



Goose Creek Wildlife Sanctuary, Inc.

Giving native wildlife a second chance ...



Holiday 2016 Newsletter

This edition is dedicated to the ones who couldn't be released and the volunteers who wouldn't give up on them.

Pippin & Edison

The goal of rehabilitation is to provide care and treatment so the animal can be successfully returned to the wild. Occasionally, for various reasons, an animal cannot be released.

Enter Pippin —It was our pleasure to have two baby otters this spring. Pippin (aka Pip), who was the first to arrive, spent her first month in a vet clinic and was very friendly when she arrived at GCWS. We were supposed to keep her for two weeks and then transfer her to another facility with an otter about the same age. Unfortunately, the other otter didn't make it. Because we don't want to raise babies alone, we made arrangements to take Pippin to Homosassa Springs. However, the morning of the transfer we received a call from someone in Panama City with a baby otter they were trying to place that sounded close to Pippin's age.



Enter Edison—About a month younger than Pippin and instinctually afraid, we hoped Edison would be a positive influence on Pip. (Edison was so named because when he was scared he sounded like an electrical current "zzz...zzz".) However, the opposite happened. Edison followed Pip around and did exactly what she did and became less and less afraid. After much discussion, we felt the chances of them approaching humans when released was too great of a risk. Chris Beatty from Florida Wild



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Did You Know:

- The American white pelican's life expectancy is 16 years. However, in captivity, they can live over 20 years.
- The American white pelican eats approximately 4 pounds of fish per day.
- American white pelicans must provide roughly 150 lbs. of food to nourish a chick from birth to the time it's ready to forage on its own.
- The average life span of a river otter in captivity is 21 years.
- River otters have 57,800 hairs per square centimeter.
- River otters can stay under water for 4 minutes.

Grunt



Capture day

One day this past spring, we received a call about a white pelican with a broken wing on a large private lake at a nursery in Havana. We had some volunteers to go see what challenges we were up against for an attempt at a rescue. They were numerous as the pelican could swim, some of the pond banks had heavy underbrush and the water was frigid. Our volunteers worked with the nursery's biologist who originally spotted the injured pelican and came up with a plan. Volunteers Shelby, Dianna and Billy took their position on land with a net while the biologist and a few of her friends in kayaks gently herded the pelican toward the GCWS volunteers. Once close enough, they were able to get the net over him for a successful capture.

Dr. Hale pinned the fractured wing. Unfortunately when the pin was removed the radius and ulna fractured again and a second set of pins were placed. Once it was determined that Grunt would not be releasable, we again called our good friend Chris Beatty at FWMA to see if she had any ideas. She told us about a new 10,000 square foot water bird exhibit that Gulfarium in Ft. Walton Beach was building and suggested we contact them. They were taking two white pelicans from FWMA and agreed to take Grunt as well. However, right before we were to make the transfer, Grunt developed an intestinal blockage. We spent the next week tube feeding Grunt. He had come too far for us to give up on him now. We are happy to report, he's back up, feeling great and eating well. Once again, it will be hard to say goodbye, but we know he will have a wonderful life with other white pelicans in a beautiful habitat!

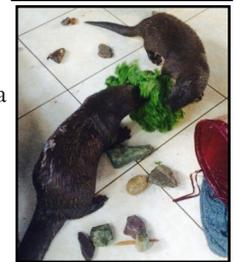


Pippin & Edison (continued from page 1)

Mammal Association (FWMA) told us about Zoo Miami’s new everglades habitat that was under construction and they were looking for otters. We were extremely fortunate to be able to place Pippin and Edison with Zoo Miami. The habitat is state of the art and beautiful! It has a waterfall, a stream, a pond and best of all—NO predators! After receiving permission from the Florida Wildlife Commission, we took Pip and Edison to Miami where they will spend a required one month in quarantine (a mini paradise of its own) and then move into the new exhibit when it opens in early December. (Check our Facebook page for pictures when they move in.)

Memories from our time with the dynamic duo that continue to make us smile:

- Watching them learn to swim and play.
- Pippin being so gentle with Edison who was approximately one month younger and very scared.
- Trying to outsmart them because they spent a LOT of time pulling the plugs on their pool.
- Spending time picking up the million plus pieces of cardboard they meticulously shredded.
- Pippin pushing the dog igloo across the floor in her playpen so she could climb on top and escape.
- Pippin unrolling an entire roll of toilet paper in the restroom during one of these escapes.
- Giving them all kinds of toys (swim rings, balls, etc.) and figuring out that Edison’s favorite “toy” was a scrub brush.



Memories from the dynamic duo that didn’t/don’t make us smile:

- Cleaning up fish heads—a LOT of them!
- The smell in Noni’s car the day after the otters were transported to Miami. (Side note—Pip and Edison enjoyed their fish and crab legs on the ride down—a little diversion tactic going on!)
- Our fish and water bills!!

