirrel are endangered. Relatively few natural predators can regularly capture adult fox squirrels. Of these predators most only take fox squirrels opportunistically. Fox squirrel predators include bobcats, foxes, red-shouldered hawks, red-tailed hawks, great horned owls, barred owls, and dogs. Nestlings and young fox squirrels are particularly vulnerable to climbing predators such as raccoons, opossums, rat snakes, and pine snakes.

Congratulations to our inaugural t-shirt winners!!!

Art winner-Sarah Ann Allen with her beautiful water color sea turtles.



THANK YOU to everyone who participated in this event! We had so many wonderful submissions and can't wait to do it again next year!! See the insert for ordering information and help support GCWS!



Photography winner-Karen Willes with her stunning wood duck photograph.



I Found a Baby Raccoon, Can I Keep It?



In a nutshell, no. In Florida, it is illegal to possess most all wildlife without a permit from Florida Wildlife Commission (FWC). FWC rules are in place to protect wildlife and humans. Raccoons...yes, they are adorable. Yes, they are playful (usually). Yes, they can be deadly. Raccoons are considered a rabies vector species. They are one of the few animals that can be a carrier of the rabies virus without showing any signs or symptoms for a long time. What this means to you is that you, your family, your pets and your friends can be exposed to the deadly virus without knowing it. Once someone (wildlife, domestic pet or human) starts showing signs of having the virus it is too late for the vaccine to work. Don't risk your life or someone else's life by keeping a baby raccoon.

It is also a huge risk for the raccoon. If law enforcement discovers someone with a raccoon without the proper rehabilitation permit the raccoon will be confiscated. If a potential rabies exposure has taken place, the raccoon will be euthanized and tested for rabies. Suddenly the well-meaning individual who wanted to save this raccoon just gave it a death sentence. Please don't let this happen.

In addition to rabies, raccoons can carry other diseases that put humans and pets at risk. Canine distemper (CD) is also carried by raccoons. In our area we generally see more cases of CD than rabies in raccoons. CD symptoms are similar to rabies symptoms. Raccoon roundworm is also a concern. Raccoon roundworm eggs are present in fecal matter and can become airborne, which humans can inhale. This parasite can cause permanent brain damage and death in humans. Other diseases include Giardia lamblia, Trypanosoma cruzi, Rickettsia rickettsia, Leptospirosis, Listeriosis, Tularemia, tetanus and salmonella, just to name a few.

If you find a sick or injured adult raccoon call for guidance. If you find an orphaned or injured baby raccoon wear gloves and use a thick towel to gently put the baby in a box and get it to an experienced licensed wildlife rehabilitator as soon as possible. Never handle a raccoon with your bare hands and always keep pets and children away from raccoons.

While raccoons can cause problems, there are benefits to having them in your yard. They prefer a variety of foods including wasp larvae (and they destroy the nest) and eat other pests such as small rodents.





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

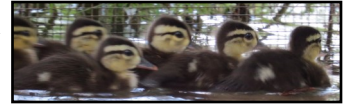
Business (mailing only) Address:
3400 Williams Rd.
Tallahassee, FL 32311

Business Phone: 850-508-7587

E-mail: info@goosecreekwildlifesanctuary.org

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.

GCWS: All rights reserved for this publication and its contents.



Squirrels, Squirrels, Squirrels cont'd from page 1



rehabilitation possible.

How fortunate the Big Bend area is to have three wildlife rehabilitation facilities-Goose Creek Wildlife Sanctuary, Florida Wild Mammal Association and St. Francis Wildlife Association-in the area that work together and support each other for the benefit of our wildlife and YOU make all of this possible! It's true....."It takes a village..." and we've got an incredible village!!

cane Michael hit. All three rehab centers were once again being inundated with baby squirrels! And once again, volunteers started showing up!

Community involvement has always played a big role in wildlife rehabilitation.

Whether someone is donating towels; donating money which is used to provide formula, fresh fruits and vegetables, other food products or caging; donating time to grocery shop, cook, pick up injured wildlife or feed and clean cages; or letting us use their property for releases, that community involvement makes



It Takes A Village...



Meet Carol Allen! Carol is a long time volunteer and board member with Goose Creek Wildlife Sanctuary. Carol is vital part of this organization and her passion for helping animals shines bright in everything she does for GCWS! She wears a multitude of volunteer hats with Goose Creek Wildlife. She picks up wildlife dropped at vet offices and transports to GCWS. She shops for groceries and delivers to GCWS. She cooks food for the specialized diets. She transports wildlife to/from their vet appointments. She assists in fundraisers and she sits on the board of directors. But it doesn't end there! Carol has also recruited family members who have become wonderful volunteers with Goose Creek,

helping with everything from fundraisers to transports and from rescues to releases. Carol and her family are a treasured part of GCWS!

If you, your organization or family are interested in volunteering at Goose Creek Wildlife Sanctuary, contact Noni at 850-545-3491.

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 daily cleaning.
- 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.

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.