

# FLORIDA WILDLIFE REHABILITATORS ASSOCIATION

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Greetings fellow rehabbers,

I hope you all are well and are continuing to be vigilant year-round with your emergency plans during these strange pandemic times and swings in the weather. Emergency plans are vital in this climate of multiple pandemics and strains of virus that are waxing and waning as they continue to sweep the planet. (Check piece below on the OIE free app to keep abreast of wildlife disease outbreaks through the world). Always being prepared is vital! Be sure to see Phyllis Benton's article below on Hurricane Prep. If anyone knows about the benefits of hurricane preparedness, she does! Phyllis has been a long-time board member contributing from her homes in St. John, Virgin Islands and Connecticut. In her article you will find a Word Document link that you can download and tweak to make your own, specific "To Do" check list. Written by another one of our board members, Dorothy Kaufmann (Wildlife Sanctuary of Northwest Florida, Pensacola) who also knows the importance for being prepared for hurricanes.

We are producing this Summer Newsletter later than (June 1) normal because we had to confirm our exciting news for you! We have a new location for our 2021 Symposium, see Symposium News article below for details. Unfortunately, we will not be at the FFA Training Center in Haines City where we have been for the past 10 years. Prices skyrocketed at the Center and we strive to keep the price as low as possible for our members. Our 2021 symposium is scheduled for September 30 thru October 2, 2021. I hope you are already saving up for our next annual symposium!

If you want to stay updated on wildlife issues, treatments and laws that affect Rehabbers and wildlife FWRA is your connection...and for only \$20 a year for membership. A lot of our Members are taking advantage of our Associate Membership program where smaller facilities (under \$100,000/annual budget) can give 5 memberships to staff/volunteers for only \$75/yr. And larger facilities (over \$100,000/annual budget) can sign up 10 members for only \$150/yr. They are all listed below in this newsletter.

Speaking of Members, check out Getting to Know You Spotlight below where we highlight our FWRA Vice President Noni Beck's facility Goose Creek. Do you want to SPOTLIGHT your facility? If so, email [Membership@fwra.org](mailto:Membership@fwra.org) for our questionnaire.

We've included 3 Board bios in our Meet the Board article; all three are members of Audubon Center for Birds o Prey.

Join me in welcoming Maryann Vanciel to our Advisory Board! Welcome Maryann, we are all looking forward to working with you!!

Best wishes to you and your families! We look forward to seeing you all in the fall!

Sincerely,  
Beth Hirschfeld DVM, CVA, VMO  
Hollywood, FL  
President FWRA

# 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.

## FWRA Board of Directors

Beth Hirschfeld, DVM, President  
Margaret "Noni" Beck, Vice Pres./Symposium  
Sue Small, Treasurer/Secretary

## Members at Large

Leslie Johnson  
Debbie Helsel

Dianna Flynt  
Winnie Burns

## Advisory Board

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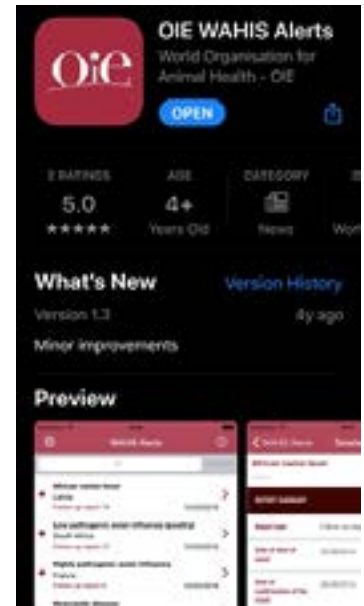
**Newsletter** : Dianna Flynt and Beth Lott  
newsletter@fwra.org

FWRA WEBSITE: [www.fwra.org](http://www.fwra.org)  
EMAIL: [info@fwra.org](mailto:info@fwra.org)

## Home - OIE - World Organization for Animal Health

This app is free and allows you to see wildlife disease outbreaks through the world. You can see when the disease first occurred and updates of recurrences or eradication. It's called OIE and you can set the app to alert you when an outbreak occurs.

