

FLORIDA WILDLIFE REHABILITATORS ASSOCIATION

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Letter from the President

Season's Greetings rehabbers!!

I'm hoping you all had a wonderful Thanksgiving with family and friends and were touched by the realization of all that we have in our lives to be thankful for!

With this most recent cold snap it's a great time to remember and remind people to look under their hoods or make noise before starting their cars for small animals that might like to climb up and feel the heat on these chilly winter nights that we've had in late November! Thankfully we don't have to deal with snow in Florida. However, even in Florida, the sweet taste of antifreeze can still attract wild and domestic animals and is always a concern as it can cause kidney failure, seizures, coma and death.

Our membership is at an all-time high with over 225 members! It was wonderful to see so many familiar faces and lots of new faces at our last meeting, celebrating 30 years of wild times with FWRA!! This took place at the same location we have been for a while now, The FLFFA in Haines City October 4 through the 7th. This year we had 6 full scholarship winners of the 108 people who attended! We missed you if you didn't make it! I want to again thank our fabulous speakers and conference committee for another fantastic conference! That auction was the most massive we have ever had!!

Our amazing conference committee is already working on next year which will again be early October, the 3-6, 2019 in Haines City. So if there are speakers you want to see, or topics you would like to learn more about, please send your topics or names to the conference committee at symposium@fwra.org

One of our founding members, Gail Straight was honored at our banquet this year along with Founders award honoree Dr. Erica Miller. Gail has given herself tirelessly to FWRA and after wearing many hats on the board over the last 30 years, is retiring! We cannot thank Gail enough for all that she has contributed, to help make FWRA the great organization it is today!

We also welcomed 5 new board members!! So please welcome our new Advisory Board members Beth Lott, Samantha Little, CVT, Missy Fox, CVT, Emily Holden and Yvette Carrasco! So exciting the way our organization continues to grow!! If you too would like to become more involved, please visit www.FWRA.org and fill out an application to be a board member. Remember you can also serve on a committee that you have interest in helping out on without becoming a board member.

Lots of great articles are inside, as well as important end of year reminders, so I will wish you all a wonderful holiday season and a happy new year!! Start saving only a dollar a day now and you will have all you need to attend next year's 31st symposium!!

Thank you all for all you do to help wildlife!

Gratefully Yours,

Beth Hirschfeld DVM, CVA, VMO
President FWRA
President Hirschfeld Veterinary Consulting, Inc.
Hollywood, FL USA

IVAS Certified Veterinary Acupuncturist
VMO - Veterinary Medical Officer- NVRT3- Dept. Of Homeland Security
VMO- Veterinary Medical Officer-VMAT -AVMA disaster response team
Florida Wildlife Rehabilitators Association - President
Miami Dade Community College Veterinary Technology Program - Advisory Board

FLORIDA WILDLIFE REHABILITATORS ASSOCIATION



Mission:

The Florida Wildlife Rehabilitators Association (FWRA) is a non-profit organization dedicated to the unification, education and dissemination of information to all wildlife rehabilitators in Florida.

Purposes:

To provide an organizational structure within which various individuals and organizations involved in the rehabilitation of injured, orphaned and displaced wildlife may exchange information.

To provide training and assistance to individuals and organizations involved in the rehabilitation of injured, orphaned and displaced wildlife.

To increase public awareness through educational means of and support for the activities of wildlife rehabilitators.

To engage in such other activities as are permitted by Florida Law.

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Newsletter : Dianna Flynt
newsletter@fwra.org

FWRA WEBSITE: www.fwra.org
Webmaster:
EMAIL: info@fwra.org

SAVE THE DATE

FWRA 2019 Symposium date
October 3 – 6, 2019
Haines City, FL

SYMPOSIUM REPORT

FWRA provides an annual symposium full of education and networking. Our 30th anniversary event included 108 wildlife rehabilitators, volunteers, veterinarians, veterinary technicians, and speakers from 8 states in addition to Florida, and from Trinidad. We had a large number of first time attendees and we hope to see them again in the future. FWRA also awarded 6 full scholarships to members who otherwise might not have had the opportunity to attend.

Our symposiums are designed to provide wildlife rehabilitators and others with the quality education they need to serve their wildlife patients from rescue to release. We present affordable education in a peaceful, secluded, wildlife rich environment and provide an opportunity to meet a network of colleagues that you can rely on for help with future patients. It takes many volunteer hours to arrange all of the details that make our symposiums successful.

