



Goose Creek Wildlife Sanctuary, Inc.

Giving native wildlife a second chance ...



Holiday 2014 Newsletter

Our "Fab Five"...Fawns, That Is!



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In years past, most of the fawns Goose Creek Wildlife Sanctuary took in were treated for injuries, nursed back to health and then transported to other facilities with access to release sites. Due to other facilities being overloaded this year, we had no where to send our fawns. In desperation, we started looking at every possible option of where these fawns could go and we are so grateful that a large parcel of private land became an option for us. For the first time in GCWS' history, we had the joy (and the unavoidable fear) of actually releasing the fawns that came into GCWS on property where we could provide them with a soft release (releasing with the ability to provide extra food during their adjustment period) and monitor their progress first hand.



There are no absolutes in wildlife rescues and releases. There are no set time frames of an exact day as to when the animals are ready to go. It is a judgment call based on experience (both ours and hundreds of other wildlife rehabilitation centers) that you must rely on as to when orphans who have been raised by humans are old enough to survive but still young enough not to be imprinted on by their human fosters. Some thrive strong from the beginning and some need extra help to make that adjustment. Providing a soft release enables each animal to adjust at their own pace.



At the point the five fawns were grazing enough to sustain themselves, we loaded them into carriers and headed to the release site. One by one, we opened the carriers and set them free. While each one initially bolted from their carrier, they all remained relatively close to the release site. Siblings rejoined each other and it seemed as though they knew this was their new home. Even knowing we had done our best and this was as safe of a place for them as possible, the release conjured mixed emotions. After all, nature is nature and we can't control everything (as much as we'd like to at times)! After watching for a while, all seemed to be going well so we departed, leaving behind bowls of food and fresh water. As we drove off, the bittersweet reality of every wildlife release set in-that we may not see them again. We may never know how well they thrived once they hit the woods and returned to the wild or if they got into trouble, would they return for help?

The following morning, a volunteer returned to the release site to refill food and water dishes and was greeted by a jubilant herd of fawns. All five had made it through their first night out and knew where to return for food. Over the following weeks, they began to return less and less. Via game cameras and actual sightings, all five have been seen at various times and are doing well. One, out of a set of twins, was actually adopted by a doe who had a fawn about the same age. About a month into the release, the other twin developed an infection. Through careful approach, we were able to administer a series of antibiotic injections which cleared the

infection. She is now thriving and doing well! Without a soft release, who knows what her outcome would have been.

Fawns are without a doubt some of the most beautiful wildlife babies in our area. Thank you to everyone who supports this organization and gives these beautiful animals a second chance!



Did You Know:

- Deer lick their noses to keep them moist, which helps odor particles stick to it, improving their sense of smell.
- Deer have eyes on the sides of their head, giving them a 310 degree view.
- Young deer stay with their mothers 1-2 years.
- Eastern screech owls are about 7 to 10 inches tall and have a wingspan of 18 to 24 inches.
- The average life span of the Eastern screech owl is 6 to 10 years.

Whatever it Takes—A Wildlife Rescue To Remember *by Marilyn Van Dusseldorp*

A Georgia Pacific employee spotted a barred owl beside one of the huge piles of tree trunks at their facility. They called FWC who then contacted GCWS. As a volunteer with GCWS, I grabbed a carrier and headed to Hosford with a fellow rescuer. The GP staff was not experienced or equipped to capture the owl. Since there is a stringent focus on safety at the mill, upon arrival I had to don a protective white coverall, a hard hat, safety glasses and boots.



Four staff members accompanied me to the owl's location.



The owl had been sitting on a log outside of the woodpile when originally sighted. However, it rained right before we got there and the owl had crawled into a space between logs in the woodpile for shelter. I had a net with a pretty long handle but could not reach the owl. A staff member was able to nudge the owl from behind with a small stick. He got it to move far enough forward that I could crawl toward it and get the net over it. The owl remained very calm.

After returning to the car with the owl, the staff gathered around to thank us for coming to the rescue and to express their interest in the diagnosis/prognosis. These folks were extremely concerned for the owl and kept an eye on it until help arrived. In the time between discovering it and my arrival at the mill, they had named the owl "Hootie". We left after returning the "capture suit" with a promise to keep them apprised of the owl's progress.

When we arrived at the sanctuary the owl was examined and found to be quite thin and suffering from a shoulder injury. The immediate goal was to put weight on the owl first and then deal with the shoulder. Each time I have delivered rescues to the sanctuary since then, I check in on the owl and promise to return him back home when he's ready.

It was a great day for us—any day that includes helping an innocent animal is an exquisite day, and the opportunity to meet such a great group of fellow animal lovers was an added plus!



