

Pelican Talk



Tori with a great white heron



Gopher tortoise



Great horned owl



Mourning dove nestlings



Orphaned grey squirrels



Juvenile black-bellied plover



Northern Yellow bat



Orphaned Virginia opossums



Florida box turtle

FARREY'S
LIGHTING+BATH+HARDWARE

This edition of Pelican Talk is generously sponsored by Farrey's Lighting + Bath + Hardware. See inside to learn more about them ...

Pelican Talk

Third Quarter 2020

Pelican Harbor Seabird Station | 1279 NE 79th Street Causeway, Miami, FL 33138 | 305-751-9840 | PelicanHarbor.org |    

NEWSLETTER SPONSOR

FARREY'S LIGHTING+BATH+HARDWARE



Bud, Maria, Paige, and Kevin Farrey

We are grateful to Farrey's Lighting & Bath for their sponsorship of this newsletter and generous support over the past two decades. For the last 95 years, the Farrey's Family has served the South Florida community as the premier resource for lighting, bath, and hardware. They have a 130,000 square foot facility in North Miami, a 30,000 square foot facility in Coconut Grove, and the largest product selection and in-stock inventory.

Emily & John J. Farrey founded the first Farrey's in 1924 amongst the excitement of the first and now-historic high-rise buildings being built in Miami, with thousands of people migrating from the northern United States to the region, nearly doubling the 1920 population of 29,549 by 1923. A large part of Farrey's continued success and philanthropy is due to the ethics instilled by Emily and John J. Farrey - to provide services that go beyond the purchase and support of their South Florida community. The

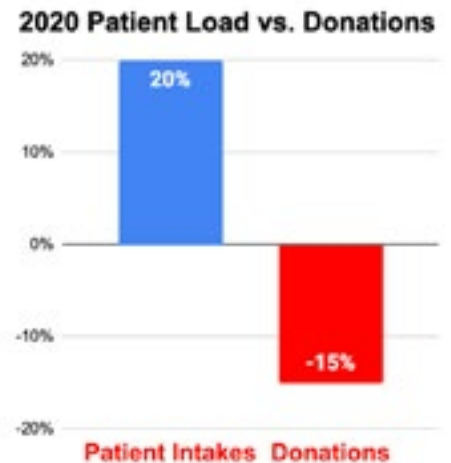
Farrey's Family continues this support through various local charities, including Pelican Harbor Seabird Station. Visit one of their amazing stores to support this century-old family business.



Farrey's has been helping light up Miami for over 95 years.

Double Your Donation!

If sleep pods from the sci-fi movies where available, I think most of us would be snoozing until 2021 as this year has not had a dearth of challenges. We are a 41-year-old institution and will get through the next 41 years. We understand the impact the pandemic has had on everyone and are grateful for your compassion and generosity. Donations to the Seabird Station are down 15% this year despite a 20% increase in patients, and that's on top of last year's 38% increase in patients!



Invest in our mission of saving native wildlife with a gift that is meaningful to you today. The best part is that it will be doubled, as the Batchelor Foundation has provided a dollar for dollar matching grant. There are multiple ways to give:

- 1. Cash donation via check, credit card, or even PayPal**
(accounting@pelicanharbor.org)
- 2. Transfer of stocks or annuities for greater tax relief benefits.**
Contact Development@pelicanharbor.org or call 305.762.7633 for more info.
- 3. A Facebook Fundraiser** is a great way to promote wildlife conservation and engage your network of friends, family, and co-workers in supporting our mission.
- 4. Employer Matching Gifts** Many corporations offer their employees the chance to donate to a charity that is important to them. Corporations will often match this donation if pledged correctly; some offer up to a dollar per dollar match up to \$2000 or more. We highly recommend you speak to your human relations department to see if a program like this is available to you. It is a great way to make your donations go even further and engage your business in our important conservation work.



Interested in sponsoring a wildlife habitat, room, or tree and our new facility? These gifts will also be doubled by the Batchelor and Deeks Family Foundations. Contact Christopher@pelicanharbor.org or 305.762.7633 for more info and a site visit.

Pelican Party

We're Taking the Fun Online November 9-15

By Stephanie Moure, Intake Coordinator

Join us for a fun week of virtual events leading up to our biggest annual fundraiser yet, held totally online. We'll have raffles, wine tasting, ambassador animal cameos, and more, all supporting our mission of treating sick, injured, and orphaned native wildlife! The nightly fun begins at 6 p.m. on Monday, November 9, and culminates with a fun-filled one-hour online event on Sunday, November 15, from 11 a.m. - Noon. We can't wait to see you there!



If you are reading this newsletter, you are most likely a bird lover, and you feel a responsibility to help support bird conservation. Birds are beautiful; they contribute significantly to the U.S. economy; they keep coral reefs alive, control insect populations, stabilize the climate, oxygenate air, and transform pollutants into nutrients.