In 2018, we celebrated our 30th anniversary with a wide variety of classes and labs covering birds, mammals, reptiles and related subjects. Some of our favorite speakers, including Dr. Erica Miller, Dr. La'Toya Latney, Lisa Fosco, CVT and Lynn Miller, PhD, kept us entertained as well as informed on many subjects. Our new microscope labs were a big hit. FWRA purchased the equipment, including 6 microscopes and a wi-fi enabled camera to provide our members a continuing opportunity for more in depth education in this area.

If you missed the symposium this year, start saving now for 2019. FWRA's next symposium is scheduled for October 3-6, 2019. We are reviewing comments and suggestions from the 2018 surveys to determine what classes to offer next year. If you have a request, please email symposium@fwra.org to let us know what you need.

Did you know

The USGS National Wildlife Health Center has launched a new and improved website at <https://www.usgs.gov/centers/nwhc>

In early 2019 FWRA will be rolling out updated and new benefits for our Partner Members

What Secrets Are Hidden Inside The Call Of A Bat?

First recognized in 2006 the white-nose syndrome has killed millions of bats across the United State. Now, scientists are trying to learn more about the impact of this devastating disease, by listening to the calls of the bats

Bats use echolocation to navigate and find food. The bats are sending out sound pulses and then listening to the echoes that bounce back, each of the calls is specific to the species of a bats and to a specific behavior and scientists are recording and collecting data The idea is to figure out who are the surviving species of bats out there and how their ecological role is changing post white-nose syndrome

<http://www.wnpr.org/post/what-secrets-are-hidden-inside-call-bat>

<https://www.wildlife-sound.org/resources/equipment/2-uncategorised/233-recordings-of-ultrasonic-vocalisations-of-bats>

<https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/how-do-bats-echolocate-an/>

House votes to strip ESA wolf protections, & block judicial oversight

Today Wolves are gone from more than 83% of their original native range, coming back from the brink of extinction they have just began to recolonize their original habitats in few states like Oregon and California, but remain completely absent from suitable habitats like the Colorado Rockies.

On November 16 the U.S. House of Representatives voted 196 to 180 to approve the bill that will de-list the protection of wolves from the entire lower-48 states and will allow the killing of wolves anywhere and at any time of the year

<https://www.westernwatersheds.org/2018/11/house-votes-to-strip-esa-wolf-protections-block-judicial-oversight/>

<https://blog.humanesociety.org/2018/11/breaking-news-house-votes-to-remove-endangered-species-act-protections-for-gray-wolves.html>

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

The exciting news is that we have new membership benefits that are being received very well! At our 30th Annual symposium this past October, attendees received a special bonus of a one of a kind FWRA license plate and a 30th Anniversary Commemorative t-shirt. If you did not attend there will be a few available at our next symposium. Please excuse any delays as we adjust to all our extra benefits; some of you have not received your packets just yet. Your Membership team members are all volunteers and we are finally getting all the new benefits in order and all the bugs worked out. We are so thankful for your understanding while we make your FWRA better each year!

We have 225 current members of the FWRA and lots of new members and returning members! If you have not yet joined the FWRA Members Only FB page, please do so and you can stay in more constant contact with your fellow members. It's a great way to network and ask questions. Please be reminded that this is a closed group and you cannot invite non-members to join. Contact the membership team at memberships@fwra.org if you have any questions or concerns.

There is still time to give the gift of an FWRA membership as a gift for the holiday season!

Memberships for individuals and organizations working in wildlife rehabilitation.

Individual Membership

Annual Cost \$20 - Renewals every September
For an individual working in wildlife rehabilitation

- Benefits for the individual include FWRA Newsletter via email (3-4x annually)
- Receive important information throughout the year provided by FWRA Board or governing agencies to be shared with members
- Receive important information throughout the year about FWRA classes and upcoming events
- Annual FWRA Symposium early bird registration specials
- Access to FWRA Members Only Facebook page to network with other rehabilitators
- Wellness checks from Membership team after disaster situations
- FWRA Annual Membership card that gives opportunities to members to visit other facilities (requirements and opportunities listed on website)
- FWRA Annual Membership window cling
- Password protected access to the Members

Only area of the website providing access to many past symposium lectures materials. (password changes annually)

