

Giving native wildlife a second chance...

Goose Creek Wildlife Sanctuary, Inc



Summer 2009
Newsletter



Baby Season 2009

Spring—In like a lion, out like a lion!

They say spring comes in like a lion and goes out like a lamb, but this year it came in like a lion and just kept on coming. Although baby birds started arriving a little later than in previous years, the baby rabbits, raccoons, opossums and a few squirrels all seemed to hit at once. Many thanks to the volunteers who jumped in at a moment's notice to pick up animals and make sure everybody was fed on time!

Because we receive so many calls asking questions about whether an animal needs to be rescued or not, we have included some basic guidelines on page two of this newsletter.



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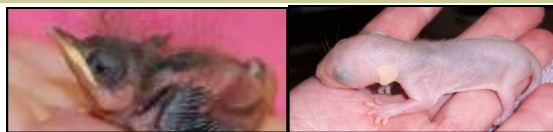


Did You Know:

- A hummingbird's wings beat 55 times a second when feeding
- Newborn opossums are about 1/2 inch long
- The horns on a great horned owl are really feathers
- Deer are ungulates, which means they have two-toed hooves
- Geese honk to encourage those flying in front to keep up their speed



Guidelines for Wildlife in Need



Basic guidelines:

1. Unless there is an obvious injury, if you have to chase it to catch it, it most likely doesn't need your help.
2. An opossum that is 9 inches or longer, not including the tail, is typically independent.
3. A bird that is fully feathered on his body, but not yet able to fly, is typically a fledgling whose parents are nearby watching and feeding it. You can help this baby by keeping all pets away and watching from a distance to make sure parents are around.
4. A squirrel who is nearly full-sized and has a fluffy tail and is able to run, jump and climb is independent.
5. A fawn who is curled up in grass or other coverage such as shrubs, typically has been placed there by their mother, who will return after foraging.
6. A rabbit that is 4 inches or longer with open eyes and erect ears, typically is independent. (Seeing a litter of baby bunnies without their mother does not mean they are orphaned. Mother rabbits typically only nurse their young 5 minutes each day. When they are not nursing, they usually do not stay in the nest so they don't attract predators.)

Signs that wildlife needs immediate help:

1. Wildlife brought to you by a pet needs to be checked for injuries and most probably put on antibiotics due to the bacteria in mouths.
2. An animal that is bleeding or shivering requires immediate attention.
3. Ducklings should not be wandering around without a parent nearby.
4. Evidence of a dead parent is another sign. Opossums carry their young inside their pouch. An opossum that has been hit by a car may have babies inside their pouch that need

rescuing.

5. A featherless or nearly featherless bird on the ground needs help. If the bird is not injured and the nest is within reach, you may gently put the baby back into the nest and watch for the parents. It is a myth that the parents won't take the baby back after it has been touched by humans.

If you find wildlife that needs to be rescued:

1. Put a box with holes for air over the animal for its safety and to prevent it from wandering off.
2. Put on gloves. Use a towel or pillowcase to put over the animal and gently pick it up and place in a container lined with soft material and plenty of air holes.
3. If you are transporting the animal to a wildlife rehabilitator, turn the radio down and keep voices in the car to a minimum and place the box as far from an A/C vent as possible.
4. Never let children touch or handle wildlife.
5. Do not handle rabies vectors (bats, raccoons, bobcats, foxes).
6. Call GCWS for instructions and assistance immediately.
7. Do not handle adults without first speaking to a wildlife rehabilitator.
8. Do not give food or water. Many animals are in shock and food/water can make matters worse. Many people whose hearts are in the right place unknowingly kill the animal they are attempting to save by trying to give food/water.

Remember, your safety comes first. Do not attempt to handle wild animals if you are uncomfortable. Observe the surroundings and contact GCWS, giving a clear description of the situation. Be sure you give us an address and a phone number where you can be reached.

Animal Hotline: 850-545-3491



Reinier Munguia holding a pine snake at the 2009 Celebration of Wildlife

Inaugural Celebration of Wildlife

A great time was had by all who attended the Celebration of Wildlife at the Doubletree Hotel on Saturday, April 18th. Reinier Munguia's presentation on the Life of Birds was wonderful. The photography was beautiful and the inspirational talk was filled with humor and enthusiasm. Jim West, a horticulturist who teaches at Lincoln High School gave a great presentation on planting for wildlife. Mr. West brought in beautiful plants and explained about which insects were attracted to each plant, as well as helping us

understand the benefits of having insects in your garden. Reinier's next presentation was the Reptiles of Florida. The presentation was amazing and the highlight was getting to meet some of Reinier's educational animals including a box turtle, a pine snake and a scarlet king snake. After lunch there was a Wildlife Photography workshop. Reinier shared some of his secrets for getting amazing wildlife shots by sharing information on different types of cameras, lighting, lenses, and even some tricks on how to get

closer to wildlife without disturbing them. Many, many thanks to Reinier and his wife and daughter for making the five hour drive and to Mr. West for taking time out of his Saturday to help us.

