

Pelican Talk

PHSS Purchases Little River Preserve for New Wildlife Hospital & Nature Center!

See inside for details ...



**DATE
CHANGE!**

**Pelican Party
November 14th**

*Our Annual Gala is moving to the fall—mark
your calendar and stay tuned for more details!*



*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 | PelicanHarbor.org



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2019 Year in Review

2019 was a busy and exciting year for us here at the Seabird Station. We treated 1,973 patients, a 38% increase from 2018. 77% of our patients were birds, 22% were mammals, and 1% were reptiles. We received fewer Brown Pelicans this past year – but our raptor intake increased by 52%.

Members of our dedicated Operation Rescue team helped to contain and transport over 200 patients to the Station in 2019. This accounted for 11% of our total intakes! With the help of this amazing group of volunteers, the



time that it takes for a patient to arrive at the Station is cut in half, meaning quicker care and higher chances of survival. Contact volunteer@pelicanharbor.org if you're interested in joining the group of 40 volunteers who participate in this program and help patients arrive safely and quickly at the Station. We'll train you on best handling techniques for safely securing injured wildlife.



Check out our 'Best 9 of 2019' pictures above according to our Instagram page. Follow us on Instagram, Facebook, YouTube, and Twitter to get an inside look into what goes on in the Station.

Help us welcome Basil, the newest member of our Educational Ambassador Animal Program!

When Basil first arrived at Pelican Harbor Seabird Station in October 2019, she was underweight at 30 grams. She arrived with her siblings after their mom was hit by a car and passed away on Miami Beach. Luckily someone knew to check the mother's pouch and Basil and her siblings arrived safely to the Station. After a few weeks of care, our eye vet noticed her right eye was cloudy and gray ... and suspected it was residual trauma from when her mother was hit by a car. The infected ulcer in her eye developed into cataracts and soon her eye was 'non visual.' While older opossums can potentially be released with one functioning



eye, this is not always the case with younger opossums. Our eye vet determined this injury on Basil made her chances of survival slim, and she was deemed unreleasable. Our staff has applied for the permits with FWC and USDA to keep her as an ambassador animal ... which is why you haven't seen her out at events yet. Here at the Station, she loves climbing, running on her wheel, eating veggies, and hanging out with our rehab staff. We are enamored with Basil and know you will be too when you meet her.

Please note, it is illegal to raise opossums at home.

Pelican Harbor Seabird Station Purchases 2.6-Acres for Future Home

The “Little River Preserve” was previously owned by Miami history icon Julia Tuttle.



Members of the Deeks Family Foundation touring the new property with PHSS board members. From left: Monica Deeks, Helene Valentine, Robert Glidewell, Marilyn Magil, Terry Deeks, and Ian Deeks.

We are delighted to share some wonderful news: Last month PHSS purchased a beautiful 2.6-acre riverfront property on the Little River, where we will build a new, state-of-art wildlife rehabilitation facility to serve our Miami community. This development is a testament to the legacy of PHSS founders **Darlene and Harry Kelton**, made possible by generous donations by **The Deeks Family Foundation, The Batchelor Foundation**, and **James E. Lockwood**.

Forty years ago, PHSS began as a small operation dedicated to treating sick, injured, and orphaned Brown Pelicans at a time when they faced extinction. We have treated more than 9,000 pelicans and celebrated their removal from the Federal Endangered Species List in 2009. South Florida is home to many other native and migrating birds that need our care, and that number is growing exponentially. PHSS now treats more than 225 different native species, and we have seen patient intakes increase by 38% in 2019.

While Miami-Dade County has been a generous partner to PHSS, our current 950-sq. ft. building was designed for treating 100-400 patients a year, and the outside aviaries

and pens were also constructed for pelicans. We have added smaller pens and modified several to support the diverse patient load seen today – but over the years it has become clear that the cramped space has become a limitation that would affect the quality of care we can offer, both to wildlife and to the local community.

We have spent several years exploring solutions, and finally the perfect property became available: the “Little River Preserve” at 399 NE 82nd Terrace. The property was previously owned by Miami history icon Julia Tuttle, and it is an urban oasis. The site is pastoral with open fields and several large trees; the 2.6-acres provide plenty of room for flight cages and appropriate habitats for our various patients and education ambassador animals. We were fortunate to find such an idyllic green space, so close to our current home and volunteer base. Everyone who’s visited it has walked away inspired by its potential to advance PHSS’s mission and reputation.

