

Pelican Talk



CELEBRATING
40 YEARS

*of Serving Native
Florida Wildlife*



Pelican Harbor Seabird Station is dedicated to the rescue, rehabilitation and release of sick, injured or orphaned brown pelicans, seabirds, and other native wildlife and the preservation and protection of these species through educational and scientific means.



A portion of this newsletter is funded by an education grant from the Miami-Dade County Water and Sewer, Recycling and Solid Waste Departments.

Pelican Harbor Seabird Station is located in a Miami-Dade County Park. We are grateful to Miami-Dade County Parks Department for the use of the facility and for our partnership that has allowed us to focus on our mission and the well-being of our patients.



Pelican Harbor
SEABIRD STATION

1279 NE 79th St. Causeway, Miami, FL 33138
305-751-9840 | www.PelicanHarbor.org





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Cheers to 40 Years! Celebrate Our 40th Anniversary at Pelican Party 2019!

Pelican Harbor Seabird Station is proud to be celebrating 40 years of service to native wildlife and our community! We will be ramping up the festivities at our annual Pelican Party on Saturday April 13th at the Miami Shores Country Club 6:30-9:30pm. Guests will walk the red carpet and enjoy a fabulous evening of food, music, entertainment and our popular silent auction, all to help protect injured wildlife! Join elected officials, philanthropists, and diverse members of the community coming together to celebrate and support the work of Pelican Harbor Seabird Station.

Sponsorships start at \$1,000 and offer many great benefits. General Admission tickets are \$175 per ticket. For an extra special evening, VIP tickets are available for \$250 each and include access to our VIP Champagne Reception offering unlimited champagne, passed appetizers, additional entertainment, and early access to the silent auction!

We hope you will join us at Pelican Party 2019! Please contact Teresa Kowall at teresa@pelicanharbor.org or by phone at (305) 762-7633 or visit the website at pelicanharbor.org/pelicanparty2019 for more information!



Pelican Party
Silent Auction
It's for the birds!

We are also seeking donated items for our silent auction.

The minimum value is \$100 per item. Desired items include restaurant certificates, hotel offers, spa/gym/beauty packages, eco-tours, boat tours, professional consultations, framed art, gift baskets, classy pelican/bird themed items, and more! If you are interested in donating an item, please contact Teresa Kowall.



Pelican Party

APRIL 13, 2019
 MIAMI SHORES COUNTRY CLUB

CELEBRATING 40 YEARS
of Serving Native Florida Wildlife



Experience Miami's Legendary Bird Key Rookery & Magic City Skyline on Our Sunset Cruises

Make plans to join us on one of our popular cruises and experience stunning skyline and sunset views while learning about local wildlife. Enjoy a beautiful 2-hour sunset, birding, and skyline cruise aboard Miami Dade Parks' Pelican Island Skipper as we tour Biscayne Bay and scan the mangrove shoreline of the Bird Key rookery for brown pelicans, magnificent frigatebirds, and more than 30 other species of birds while taking in the beauty of the Miami skyline from the water at night.

SUNSET CRUISE



**Saturday
March 16**
6:30-8:30 p.m.

FULL MOON CRUISES



**Wednesday
March 20**
6:30-8:30 p.m.



**Friday
April 19**
6:30-8:30 p.m.

SUNSET CRUISE



**Saturday
April 27**
6:30-8:30 p.m.

*Space is limited, so buy your tickets now! \$40 per person.
More details at www.PelicanHarbor.org or call 305-751-9840.*

Natural History Speaker Series Continues



Join us for the final presentations of our 2018-19 Natural History Speaker Series. Florida-based scientists will present on a variety of topics at **Pelican Harbor Marina's multi-purpose room**. Free admission but advance registration requested at education@pelicanharbor.org.

Wednesday, April 3 6:30-8:00 p.m.



**Cape Florida
Banding Station**
Liz Golden

Wednesday, May 1 6:30-8:00 p.m.



**Exploring the
Powerful Vision
of Raptors**
Michael Billington



Keeping Baby Birds Safe



Spring has sprung here in Miami, and with it comes the peeps and chirps of baby birds. But did you know that not all young birds are in trouble if they are found out of their nest? Most young songbirds go through a short “fledgling” phase after they leave their nest. During this stage, the birds are exploring and learning to fly as their parents keep a close watch and help them find food. Birds in this stage will be fully feathered with just a bit of downy fluff. If you see them and they look healthy, please leave them alone so they can learn to be a bird!

However, sometimes accidents happen and baby birds will find themselves out of their nest too early. These birds will be “naked” and not fully feathered. As long as the young bird does not have any apparent signs of injury, you can plop them back in the nest. Songbirds do not have a developed sense of smell and will not abandon a nest if you touch the babies. If the parents are in the area but the nest has been destroyed or you cannot reach it, you can fashion a makeshift nest out of a Tupperware container and some moss. Just make sure to put drainage holes in the bottom! If you find a bird that has been attacked by a cat or dog, is bleeding, or visibly injured, please contact the Seabird Station immediately or your local wildlife rehabilitator for help!