Associate Membership for facilities -

Level 1

Annual cost \$150 - Renewals every January
For rehabilitation facilities with an annual budget over \$100,000

- Benefits for up to 10 people
- Annual memberships all listed under the facility (Facility Director to provide names for that year)
- Full membership benefits same as individual paid members receive
- Facility logo and website listed on FWRA website
- Facility logo and website in newsletter sent to current FWRA members via email (3-4x per year)
- Listing of facility internship and volunteer opportunities on website under membership section
- Facility promotional table at the Annual FWRA Symposium included
- Annual Associate Membership window cling for facility

Associate Membership for facilities -

Level 2

Annual cost \$75 - Renewals every January
For rehabilitation facilities with an annual budget under \$100,000

- Benefits for up to 5 people
- Annual memberships all listed under the facility (Facility Director to provide names for that year)
- Full membership benefits as individual paid members receive
- Facility logo and website listed on FWRA website
- Facility logo and website in newsletter sent to current FWRA members via email (3-4x per year)
- Listing of facility internship and volunteer opportunities on website under membership section
- Inclusion of facility flyers at Associate Partnership promotional materials table
- Annual Associate Membership window cling for facility

Welcome to FWRA's youngest member



**Karly Scheder,
(11 years old)**

It's that time of year again...

Annual Reports of activity for Federal Rehabilitation, Special Purpose Possession and Eagle Exhibition permit are due to your Regional U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Migratory Bird Permit Issuing Office postmarked by January 31, 2019. If your permit expires March 31, 2019, you may receive an annual report form and renewal letter via regular mail from now through the end of December.

Annual Report Forms are fillable online but still require an original signature and to be submitted via mail to your migratory bird permit issuing office unless your region allows electronic submission through email. Here's what Regions accept information via email (Florida rehabilitators must mail their report to Atlanta):

- Regions 1 (Pacific) and 8 (Pacific Southwest) accept emailed Annual Reports, Renewals and Applications
- Regions 2 (Southwest), 3 (Midwest) and 5 (Northeast) accept emailed Annual Reports
- Regions 4 (Southeast), 6 (Mountain Prairie) and 7 (Alaska) do not accept emailed versions of annual reports at this time

Information for Renewals and about Live Bird Possession.

Any permits that authorize possession of live migratory birds and eagles are renewed based on your facilities for specific numbers and specific species only, and you are not authorized to possess any live birds for educational or other activities other than those listed on your permit.

Updated photographs/diagrams of enclosures for housing migratory birds and eagles for display and for rehabilitation purposes, as well as updated information about the individual responsible for the daily care of these migratory birds/eagles, is also required as part of your permit renewal procedure, unless you have submitted this facility information within the past 3-5 years (3 years for Possession/Eagle Exhibition permits; 5 years for Rehabilitation permits).

Transfer Form Information.

Instructions for adding/deleting a live bird for Possession or Eagle Exhibition permits are listed on the chart on page 2 on the Migratory Bird Special Purpose Possession (Education) Permit Acquisition & Transfer Request Form 3-202-12, found directly

at <https://www.fws.gov/forms/3-202-12.pdf>. Please remember that rehabilitators are required to complete this form if they are requesting to transfer a non-releasable migratory bird to an exempt facility or to a Special Purpose Possession permittee for educational purposes, but this form is not required if the bird is being transferred to another federally permitted rehabilitator for continued rehabilitation.

Transfer Form and Annual Report Copies.

If you need an extra annual report form copy or if your report form arrives damaged, please look for annual report forms listed under their respective federal permit names in the "REPORT FORMS" section at <https://www.fws.gov/birds/policies-and-regulations/permits/need-a-permit.php>

The most common Annual Report types include:

- Rehabilitation Form 3-202-4
- Special Purpose Possession Live/Dead Form 3-202-5
- Eagle Exhibition Form 3-202-13
- Additional Annual Report forms for other federal permits including Scientific Collecting, Special Purpose Salvage, etc. are also included on this website.

Permit Questions.

Do you have permit questions or need an address for mailing your report? For Florida rehabilitators, your Southeast Region Migratory Bird Permit Issuing Office address is Migratory Bird Permits, 1875 Century Boulevard, Atlanta, GA, 30345.

