

Pelican Talk

Summer 2021

The
Batchelor
Match is
Back!

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NEWS FROM YOUR LOCAL NATIVE WILDLIFE CENTER

Pelican Talk



Your (Doubled) Donations at Work!

By Hannah McDougall, Communications and Outreach Coordinator

Without the help of our community, Pelican Harbor Seabird Station (PHSS) would not be able to carry out our important mission of rescuing and rehabilitating Miami's native wildlife. We are experiencing rapid growth, with a 20% increased patient load in the past year alone. In response to this, we have greatly expanded our operating budget in order to keep up with the increasing demands of our soaring patient numbers.

PHSS's daily operating costs exceed \$2,500, with 64% going directly to animal care and clinic costs. Costs range from

medication and specialized veterinary exams, to a diverse variety of nutritious foods for each patient's customized diet plan, with an average cost of care of \$379 per patient.

The Batchelor Match is Back!

Thanks to the generosity of The Batchelor Foundation, \$70,000 of your donations will now be **DOUBLED** to make twice the impact. Your dollars make a difference!



Patient Highlight: Bald Eagles #706 and #855

By Hannah McDougall, Communications and Outreach Coordinator

On April 11th, the high winds of a thunderstorm severely damaged an eagle nest in Pembroke Pines, resulting in a large majority of the nest collapsing and causing one of the eaglets to fall over 30 feet to the ground. A week later, the second eaglet fell when the remainder of the nest collapsed. Thankfully, the first eaglet to have fallen was quickly rescued with the help of Florida FWC and the Pembroke Pines Fire Department and was transferred to Pelican Harbor. The eaglet had suffered a fractured clavicle, had internal parasites, and was slightly anemic.



As for the second eaglet, there was no sign of it after it had fallen, and we were beginning to suspect the worst as the days went on. After transferring the original eaglet to the Audubon Center for Birds of Prey for continued care and flight conditioning, we got a phone call that the second eagle had been found! Miraculously, it was alive and well after having spent four days alone on the ground. After its condition was stabilized, it was also transferred to Maitland to be reunited with its sibling and begin its rehabilitation journey to eventually be released back to the wild.



Guided Behind-the-Scenes Tours are Back!

By Stephanie Moure, Wildlife Intake & IT Manager

Pelican Harbor Seabird Station (PHSS) has changed and grown so much in the last 41 years! Telling our story to our supporters while meeting our ambassador animals, visiting the habitats of patients that are currently in care, and learning about these patient's recovery really brings our work into view. We value tours as such an important experience in getting to know the work that we do and are so excited to begin welcoming our supporters back for our very special and very limited behind-the-scenes tours!

While on a tour, you'll be led by one of our trained staff members and learn about Pelican Harbor Seabird Station's history, get to meet

a couple of our ambassador animals up close, and even see Luna, our Ambassador Great Horned Owl, swoop down in front of you to eat her dinner. You'll get a look at our outdoor habitats with patients currently in rehabilitation and learn about the different injuries they're recovering from. If a patient has

made a full recovery and is ready to be released on the day of your tour, we will invite you to join us for the release at the end of your visit! Although PHSS is small, we treat over 2,300 patients annually and average about 86 patients in care on a daily basis. Your purchase of a tour to visit PHSS goes directly to helping all the animals that are currently in our care.

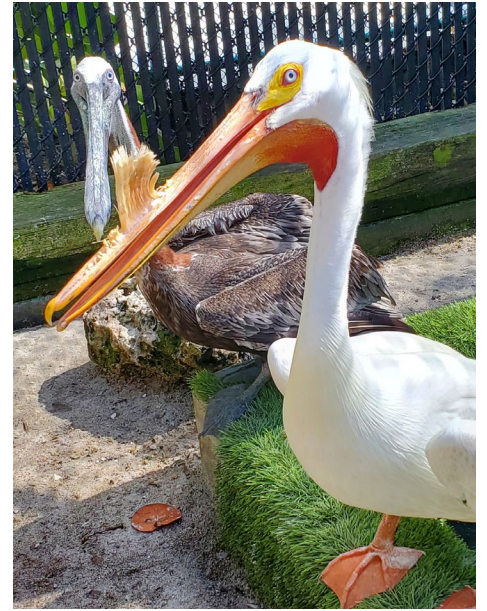
Our tours are limited and are \$100 for a group of up to 4 guests. If you'd like to schedule a tour, please visit pelicanharbor.org/onsite-tours or email Stephanie@pelicanharbor.org. We hope to see you soon!



Ambassador Spotlight: Monroe

By Yaritza Acosta, Rehabilitation Manager

If you have visited our facility in the past 5 years you probably have seen our non-releasable American White Pelican ambassador, Monroe. Monroe was transferred to us from a wildlife rehab facility in Iowa after suffering a wing injury that caused her to miss her migration South for the winter. She suffered trauma to her left wing that caused possible nerve damage and poor feather growth and because she was non-flighted, she developed sores on her feet from being grounded long term, a condition called bumblefoot or pododermatitis. After some months in our care, she was still unable to fly even



though her feet had healed and wing had improved. After further assessment of her temperament and health, our veterinarian deemed her non-releasable and we decided to add her to our education permit.