Reports are issued by the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE)



## SAVE THE DATE: FWRA symposium 2021 September 30 thru October 2, 2021

## Symposium News: 2021 Symposium

FWRA is committed to providing continuing education and networking opportunities for our members. Covid 19 caused us to cancel our 2020 symposium and has affected our plans for 2021. Due to price increases and other changes, we are not able to continue to use the FFA Training Center as we have for the last 10 years. We are excited to announce our new location this year at the Grand Orlando Resort at Celebration. We have beautiful conference rooms reserved for Thursday, Friday and Saturday, September 30, through October 2. We have some great classes and fun activities planned. We will be providing you with a lot more information soon so keep watching our (Members only) Facebook, our FWRA website and your email. We are looking forward to seeing our members again and hearing about how everyone handled the past year. PS; you might want to bring your bathing suits



## Scholarship News:

We will be offering our 6 scholarships for this year's symposium. Applications will be out soon, we will post on our Facebook, our website, and your email for scholarship applications.

## Just For Fun!

We know it's been a tough year on everyone and we wanted to bring a little fun your way... We are throwing all the current members in a raffle jar... at least 1 winner will be chosen quarterly just before the newsletter goes out.

The gift this time- \$25 gift card from Home Depot and the FWRA member who received it is.... (drumroll please...) Congratulations Eric Soto!



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## Meet the Board

### Dianna Flynt

Who knew finding an injured bird while a senior in high school would steer me into a life-long career? As a teenage girl, naturally I loved animals but knew nothing about birds. So, in 1974 I started volunteering at Suncoast Seabird Sanctuary and became their first "paid" employee. There were no wildlife rehab classes, no schools, no conferences, nowhere to go to learn more so I joined Audubon and went birding with members every chance I had. Audubon became my education, how to identify birds, habitat, natural diets, migration, etc. Learning how to treat them, well that was a lot of trial and error. And that my friends is why organizations like FWRA have become my passion, injured wildlife deserve much more than trial and error! Can I get a "FaVRAh"!



I was there in Clearwater at the NWRA conference in 1987 when some of us Florida rehabbers pulled together and started FWRA in 1988. I joined the FWRA Board in 2000 and still sit proudly on that board, "FaVRAh!"

After 16 years of working with all native Florida birds as a wildlife rehabber at Suncoast I moved to Central Florida and joined Audubon Center for Birds of Prey in 1989. What struck me the most was how much more there is to learn when you specialize. Knowing more about each and every species you work with allows you to give them the best chance of survival.

I know that I have been blessed as one of the few of us that actually got "paid" for what we love! It allowed my to not only help birds but also to share what I've learned. And so, after 47 years in the business I have been able to retire from getting paid and volunteer once again.



## Beth Lott

I started my career as a wildlife rehabilitator in 1999 when I was skydiving and my parachute got stuck on one of the Wisconsin Humane Society's outdoor wildlife enclosures I asked if they were hiring & they were!! (Just making sure you are paying attention, lol). They started me off as an intern then hired me a staff member. I was responsible for admitting, triage, and treatment of over 5,000 patients annually; all species.

I moved to Florida and joined Audubon Center for Birds of Prey in 2002 as a Raptor Clinic Technician and over the years have taken on more responsibilities such as volunteer & intern coordinator and after Dianna retired I took over all of the Center's permits. We continue to work together as FWRA Board Members and co-editors of our newsletter. I am owned by 2 cats Ty & Phin and an education Screech owl Sanford. Sanford has his own FB group, if you need a laugh or an "awwww" moment take a gander.



## Samantha Little, CVT

I started my love of the small, uncommon critters as a child. In high school I started helping the humane society to evaluate and socialize the small pocket pets brought in and would help to find homes for the pet rats. Those little ratties that needed extra attention medically always came home with me until they had recovered.

I became a certified technician and graduated from Madison area technical college in 2002 and hoped to find a vet practice that worked with exotics. I was fortunate to find a vet practice in my Wisconsin hometown that treated cats, dogs, exotic pets, and wildlife. One of the vets was an avian vet who had a strong connection with the falconry community. As I learned more about the raptors and other avian wildlife that were admitted I was hooked. I soon became the only technician who wanted to care for the birds that were admitted even getting the opportunity to drive injured eagles up to the Minnesota Raptor Center during snowstorms. As my passion grew, I decided to take an internship at the Wildlife Center of Virginia.



In 2005 my life changed when I finally found my bird "home" and moved to Florida to become part of the team at Audubon Center for Birds of Prey. I love not only getting to care for the patients at the center but I also am a bit of a lab nerd. When Dianna retired I became the Centers Conservation Specialist and help oversee the rehabilitation and seasonal staff. I also sit on the FWRA board helping prepare for and teach at the symposium.

When I'm not all consumed by birds at work then my husband Jason and I are all consumed by rabbits. We started having pet rabbits in 2013, thanks Leslie Johnson you have created a monster lol, and now are owned by two bunnies Taylor and Kira and 2 Goffin cockatoos Howie and Joey.