- Please contact Michelle Outlaw for questions regarding Possession Permits, Michelle_Outlaw@fws.gov or 404/679-7055.
- Contact Resee Collins for Rehabilitation permit questions, Resee_Collins@fws.gov or 404/679-4163.
- To contact any Regional Migratory Bird Permit Issuing Office, visit <https://www.fws.gov/birds/policies-and-regulations/permits/regional-permit-contacts.php>

Miscellaneous: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Permit Applications and Website Revised!

- Visit the main Migratory Bird website <https://www.fws.gov/birds/index.php> for many resources including bird enthusiasts, surveys & data, management, grants, education, get involved and policies & regulations (this last section is where permits, laws, regulations, policies, administrative orders, and federal register notices are all found).

- New revised permit application forms are available online! <https://www.fws.gov/birds/policies-and-regulations/permits/need-a-permit.php>
- Frequently Asked Questions for many permit types are now at <https://www.fws.gov/birds/policies-and-regulations/permits/FAQ.php> and are also featured as a link on the permit application.
- Wondering what exactly is a "migratory bird"? Find an alphabetical complete list of birds protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act at <https://www.fws.gov/birds/management/managed-species/migratory-bird-treaty-act-protected-species.php>.

Most links listed here will work through Google, Firefox or other browsers, but may not be accessible through Windows Explorer at this time.

Thank you for everything you do to conserve America's wildlife and wild lands!

Sincerely,

Resee Collins
Eagle & Rehabilitation Permit Coordinator
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Migratory Bird Program, Southeast Region
1875 Century Boulevard, Atlanta, Georgia 30345
Office: (404) 679-4163 Mobile: (404) 314-6526

"We have a choice to use the gift of our lives to make the world a better place." -Dr. Jane Goodall

Happy Holidays!



Scholarship Winners: in their words



The 30th anniversary FWRA Symposium was marked by the awarding of six full scholarships to this event. The recipients tell us, in their own words, how their love of wildlife rehab started, and about their time at the Symposium.

Courtney Gerspacher

I am affiliated with the Florida Wildlife Hospital and Sanctuary in Palm Shores, in the Melbourne area. I was born and raised in Texas. About five years ago my husband became stationed at Patrick Air Force Base, so we moved out here. I have a degree in ecology and evolutionary biology and thought I wanted to be a field biologist - go out and do population surveys, definitely not a desk job. When we got to Florida, I started volunteering at the Brevard Zoo - working mostly with exotics, but they also have a very strong focus on conservation, which I loved. I heard about the position at the Wildlife Hospital, started working there and I have never looked back! Working with wildlife has impacted my life in such a positive way. I can't imagine doing anything else.

When it comes to wildlife and nature you can walk outside, and there is not a moment that you don't see something beautiful. Whether it is the sounds of a Blue Jay, or a Pelican flying overhead - wildlife is all around us. With rehab, we add to all of that. It is that background beauty that I am so proud of being able to help.

It is amazing to be at the symposium. I love learning. There is a great connection made here - networking, one-on-one conversations with others who are working for the betterment of animals in your area. I liked all of the classes, and particularly love disease studies including how diseases can impact both animals and humans. This is my third year at the Symposium; we are so lucky to have a state organization like the FWRA and an event like this.

Katie Mattas

I'm from Bradenton, and have worked at Wildlife Inc. on Anna Maria Island for nearly the past 10 years. My mom grew up raising raccoons; I was always exposed to wildlife, and my love grew from there. I love raccoons, opossum and pelicans - we work with so many animals at Wildlife Inc; I have also worked for a veterinary clinic for many years; I see myself continuing work with animals and hope to grow my skills even more.

Regarding the Symposium - I met so many people, spent some of my free time seeing local wildlife - deer, armadillo, wild pigs. I am so happy to have gotten the scholarship. The symposium has been wonderful; the classes were very informative; I especially loved the classes on turtle care. I hope to come back; I have learned so much.

Quincie Wend

I'm at the Marine Science Center in Ponce Inlet; my boss told me about FWRA, what a great organization it is, and the benefits of connecting with others working with wildlife. Because of our location right on the ocean, many of the animals we see are seabirds pelagic birds, shorebirds, wading birds, and some songbirds in the springtime.

I am originally from Michigan. When we moved here a few years ago, I volunteered with the Science Center, and that eventually worked into a full-time position. I just really love working with animals.

The Symposium is wonderful - no drama and very well run. Everybody has been very friendly; people take the time to introduce you to others who have similar interests. The whole location and layout just works so well for this type of event. I really enjoyed the intake and stabilization classes and just the whole event. I look forward to coming back.

