



Goose Creek Wildlife Sanctuary, Inc.

Giving native wildlife a second chance ...

Spring/Summer 2012

Babies, Babies, and More Babies



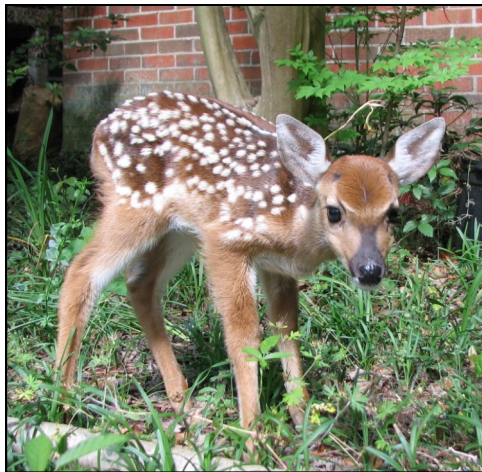
Spring is always a busy season with the spring babies! However, this year has been record breaking at Goose Creek Wildlife Sanctuary. As of the writing of this newsletter, we have already taken in or assisted with more than 500 animals and we're only half way through the year! We typically help between 500 and 600 for the entire year. For a group of volunteers, it's exciting that we have been able to help all of these animals in need. But it's also scary, since we have no funding source. We absolutely could not do this without you!!! YOU--our supporters are truly what keep these doors open! Every dollar donated helps to save one more animal! Thank you for enabling our volunteers to do this!! While we have wonderful people who volunteer their time caring for these animals, the food, caging, medicine, surgeries, nutritional supplements, cleaning supplies and enrichment for this many animals all cost money. You make this happen with your support!



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Don't forget! Join us on FaceBook for up-to-date pictures and stories about what's going on at GCWS!



Baby Pelican Rescue

GCWS was happy to help with the baby pelican rescue after tropical storm Debby. The entire effort, spear-headed by Florida Wild Mammal Association, was an example of how rehab organizations work together for the good of the animals. Together, more than 50 baby pelicans were saved.



Adopt-an-Animal Give the Gift of Life

Have a hard-to-shop for person your gift list? Give the gift of life - Wildlife! Adopt an animal in the name of your gift recipient and they will receive a notecard featuring a picture of the adopted animal with an acknowledgement of your heart-warming gift. You may even customize the message in your notecard. For more information visit our website or email info@goosecreekwildlifesanctuary.org

Volunteers Take Water to Mother Goose

When this mother goose (pictured below) originally built her nest, there was water all around. Her nest was in a safe place and water was plentiful. However, as the spring drought continued, the water dried up. She dutifully stayed on her nest, even as the other geese left in search of water. GCWS received a call about the situation and volunteers jumped into action, taking turns twice a day to take water to her until her eggs hatched and she could lead them to nearby water.

The first of three eggs hatched late one afternoon and the gosling appeared strong and healthy. By the next morning a 2nd egg hatched, but this gosling was frail. With her strong instinct to make sure at least one survived and no way to protect any of them from predators, she led the healthy gosling away to nearby water. Fortunately, GCWS volunteers were there to save the remaining gosling and egg that were left behind. Both were transported to GCWS where the gosling received special care and nutrition and the egg was placed in an incubator. While the third egg never hatched, the once frail gosling thrived and was placed with another gosling similar in size. The two quickly bonded and matured together.



Drought-affected Holding Pond

Gosling all grown up

Did You Know:

- Some species of bats have been documenting eating upwards of 600 mosquitoes in one hour
- Bobcat kittens are evicted from their mother's territory when they are 8 to 11 months old
- Snakes cannot hear airborne sounds, but they are very sensitive to substrate vibrations
- Young rabbits mature quickly and are self-sufficient in 4 or 5 weeks

A Picture is Worth a Thousand Words



All three of these babies are barred owls. They are just in different stages of maturity. The barred owl was previously featured on our annual shirt. Visit our website for annual shirts and ornaments available for purchase. Or, if you're in Tallahassee, stop by Wild Birds Unlimited.





Some Rehabs Take Longer Than Others, But in the End, Worth It!