Birds see the world differently than you and I. To birds, trees and sky reflected in glass appear to be habitat. They fly into windows at high speeds, and the loss of life is devastating. Collisions with glass windows, walls, and other structures kill up to a billion birds a year in the U.S. alone – making this one of the greatest human-caused threats to bird populations. Yet most Americans know little about this danger, and even fewer are aware of the solutions available to help prevent these deaths.

At home, solutions to help are simple, easy, cost-effective, and energy-efficient. Consider using window decals, film, and for the DIY aficionados, create bird-friendly patterns using beaded string, paint, or tape on your glass windows and doors. If you are designing a new building or replacing windows, research the professional solutions offered by architects. One elegant solution uses ultraviolet (UV) signals that birds see, and humans do not.

CALL TO ACTION – CONTACT YOUR SENATOR!

Time is running out as bird populations are declining worldwide. With an estimated 1,200 species facing extinction over the next century, and many more suffering from severe habitat loss, we must act now! You can help reduce bird collisions by **urging your U.S. Senators to co-sponsor The Bird-Safe Buildings Act (H.R. 919)**, which recently passed the U.S. House of Representatives and will reduce these deaths by requiring public buildings to incorporate bird-friendly building design and materials to protect our nation's birds. To complete the petition for **The Bird-Safe Building Act**, go to

abcbirds.org/action/petition-bird-safe-buildings

Bird Call

By Judith Gatti, Director of Development

Support The Bird-Safe Building Act and **SAVE THE BIRDS!**



Baby Seasons Throughout the Year

By Yaritza Acosta, Wildlife Rehabilitation Manager

While it may be true that springtime is our busiest time for baby birds, especially baby songbirds, breeding seasons vary slightly species to species. In late March, we start to see baby Northern Mockingbirds and Blue Jays admitted. By April and May, we get calls for various songbirds that have fallen from their nesting tree or are injured. In 2019 from March - June, we admitted 80 nestlings and 88 fledgling songbirds, with the most common species being Mockingbirds, Blue Jays, Grackles, and Mourning Doves.

This time of year, we also see an influx of calls for baby raptors. Last year, we admitted 18 nestlings and eight fledgling Cooper's Hawks and Screech Owls,



most of which admitted in May. Most seabirds are in the breeding season April to August. In June this year, we admitted 60 Least Tern eggs from a rooftop in Miami Beach, and luckily, we were able to re-nest them.

As for mammals, the opossum breeding season lasts for most of the year, ranging from January to November. One hundred eight orphaned infant opossums were admitted last year, 26% of them came in March. Grey Squirrels mate twice a year in spring and fall, and in 2019 we admitted 59 infant squirrels, with 67% of them coming in August and September.

Urban Nesting Adaptations

By Natalie Mahomar, Assistant Intake Coordinator

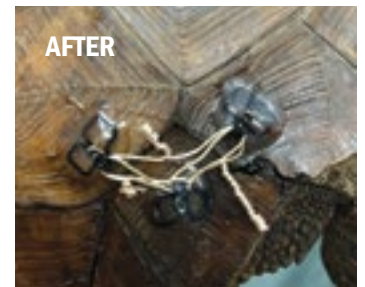


Urbanization has pushed bird populations to become extremely adaptable when it comes to nesting. From native to invasive species, birds have had to innovate their way around cement streets and mirrored glass windows. These disturbances have created a new wave of adaptation for some, while others were not so lucky and became extinct.

Due to habitat loss and fragmentation, birds have had to come up with new nesting strategies. Many birds must now compete for these new sites to nest successfully from cavity dwellers to beach nesters. Seabirds, like Least Terns and Black Skimmers, adapted to living on gravel roofs since humans and feral cat colonies have invaded their beaches for decades. This has caused major concern among researchers and requires vigilance and extreme efforts to avoid these critical species' extinction.

An Unexpected Fix!

By Hannah McDougall, Rescue & Release Coordinator



It's no secret. Wildlife rehabilitation centers need to be resourceful and often creative to come up with treatments for some injuries. This was the case of patient 20-1441, a Gopher Tortoise brought to the clinic with a fractured shell. This species is considered Threatened in Florida and is unfortunately often victims of vehicle collisions if their burrows are too close to a roadway. The top part of this tortoise's shell (the carapace) was fractured on the right caudal (near its back-end) scutes (bony shell plate). Using quick set epoxy, the staff placed three bra clasps next to the fracture site. Using wire, they were able to pull the fractured pieces together so that the shell will heal in the correct position. Any spaces left between fragments will heal via ossification of the coelomic membrane. As with anything a tortoise does, the healing process will be slow, but thanks to a brassiere's help, he should make a full recovery!