It was emotionally hard to say goodbye to Pippin and Edison when we transferred them to Zoo Miami, but we know they are extremely happy and doing well. They will have a safe, happy and pampered life in an enormous playpen they’ll call home! If you’re in Miami and get the chance, stop in and see them—and let us hear from you when you do!

Pippin & Edison’s new home at Zoo Miami (under construction).



Liberty Update...

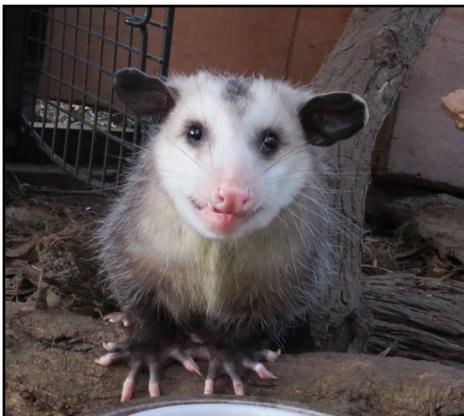
Many of you probably remember Liberty (aka Libby) who came to GCWS in 2012. She was a tiny piebald fawn who weighed less than 2 lbs. when she arrived at GCWS. She was dehydrated and starving and had a lot difficulty nursing due to a jaw deformity common in piebalds. Over the following weeks, with a lot of attention and care, her health improved dramatically. Given much consideration, the decision was made that it was in Libby’s best interest not to release her. Piebalds aren’t able to camouflage like normal white-tailed deer and they are likely to have a myriad of health problems and Libby already had several of these (like her jaw deformity, short legs, etc.) She was initially transferred to Wildlife, Inc. Education and Rehabilitation Center (WERC) and



then to a private 1,000 acre fenced parcel with no hunting and no predators where Libby could live out her life as normal as possible with other deer and still be monitored and protected. In the years since, she has been a mom to many orphaned fawns and even had a baby of her own who had no piebald traits. The photo to the right was shared by WERC.



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



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Perky, The Lucky Duck



It is with great sadness that we share the news of Perky, the lucky duck's passing earlier this year. Many of you are familiar with her story and we are grateful for the 9 years she lived at the Tallahassee Museum in a habitat built specifically for her and a few feathered friends. She became an international sensation in 2007 after surviving being shot by a hunter, retrieved by his dog, tethered with several other ducks and placed in a refrigerator only to be discovered still alive a couple of days later by the hunter's wife. Once discovered, she was rushed to a vet who called GCWS. She was in bad shape, but obviously a fighter! After a couple of week, she was strong enough to undergo surgery to repair a broken leg and wing only to stop breathing on the operating table—twice. Dr. Hale brought her back around once but the second time, they thought she was gone forever when suddenly she took a breath. Her miraculous story was reported all over the world. Hundreds of t-shirts in her honor were sold world-wide and people traveled from all over to see her at the Tallahassee Museum once she was healed and ready.

Perky's story was undoubtedly an incredible one! But, it was so much more than just her story. Her story brought attention to the fact that places like Goose Creek Wildlife Sanctuary do exist and there is help for our wildlife in need. It brought an awareness to wildlife rehabilitation facilities on an extremely large scale. And for GCWS, the incoming donations came at a time when we were struggling to pay food bills each month for the animals. The money donated allowed us to set up a savings account that has been supplementing GCWS for nearly 9 years. Perky's incredible story ended up being the reason GCWS has been able to continue to help hundreds of animals every year. In essence, her will to live not only saved herself, but hundreds of additional animals in need. We have stretched every dollar as far as possible to help as many as possible. Perky, we thank you for all that you did for so many. May you forever swim in our hearts and soar high in our dreams.



We Need Your Help!!!

We desperately need your help in order to continue helping our injured, sick, orphaned and displaced wildlife. These animals don't have owners who can help with their expenses. They won't have adoption fees that help offset their medical and food costs. Their specialized formulas aren't cheap. The required medicines are sometimes expensive. The unique caging requires constant upkeep and repairs. The cleaning supplies are utilized daily. The enrichment is vital to preparing the animals ready for release into the wild. The joys are great and the heartbreaks are devastating. But every day our volunteers are ready to face another day of stress, worry, love and hurt in the hopes of saving one more life. Please help us continue helping them. Participate in one of our fundraisers. Purchase much needed items from our wish list. Adopt an animal in someone's honor. Host a benefit fundraiser (wild animal baby shower, bake sale fundraiser, dinner party with friends and silent auction or raffle items, food drive for the animals, just to name a few). Have fun and make a difference at the same time. Make a donation today. We need your help!

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

Send your donation to our mailing address (GCWS, 3400 Williams Road, Tallahassee, FL 32311)

We gladly accept MC, Visa, AMEX and Discover

CC Number: _____ CC Exp Date: _____ 3 digit CVS code _____

Name as it appears on card _____

Visit our website at www.goosecreekwildlifesanctuary.org to donate via PayPal.