During her transition into our ambassador pelican flock, she took a liking to our education Brown Pelican, Pepe, and they formed a bond. She might have been drawn to his quirky personality. They are always by each other's side and she often gets protective of him. During the breeding season they even build a nest together. Named after Marilyn and her iconic white dress, Monroe is big and beautiful and if you come by for a pre-scheduled tour in the next few weeks you can still see her in her dazzling breeding plumage.

Support Our Capital Campaign!

This is a great way to honor a loved one and all gifts are being matched by the Deeks Foundation. Gifts of stock, QCD's and multi-year gifts are great ways to support the future of PHSS.

Visit our website for more info or contact
Christopher@pelicanharbor.org or 786.942.9156.

pelicanharbor.org/capitalcampaign

Funds raised to date: \$6,750,000

Goal: \$10,000,000



Dive Deep Into Diagnostics at PHSS

By *Tori Fields, Wildlife Rehabilitator*

There are many different components when it comes to properly diagnosing a patient, especially to diagnose what we cannot see.

Upon intake, Mourning Doves, Crows, and bird-eating raptors will receive crop swabs. We use a damp sterile Q-tip to gently swab the inside of their crop. The sample is then placed on a microscope slide and reviewed carefully to screen for Trichomoniasis (Trich). This is a naturally occurring parasite in our environment that could lead to plaques in the mouth, preventing the patient from breathing or eating.

Fecals are also an important part of diagnosing a patient with parasites. If patients are overrun with parasites they could show a number of symptoms such as diarrhea, weight loss, melena (bloody stool), or lethargy. We will collect a small sample from a patient's stool and make a fecal float using a special solution of Sodium Nitrate. Fecal floats are focused on finding the eggs of the parasite. Once the sample is created, it is put onto a microscope slide to search for the eggs. Patients may have more than one type of parasite, so we have to be sure to identify all of them in the sample.



Using drawn blood samples, we perform Packed Cell Volume (PCV) and Total protein (TP) tests. These tests allow us to get an overall view of the patient's health and help us determine the best course of treatment. If PCV levels are low, it could indicate the patient is suffering from blood loss or anemia. If PCV levels are high, it indicates that the patient is dehydrated. Similarly, low TP values indicate blood loss or starvation, and high values may indicate dehydration or inflammation.

Collectively, these diagnostic tools allow us to gain insight into a patient's condition and help to determine the best course of action to ensure a positive outcome for each case!

Gratitude Chain

By *Kiki Mutis, Operations Manager*



We are so grateful for every chain-link in the rescue, rehabilitation, and release process that makes Pelican Harbor Seabird Station so strong. Thank you to the family who saw an injured bird hiding in the bushes while walking their dog and knew it needed help. Thank you to the 311 operators that directed that person to the Seabird Station. Thank you to our intake team that answers the phones, gets all the patient information, and activates the rescue process. Thank you to the Uber drivers or Operation, Rescue & Release volunteers for containing and transporting the injured animal to the clinic when the finder can not. Thank you to our wildlife rehabilitators, interns, and veterinarians for diagnosing and giving the best medical treatment possible at the ICU. Thank you to our volunteers for preparing the meals for our patients and keeping the outside enclosures super clean.

Thank you to our grant writer and accountants for ensuring every donated dollar is accounted for. Thank you to our volunteers that release the animals once healed back into the environment. Thank you to our dedicated Board of Directors that give their time (and dollars) to this organization. Lastly, thank you to all of our donors that make every treatment and release possible with your generous donations. Thanks to you, we give sick, injured, and orphaned native wildlife a second chance to be free.

Free Security

By *Douglas Giraldo, Wildlife Rehabilitator*



For over 40 years, Pelican Harbor Seabird Station has been a haven for pelicans. It has been an ongoing joke amongst staff that the birds know this, and willingly come to us when they need help. Whatever the reason, wild Brown pelicans have been our constant companions here at the station, perching on our roofs silently watching the work we do.

Because of this, pelican nests form on top of our permanent Pelican enclosure almost every year, giving staff and the public a rare opportunity to watch the rearing process during mating season. It's a magical and beautiful time to witness as these miniature pterodactyls grow and form into the strong regal birds we know them as.

As these new babies start fledging and learning to fly, they come down to ground and the sounds of webbed feet hitting the pavement fill the air. Before venturing out on their own, the new sentinels patrol our sidewalks, occasionally nipping at any volunteer who comes too close!

PHSS Merch Makes a Unique Gift!

Support our work by purchasing your very own PHSS gear. Visit pelicanharbor.org/phss-shop to check out our new merchandise – including a limited edition Magnificent frigatebird shirt!



Pelican Harbor SEABIRD STATION

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



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.



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.