Lauren Kennedy

I was born in Miami and have been in the Orlando/Kissimmee area since 1989. I began my affiliation with Back to Nature in 2001; a veterinarian I worked for had a connection to BTN; I have been a vet tech for 17 years, and really have a passion for wildlife. I learned about FWRA along the way and am so glad I did. I had a chance to go to the Symposium for just one day last year (someone else could not make it and gave me their spot) and I was hooked! I was looking for a way to get back to attend the whole event, and am so excited to have gotten one of the scholarships! I love the lectures, the venue, the

people. I am a crow lover and was so excited to see that there was a specific session on corvids. I loved all of it. I definitely hope to come back.

Amanda Ebenhack

I was born in California; we lived in West Palm Beach before buying acreage in Fort Drum, Fla. about 14 years ago. I never set out to be a wildlife rehabber; it all started when we were fishing with our kids; I saw turtles in the water, and we stopped fishing because I did not want to hurt one with a hook. I started volunteering at a reptile clinic to learn all I could about turtles. The more I learned the more I wanted to know. I have worked with many vets over the years. Fast forward to now: 18 years of experience; I have a book (that I authored) on rehabilitating turtles and tortoises. I also run a wildlife center that caters to all native turtles and tortoises, on a six-acre sanctuary. I own Central Florida Wildlife Center. I also am partnered with Swamp Girl Adventures. This is my first time at the symposium. I think it's a valuable tool for learning and networking. I enjoyed all of it.

I am known as a lone wolf. I do not get out much as usually have too many rescues to go anywhere. I enjoyed meeting people I have had communication with via email and text (to help the with turtles) in person, and putting faces to names.

Rosina McVicker

I have lived in Orlando over 30 years so consider Florida my home. I got into wildlife rehab completely by accident. I have always been an "animal person". I grew up with dogs, cats, bunnies, snakes....rode horses....all that good stuff. As an adult I have been very active in domestic animal rescue, with a focus on transportation for years. I was doing a transport one day and a friend said a friend needed a tortoise taken to a rehabilitator. I figured it wasn't that much different than transporting a dog! I started meeting different rehabilitators and both transporting and going out to retrieve injured and orphaned animals to bring into care; it just snowballed from there. My mentor, Amanda Ebenhack taught me to rehab turtles and tortoises. I have been doing this under her guidance for the past several years.

I volunteer with Amanda Ebenhack and the Central Florida Wildlife Center, in collaboration also with Carissa Kent and Kim Titterington to retrieve, triage and treat injured turtles and tortoises. Last year I was also volunteering at the Wildlife Rehabilitation Center of Central Florida with Carol Hardee, and was offered the opportunity to become an employee there. I

began working for Carol last spring. I provide routine care to raccoons, opossums, squirrels, birds, bats, and any other native wildlife that comes through the door. I am working on honing my assessment and treatment skills under Carol's guidance. I have also learned a lot from Leslie Johnson and Ethel Huggins who are sub-permittees of Carols. My specialty is definitely tortoises and turtles, but I am learning more every day about mammals.

This was my first FWRA Symposium but will not be my last. I enjoyed the entire experience. I thought the classes were very helpful and well taught. It was great to meet some folks I had only known previously online, and make new connections as well. I am very grateful to have received the scholarship as my financial situation was tight the past few years due to a recent divorce, and I would not have been able to attend without the scholarship. The dates for next year are on my calendar and I am planning to be there. I feel I learned a great deal, this year, both in the classes and through the opportunities to meet with and share with others from around the state. There was just such an atmosphere of sharing and helpfulness throughout I was like the proverbial "kid in a candy store!" I really liked the venue; the setting was awesome, and it was obvious the event was well-planned and prepared for.



Thank you to our Associate Members

<p>Avian Recondition Center www.arc4raptors.org</p>	<p>Peace River Wildlife www.peacriverwildlifecenter.org</p>	<p>South Florida Wildlife Center www.southfloridawildlifecenter.org</p>
<p>Animis Foundation animisfoundation@yahoo.com</p>	<p>Pelican Harbor Seabird Station info@pelicanharbor.org</p>	
<p>Back To Nature Wildlife Refuge www.btnwildlife.org</p>	<p>St. Francis Wildlife Association www.stfranciswildlife.org</p>	

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