# GETTING TO KNOW YOU SPOTLIGHT

FWRA Associate Membership Questionnaire



## **Goose Creek Wildlife Sanctuary**

Where is your facility located? We are home based at 830 Watt Drive, Tallahassee, FL 32303

**Is your facility State licensed?** Yes, state and federally licensed but not USDA

**Who is the current licensee/permit holder?** Margaret "Noni" Beck

**Is your facility open to the public?** No, we are not open to the public

**Do you/would your facility allow FWRA members (with their current membership card) free admission and "behind the scenes" tours if prescheduled?** There are currently no opportunities for this as we are not open to the public.

**How long has your facility/organization been doing wildlife rehabilitation?** 29 years

**Does your facility also do public education?** Yes

**Can you share those methods with us? (Virtual, in person, onsite programs, festivals etc.?)**

Onsite programs

**What is the approximate number of intakes your facility receives annually?** 550

**What animal or species does your facility receive the most?** Eastern Gray squirrels

**What are the top 3 reasons your facility receives animals?** Hit by car, orphaned, attacked by another animal

**Do you specialize in any particular species?** Can you share with us what they are? Gray squirrels

**What are the biggest challenges?** Fundraising? Volunteer/staff retention? Training? Enclosures?  
Fundraising

**Does your facility have a paid staff?** No

**Are there volunteer and/or internship opportunities?** Yes

**Are the internships credited/unaccredited?** Credited

**If so, can you please share the contact information for this to share with FWRA members?**

Volunteers receive high school or college credits

**Are you okay with sharing your facility information to FWRA membership and FWRA members to provide the public in your area seeking assistance?** Yes

**Website [www.goosecreekwildlifesanctuary.org](http://www.goosecreekwildlifesanctuary.org) and on  
Facebook [Goose Creek Wildlife Sanctuary](#) | Facebook**

# Storm Prep - it's never too early to be prepared

By Phyllis Benton, St. John, Virgin Islands

Dealing with the aftermath of a bad storm is never easy. You cannot be over prepared. Planning is the best way to protect our animals, our volunteers, and our belongings so we can continue to function.

For wildlife rehabilitators, prep needs are somewhat unique and each of us have our own specific lists for preparation. What, you don't have a hurricane prep list for your facility? Well, let us help you get started. Here are a few good, general lists of hurricane-prep basics that you can pull from:

<https://www.ready.gov/kit>

## Disaster Supply Kit Checklist | Florida Disaster

And here is a list that is more specific for wildlife rehabbers. You can download this word document and tweak it to fit your needs. Be sure to update it every year.



**HAVE A PLAN** share your [FWC CAPTIVE WILDLIFE CRITICAL INCIDENT/DISASTER PLAN](http://myfwc.com) (myfwc.com) (required of all new and renewal Florida applicants) with your volunteers and employees. Who will do what; when does the plan get activated; who is making the decision to put the plan into action? Whether you are part of a large facility or stand-alone rehabber, planning is essential and required in Florida!

**A. THINK AHEAD:** Where should, or could you go if you need to evacuate? Check ahead of time with several rehab friends or close family members and see if they will have space for you and your caged evacuees. Have sites picked in several locations and choose which one you will go to based on the path of the storm and recommendations from local government agencies and Emergency Operations Centers.

**B. REGULATIONS** - Remember State and Federal Rules and Regulations are still in effect during an emergency, so use common sense. This includes any regulations concerning moving animals in or out of state. Florida regulates what comes into the state but not out. Likewise, other states may require permission to bring wildlife into their state.

**C. FOOD** – regular food supplies and deliveries may be interrupted for some time. Keep a supply of non-perishables and lots of water for you and the animals. Decisions must be based on your individual situation. You may wish to store some food away from your area; do you know a near-by facility that has a generator on their freezer; you may be able to store some emergency frozen food there. Some formulas are available in small cans, a good idea when refrigeration may be a problem, and there may be short-term substitutes for food to help get you through a tough period, post storm.

**D. ANIMALS** - Release all animals that are ready several days before a possible storm to give them time to “settle down”. They are better off in the wild than being dragged around in crates by humans in a stressful situation. For animals that remain in care, are any infants? How will you keep them warm and heat formula (if mammals)? Be prepared to take in more for care as the storm takes its toll.

**E. KNOW HOW TO GET HELP AND HAVE A WAY TO REACH OUT:** The FWRA Emergency Wellness Check Committee will check in on you if the storm is scheduled to hit in your area. Please be sure that all of your contact information has been updated; just send your updated contact info to membership@fwra.org so we can check up on you in the event of a storm in your area.