"The purity of a person's heart can quickly be measured by how they regard animals." - Anonymous

Cedar Waxwings



We typically see cedar waxwings during the winter months when they migrate to our area. (Some migrate as far south as Costa Rica and Panama.) The cedar waxwing is brown on top and pale yellow on its belly. It has a crest of feathers on its head and a black mask lined with white on its face. Their secondary feathers have waxy red droplets. Their tail typically has a yellow tip. However, some cedar waxwings in the Northeast United States and Southeast Canada will have an orange tip on their tails. This is caused by their having eaten the berries of an introduced species of honeysuckle, Morrow's honeysuckle, while their tail feathers were growing. Male and female cedar waxwings look alike. They are monogamous and may nest in small colonies.

Cedar waxwings are one of the few North America birds that can live on fruit alone for several months. Because they eat so much fruit, they can become intoxicated and in some cases die when they indulge in overripe berries that have begun to ferment and produce alcohol. Cedar waxwings are a particularly sociable species and not territorial. It's not unusual to see a row of them perched together on a branch, passing a berry or insect down the line until one bird eats it. They typically travel in flocks of 40 or more. They often will appear in a crop of good berries and leave as soon as the food supply is gone. To attract cedar waxwings in your backyard, plant native trees and shrubs that bear small fruit such as dogwood, juniper, cedars, hollies and hawthorn.

Rehab Can Be Amusing

Several cedar waxwings were brought to GCWS with an unidentified problem. Concerned onlookers had picked up the birds because, although they could see no physical injuries, the birds were stumbling around, falling over and some couldn't get back up. Luckily we've seen this problem before and just considered this a special kind of rehab.....waiting

for them to sober up! They were drunk from eating too many fermented berries. Our rehab contribution, in this situation, is to provide fluids, good food and a safe place for them to stay while they sober up.

*Moral of the Story:
Don't drink and fly*

Wild Thing Tennis Tournament



The 2009 Wild Thing Tennis Tournament will be held August 20th through 23rd at ForestMeadows Park & Athletic Center. We are currently seeking sponsors for our 2009 Wild Thing Tennis Tournament. For only \$300 your name/logo will be printed on the back of over 200 t-shirts. Each year a new t-shirt is designed featuring native wildlife. The deadline for tournament sponsorship is July 21st. For more information, contact Susan May at 850-508-7587 or send an email to:

susan@goosecreekwildlifesanctuary.org



Bunnies!

Baby cottontail rabbits showed up fast and furious this spring. We've always done well with them, but this spring we tried a new formula one of the speakers at the National Wildlife Rehabilitators Association conference recommended. The difference was amazing. Little pudgy babies stayed pudgy, alert and active and loved the formula. Many thanks to all who donated or bought items at the garage sale that helped pay for Jen and Noni to attend the training. They brought back some fantastic new information and ideas, which have already been put to good use. Just ask the fat and sassy bunnies!

Thank you!

Special thanks to Mrs. Purvis' 2nd grade class at Desoto Trail Elementary School for collecting much needed items for GCWS!

On the Cover, clockwise from the top:

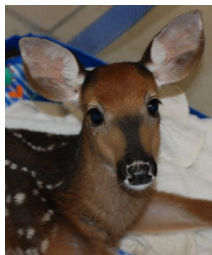
Flying squirrel, raccoon, owl, opossums, wood duck, wren

Goose Creek Wildlife Sanctuary, Inc.

Animal Hotline: 850-545-3491

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Tallahassee, FL 32312*

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Goose Creek Wildlife Sanctuary, Inc. was formed in 1988 by a small group of grassroots environmentalists and wildlife advocates. Our primary mission is to improve the quality of life for sick, displaced and injured native wildlife. We achieve this mission by maintaining a network of volunteers who provide care to the animals, assist in fundraising activities and administrative support, and provide educational programs to the community free of charge.

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.

Visit us online!

www.goosecreekwildlifesanctuary.org

Goose Creek Wildlife Sanctuary, Inc., 1017 Summerbrooke Drive, Tallahassee, FL 32312 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.

Announcements and Events

Join us at the beautiful **Capital City Country Club** in Tallahassee on **October 16, 2009**. Events include a silent auction, a live auction, door prizes, buffet dinner and more. It is truly an evening of fun for all. Items to be auctioned include goods and services primarily from businesses within the vicinity of Tallahassee, Florida, and numerous certificates from fabulous hotels and resorts. GCWS is currently accepting sponsorships for this event. The following sponsorships are available for a limited time:

Golden Eagle	\$1,000
Red Fox	\$ 500
Blue Heron	\$ 250
White Squirrel	\$ 100

There are specific benefits associated with each level. To receive a sponsorship package with the details, please call 850-508-7587 or email info@goosecreekwildlifesanctuary.org

If you would like to donate an item to be auctioned or would like more information about this event, please contact us.

*Going once...
Going twice...
Going WILD!*



2009

WILD THING

Auction

6 to 10pm

October 16, 2009

Capital City Country Club