Update: The owl has been recovering nicely. Once he had reached a good weight, the injured shoulder was addressed. While nothing was broken, the shoulder was displaced. As of this newsletter printing, the owl is in a flight cage undergoing conditioning and strengthening. Once we are comfortable the owl has fully recovered, he will be returned to his home for release.



Three Little Fuzz Balls



In early May, we received three baby screech owls who looked like little fuzz balls. A tree service found the babies in a cavity of a tree they had cut down. Normally we would take the section of the tree with their cavity and attach it to a nearby tree or we would attach a nest box to a nearby tree and place them inside and watch from a distance to make sure the parents returned to take care of the babies. Unfortunately the tree these three were in was on a golf course and there were no trees close by.

What a delight these three were. We set them up in a makeshift cavity and provided them with heat. For the first few weeks, volunteers held one of our education screech owls in front of them while we fed them so we would not imprint on them. It's amazing how quickly these three changed and how different their personalities were. One was extremely shy and was the last to leave the nest box and venture out into the cage. One was a little more aggressive and always managed to be the first to get fed. All of them were great eaters and quickly learned to pick up food on their own.



A large parrot cage with two plastic bowls in it had been donated to GCWS. One of the bowls had "Ranger" written on it and the shy screech owl loved to sit in that bowl, so we ended up calling him Ranger.

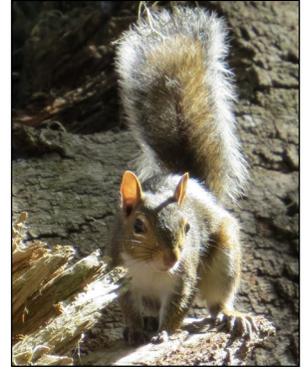
As the babies developed, they changed from looking like the little fuzz balls to three beautiful gray screech owls.



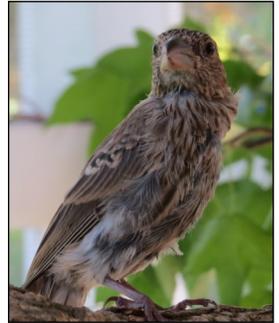
It is with much sadness that we share with you the loss of our red educational screech owl. He joined us in 2000 after being hit by a car and suffering an irreparable wing injury. He and his cage mate, a gray screech owl who also came to us in 2000, have been inseparable. Both owls were retired last year due to the development of cataracts. Over the years these two have helped with hundreds of educational programs. Many of you had the pleasure of seeing him during some of our educational programs. He will be missed by all of us!



It takes nothing away from a human to be kind to an animal—Joaquin Phoenix



Another successful year,
thanks to you!
Enjoy a few of the Faces of
2014 that your contributions
helped save.



Goose Creek Wildlife Sanctuary, Inc.

Like Us on Facebook to keep up to date with stories, events and fundraisers!

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How Can You Help Year Round?

- You can help support and raise money for GCWS simply by searching the internet at www.goodsearch.com (powered by Yahoo), shopping online at www.goodshop.com or dining at a restaurant in the www.gooddining.com network!
- You can help GCWS and the environment by recycling your ink & toner cartridges and old cell phones. Contact GCWS to start a collection site or to drop off your items.
- Want to directly select and purchase items needed by GCWS? Go to www.amazon.com and visit our wish list. It's updated as our needs change!! *Make sure you go to Amazon's "Wish List" area and search for Goose Creek Wildlife Sanctuary in the "Wish List" section to pull up our list.) It comes to us anonymously, so please be sure to let us know who it's from!
- AmazonSmile—New this year, GCWS is a part of AmazonSmile. AmazonSmile donates .5% of eligible purchases to the non-profit of your choice. When shopping online, simply go to smile.amazon.com and select Goose Creek Wildlife Sanctuary, Inc. as your non-profit.
- Grant a wish from our enclosed "wish list."



Many thanks to our sponsors and participants in the 2014 Wild Thing Tennis Tournament as well as Steve Leroy for serving as the tournament director this year!! Please support the people and businesses who support these animals!!

Goose Creek Wildlife Sanctuary, Inc. 2014 WILD THING TENNIS TOURNAMENT

We'd Like to Thank Our Sponsors

Adopt An Animal—Save A Life!

Looking for something special and unique? Want to save a life? See the flyer enclosed to adopt an animal and save a life!! You can also adopt an animal as a gift to someone, in someone's honor or in someone's memory. If the animal is adopted as a gift or in someone's honor, a special notecard featuring that animal will be sent to that person/family. Do something special this year!



A special thanks to Shelby Bush for running the Cheeps Boutique fundraiser again this year! The event netted over \$1,700 for wildlife!! Cheeps Boutique even has it's own Facebook page to keep everyone informed of sales throughout the year! Make sure to like us on Facebook so you know what's going on between newsletters!!

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