Planting a Wildlife Garden for our Future Home

By Kiki Mutis, Operations Manager

It is not every day that a wildlife rehabilitation organization gets to plan a 2.6-acre wildlife garden! Pelican Harbor was given such an opportunity to purchase our future home on the Little River's shores. Creating a Florida friendly wildlife habitat in a property of this size is not easy; the challenges are many!



to be removed and replaced with wildlife attracting natives. Our goal is to have the center even more verdant than it is now. The wildlife hospital environmental center will be a space where we can showcase what community members can do to attract wildlife into their yards, schools, and community.

Before developing the new hospital, we have to submit landscape plans to the City of Miami. First, we had the property surveyed to plot the location of the currently existing trees. We then had an arborist from Treage LCC identify each tree's species and measure its diameter at breast height, canopy cover, and general health. Including palms, there are over 200 trees on the property. Some trees are classified as invasive exotic species and will have

We are currently hosting volunteer workdays to remove non-native invasive plants, pick up trash, and trim dead fronds to beautify the property. If you are interested in volunteering at one of our property clean-ups, please contact Kiki Mutis at Kiki@pelicanharbor.org



Clover Lawns a Gentler, Greener Alternative

By Doug Giraldo, Wildlife Rehabilitator

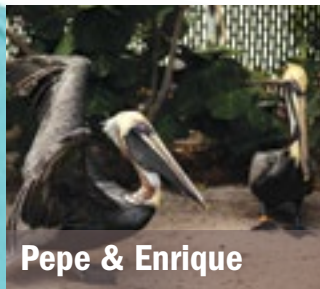
As stewards to our environment and the beings that we coexist with, we all (hopefully) look for ways to reduce our immediate footprint and impact on our neighborhoods. One such way that is overlooked is the implantation of clover lawns over traditional grass lawns. Upfront clover lawns require less water, do not require fertilizer, stay green yearlong, and require little maintenance.

Clover lawns attract important pollinators such as bees and other helpful bug buddies that will ward off less friendly pests. These lawns enrich the soil and keep plants healthy and lush. They are also very cheap!

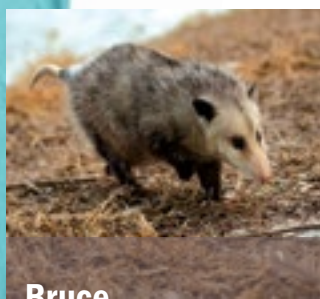


Represent Your Fave Ambassador Animal with Our New Tee!

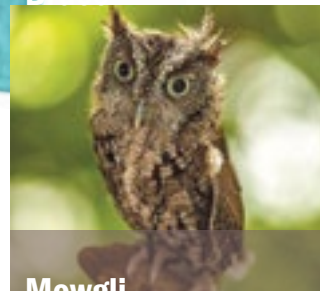
By Stephanie Moure, Intake Coordinator



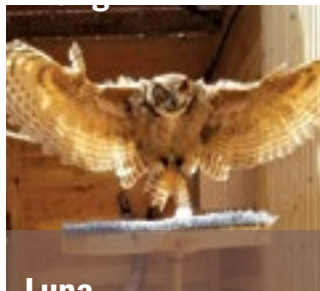
Pepe & Enrique



Bruce



Mowgli



Luna



Humberto & Rosario

Pelican Harbor Seabird Station has teamed up with designers at Bonfire to create this incredible Ambassador Animal T-shirt! All of our Ambassador Animals are patients who suffered permanent injuries, making them non-releasable. They have found sanctuary by becoming an education animal here at PHSS, teaching the community the importance of their species and how to protect them.

Represent your favorite PHSS Ambassador Animal by wearing this t-shirt featuring **Pepe the Pelican**, **Bruce the Virginia Opossum**, **Mowgli the Eastern Screech Owl**, **Luna the Great Horned Owl**, & **Humberto the Florida Box Turtle**. All proceeds go to the care of our ambassadors and the 2,000 patients we see each year! Adult & youth sizes are available at:

www.Bonfire.com/PHSS



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.

Clinic Internships: Teach | Train | Care

By Tori Fields, Wildlife Rehabilitator



Pelican Harbor Seabird Station is a proud teaching hospital that accepts students from all over the country. Our students learn the detailed operations of our wildlife hospital, which includes a tremendous amount of hands-on experience. Students at Pelican Harbor Seabird Station are trained to treat and care for sick, injured, and orphaned wildlife. Our hospital staff consists of state-certified wildlife rehabilitators who take teaching as seriously as they take their jobs.

We are a small, close-knit hospital, which allows our students to get one-on-one training. A major part of our students' experience is their participation in labs such as bandaging, wound care, and avian/mammalian anatomy. For most of our students, this is their first experience with wildlife medicine, and we ensure that we cover all of the basics that allow them the opportunity to grow in their careers.

We have amazing alumni of students that have come through our hospital that we now include in the PHSS family. I want to say a special thank you to our current interns. During the current pandemic, they have truly stepped up and have given more hours than required for their internships while staying longer to lend a helping hand. I am so grateful that I have the privilege to teach and learn from these eager and dedicated students.