Rodenticides Don't Just Kill Rodents!

Rodenticide poisoning is a common ailment that we see in raptors here at the Seabird Station. Hawks and owls will unknowingly ingest rodents that have consumed poison set out by home owners. Some common clinical symptoms are lethargy, neurologic signs, respiratory paralysis, and general weakness.

Patient number seventy-two for the year was a Broad-winged Hawk suffering from rodenticide poisoning. Upon intake, her symptoms were minor but the next day her eyes were swollen shut and she was unable to stand or even hold her head up. We administered Vitamin K, activated charcoal, and subcutaneous/oral fluids over the course of her stay. After thirteen days in care, the Broad-winged Hawk made a miraculous recovery and was released back into the wild!

Hawks and owls act as a natural rodent control, so remember to avoid the use of rodenticides and practice safer rodent removal methods. One method would be to place an owl box on your property. This will promote owls to populate the area and naturally control the rodent population.





Aquatic Turtles Chained Together in Alarming Case of Animal Cruelty



In late November we received two freshwater turtles that were chained together and found frantically swimming in opposite directions in Biscayne Bay. Each turtle had a hole drilled in the edge of its shell, where a lock was attached to a chain that contained a mysterious bag in the middle. Staff confirmed this was part of a religious ceremony due to the bag's contents, which included two voodoo dolls, cinnamon cloves, and two photos of an unknown couple. Wildlife Rehabilitation manager Yaritza Acosta watched as staff cut open the bag that was attached between the turtles. "We have seen interesting cases before, but I have never seen one like this," Acosta said.

The juvenile male peninsula cooter was released at a freshwater lake at Amelia Earhart park after 71 days in care for shell rot and a respiratory infection.

In 2018 Pelican Harbor Seabird Station received 1,447 patients from the Greater Miami area. Most of the injuries were the result of indirect human impacts, such as window strikes, rodenticide poisoning, cat attacks, etc. Fishing tackle and monofilament injuries remain the primary reason pelicans, and seabirds are admitted for treatment. However, an osprey, vulture, and two hawks came in with gunshot injuries in recent

months. "It's always difficult when we receive patients that are admitted as a result of animal cruelty. South Florida's native birds and wildlife are to be revered and respected, not shot or chained together," said Chris Boykin, Executive Director. Pelican Harbor Seabird Station treated 100 to 400 Federally Endangered brown pelicans per year between 1980 to 2000 under the leadership of founders Harry & Darlene Kelton. Eventually, other species began to trickle in and today more than 200 species of native birds have been treated, including 112 species in 2018, which included six new species for the center. Harry Kelton still serves as an active board member of Miami's only native wildlife hospital, which has five full-time staff and is open daily from 9am-5pm. There are many ways to be proactive when it comes to protecting native Miami wildlife. If you see an injured animal, call your nearest wildlife rehab facility immediately. Learn more about protecting wildlife at PelicanHarbor.org.



Looking for a unique gift? Adopt a bird!

Pepe & Enrique \$300



Pepe and Enrique are famous male pelicans that have been building their nest together for over 18 years. Visit Pelicanharbor.org to watch them on our Pelican Cam!

Monroe \$200



Monroe the American white pelican came to us from Iowa on a Delta Airlines Cargo flight after she missed migration due to foot and wing issues.

Larry \$150



Larry is an adult male brown pelican that lost vision in one eye.

Luna \$125



Luna is an adult female Great horned owl that came to us with only one eye.

Mowgli \$100



Mowgli is an adult female Eastern screech owl that came to us with a broken wing that resulted from a cat attack.

Charlie \$75



Charlie is an orphaned Eastern Bluejay that was illegally imprinted by a well-meaning south Florida resident.

While we treat upwards of 1,500 patients a year at the Seabird Station, there are a few cases where patients are in otherwise good health but can't be released back into the wild due to a broken wing or missing/damaged eye, which renders them unable to fly or hunt in the absence of binocular vision. A few of these make it into our Education Ambassador Animal Program. We have nineteen permanent residents including ten brown pelicans, one American white pelican, three Eastern screech

owls, and a Great horned owl. By adopting one of these precious birds, you are helping to offset the cost of their care, medications, veterinary exams, and medical treatments. Sponsor a bird today! It makes a great anniversary or birthday gift and comes with an 8x10 photo and adoption certificate, as well as a story about your bird. Visit our website to adopt one of these majestic birds or include a note in the enclosed envelope with your gift.

Our Vision

"As a trusted wildlife rehabilitation center, Pelican Harbor Seabird Station embodies professionalism, compassion, and integrity. Through innovation, education, and outreach, we provide the highest quality of patient care while promoting the importance of conservation in the community."