**F. COMMUNICATIONS** - even if you lose power, you may have a working telephone landline during or after a storm. To take advantage of this, make sure you have a basic phone that does not require electricity to operate. You can also forward your incoming calls to your mobile phone so that you will not miss calls. Charge up any portable computers or cell phones prior to the storm and keep car chargers and adaptors handy.

**G. CAGING AND TRANSPORTATION** – Do you need to evacuate animals in your care? Make sure you have enough crates and carriers. Check for needed hardware or use plastic zip ties. An assorted supply of folded, sturdy cardboard boxes is often a big help. Decide what vehicle(s) you will be using and make sure all the carriers fit. Be sure that the vehicle(s) have air-conditioning that circulates adequately. Choose your caging bedding carefully. Will you be able to wash towels, or would you be better using newspaper? Lastly, do you know anyone with big four-wheeler vehicles to help get back to your place if roads are bad?

**H. THE CLEAN UP** – you can never have enough tarps, shade cloth, bleach or trash bags. There may not be trash pick-up for several weeks. Locate the nearest land fill. Contact your carcass disposal company for their emergency pickup options. If you’ve never used a chainsaw, or any other potentially dangerous equipment, an emergency is not the time to learn. Be prepared; invest in a good quality product and learn how to use it safely prior to hurricane season.

**I. POWER** – Do you have a generator, including adaptors that you need? Be sure it is running smoothly with fresh fuel (add fuel stabilizer before storing away after each hurricane season). Practice hooking up your generator – it’s harder than you think. Be sure to have enough good condition heavy duty extension cords that are adequate gauges and ratings to carry the load. Only store gasoline if it is safe for you to do so in your situation. Buy gas cans ahead of time, they will be in short supply. Don’t forget a supply of 2 stroke oil for the gas if that’s what your generator requires.

The following are some shared collective ideas from our members compiled over the years on how to prepare. Use this as a start for your own list that can be modified and adapted to your personal needs.

# Thank you to our Associate Members

**All Paws Rescue & Sanctuary**  
[www.AllPawsWildlifeRescue.org](http://www.AllPawsWildlifeRescue.org)

**Emerald Coast Wildlife Refuge**  
[www.emeraldcoastwildliferefuge.org](http://www.emeraldcoastwildliferefuge.org)

**St. John Wildlife Rehabilitation**  
[St. John Wildlife Rehabilitation/Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/StJohnWildlifeRehabilitation/)

**Audubon Center for Birds of Prey**  
[www.auduboncenterforbirdsofprey.org](http://www.auduboncenterforbirdsofprey.org)

**Florida Keys Wild Bird Center**  
[www.missionwildbird.com](http://www.missionwildbird.com)

**Wildlife, Inc.**  
[www.wildlifeinc.org](http://www.wildlifeinc.org)

**Avian Recondition Center**  
[www.arc4raptors.org](http://www.arc4raptors.org)

**Florida Wildlife Hospital**  
[www.floridawildlifehospital.org](http://www.floridawildlifehospital.org)

**Wildlife Rehabilitation Center of Central Florida**  
[www.wildlifecenterflorida.org](http://www.wildlifecenterflorida.org)

**Back To Nature Wildlife Refuge**  
[www.btnwildlife.org](http://www.btnwildlife.org)

**Goose Creek Wildlife Sanctuary**  
[www.goosecreekwildlifesanctuary.org](http://www.goosecreekwildlifesanctuary.org)

**Wildlife Sanctuary of NW Fla.**  
[www.Pensacolawildlife.com](http://www.Pensacolawildlife.com)

**Big Cat Rescue**  
[www.bigcatrescue.org](http://www.bigcatrescue.org)

**Hirschfeld Veterinary Consultants**  
<https://m.facebook.com/DrBeth-Hirschfeld/>

**Woodland Wonders of Wildlife Rehabilitation**  
[woodlandwonders.org](http://woodlandwonders.org)

**Busch Wildlife Center**  
[www.buschwildlife.org](http://www.buschwildlife.org)

**Melinda's Wildlife Rehabilitation Center**  
<https://www.facebook.com/melinaswildliferehabilitationcenter/>

**Care & Rehabilitation of Wildlife**  
 CROW Clinic

**Creature Safe Place**  
[creaturesafeplace.org](http://creaturesafeplace.org)

**Peace River Wildlife Center**  
[www.prwildlife.org](http://www.prwildlife.org)

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