These two raccoons came in as babies during the later part of 2011. We typically don't release during the harshest winter months. During this time, food is scarce and existing families are more territorial, so we wait until spring when things start blooming, the temperatures aren't as cold and food is more plentiful. For these two babies however, spring was too soon to be released. They both displayed some hip weaknesses as babies and the decision was made to keep them a little longer for observation of their strength and climbing abilities as they grew. It was worth the extra time, caging and food costs incurred to know that they were 100% ready when we released them. Typically, when mammals are ready for release, we open their crate and they take off, never looking back. However, with these two, we opened the first crate and that raccoon went straight over to the 2nd crate waiting for it to be opened.



Once both crates were open, the two started exploring their new home! They even gave us a look back, almost as if to say "thank you!"

Rehab Can Be Amusing



During baby bird season, we typically receive several birds of the same species, but varying ages. If they are close enough in age and aren't sick, we will put them together. If there is a significant age difference, we keep them separate due to the different feeding requirements and for their own safety (sometimes the older birds will pick on the younger ones). One year, as typical, we had several different age groups of mockingbirds. As the baby season started slowing to an end, we had a cage of older juveniles, who were still being hand fed and one younger mockingbird still in the incubator. Since we had the one lone younger mockingbird in the incubator, we decided to try putting him with the juveniles. (After all, it's better for them to be with other birds of their species.) After careful observation, we thought our eyes were

playing tricks on us. One of the older mockingbirds took a cricket from a volunteer, and promptly turned to the younger mockingbird and fed it just like a parent would do. This went on time and time again.



"The value of life lies not in the length of days, but in the use we make of them." - Montaigne



Our First Ever Clapper Rail

This bird was observed in a dry area next to a dumpster over a couple of days. He never moved around

much so we were called to check on him. Volunteers picked him up, only to discover it was a clapper rail. Clapper rails typically live in marshy areas so something was definitely wrong. He was also underweight for his size. While no one knows what put him in that situation and why he didn't leave in search of food and water, after a few weeks of care, observation and good nutrition, he was ready to be flight tested and subsequently released!



Mark your Calendars!

Wild Thing Tennis Tournament And Silent Auction

August 25, 2012 at Forestmeadows Park in Tallahassee

Visit FaceBook for more information

Goose Creek Wildlife Sanctuary, Inc.

Animal Hotline: 850-545-3491

*Mailing Address Only:
3400 Williams Rd.
Tallahassee, FL 32311*



Please note that this address is for business only. No animals should be dropped off at this address.

*Administrative Phone: 850-508-7587
E-mail: info@goosecreekwildlifesanctuary.org*

Become a fan on FaceBook

And keep up with the latest news

Goose Creek Wildlife Sanctuary, Inc., 3400 Williams Rd, 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.

There are many ways you can help. GCWS can always use volunteers and cash donations. If you would like to help, please contact us or visit our website.

Announcements and Events

2012

WILD THING

**Tennis Tournament
And Silent Auction**

August 25, 2012
Forestmeadows Park
Tallahassee, Florida



Macy's Event for GCWS

On Saturday, August 25, 2012, Macy's will host its 7th annual Shop For A Cause benefiting charities nationwide. Since 2006, Shop For A Cause has raised more than \$42 million for charities across the country. Purchase a savings pass directly from GCWS and receive 25% off on regular, sale and clearance merchandise, throughout the store, as well as 10% off furniture, mattresses and area rugs. You'll also be eligible to win a \$500 gift card, no purchase necessary. Exclusions and restrictions apply. See shopping pass for details. Order your ticket directly from GCWS today--shop, save and support!!



Mark your calendar for the weekend of August 18th! The Cheeps Boutique resale event will benefit GCWS! To donate items, help with the sale, or for sale specifics, contact Shelby at Shelby@nikknakks.net or 850-574-0852



Yes! I would like to help save these animals!

Macy's Tickets: _____ x \$5 Donation: _____ Total: _____

Your Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____

Fax this form to Goose Creek Wildlife Sanctuary 850-893-8244 or mail donation directly to: GCWS, 3400 Williams Rd, Tallahassee, FL 32311

Check Enclosed

Credit Card Information

Mastercard Visa

CC # _____

Exp. Date _____

Signature _____