Our new wildlife hospital and nature center will be a LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Certified



Pelican Harbor Seabird Station Purchases 2.6-Acres for Future Home



Peggy Ochandarena with a stand of historic pond apple trees on the Little River. Peggy took advantage of the matching funds and sponsored the X-Ray room in memory of her brother Ray.



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Marcus and Jane McCarthy of the Deeks Family Foundation.

Platinum building with a rooftop terrace for social functions, sunset, and full moon events. It will also serve as a nature park and education center. As with our current facility, the new site will be open daily from 9-5 and free to the public. We hope to move into the new facilities in 2022.

Of course, such an endeavor relies on the support of our donors. None of this would be possible without **Terry and Monica Deeks** and their children at **The Deeks Family Foundation**, who contributed \$1.6 million towards the purchase of the land and have offered an additional \$1.4 million dollar matching grant. We are also grateful to **The Batchelor Foundation**, which has pledged \$1 million to the capital campaign with \$500,000 being a matching grant. The ongoing support of these two foundations means the world to PHSS and the combined \$1.9 million in matching funds will enable us to develop the property and new facility to maximize patient care and the visitor experience. Capital campaign gifts start at \$1,000. Supporters interested in contributing to this match are encouraged to do so on top of annual fund gifts, which remain crucial to operations, especially as intakes continue to grow.

We look forward to honoring these and other major donors on the new facility, and so we invite donors to consider sponsoring rooms in the building, as well as aviaries, flight cages, and pelican pools. A brick campaign will also be launched in 2021, allowing donors to contribute and partner with us in the new building at the \$100 level. Please contact Christopher@pelicanharbor.org for more details or to schedule a site visit.

As we begin this transition, we remain deeply grateful to our friends and partners at Miami-Dade County for all of their support and partnership over the decades. We'd like to extend a special thanks to **Chairwoman Audrey Edmonson**, **County Commissioner Sally Heyman**, and **Parks Director Maria Nardi** for their leadership and being champions of our work. It takes a village, and we wouldn't be where we are today without their support and that of community members like you who continually show compassion for wildlife and dedication to our beautiful natural world. THANK YOU. We are excited about this new adventure together, and we can't wait to show you the new home of PHSS!



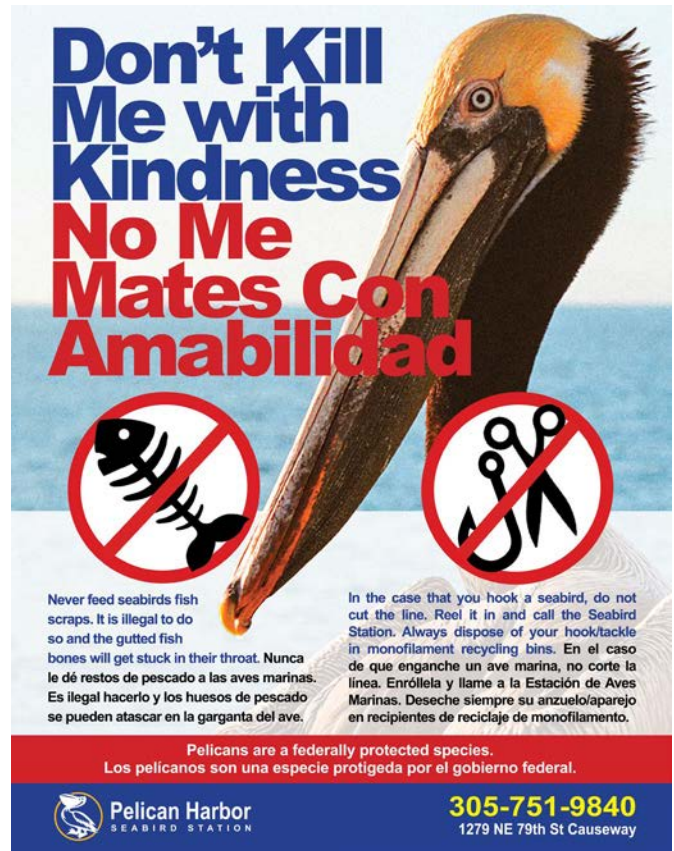
Raising Awareness to Reduce Fishing Line Injuries and Death

By Doug Giraldo

The continuous goal for us here at the Seabird Station is the protection of wildlife. Our urban landscape is continuously expanding and interactions with wildlife are ever-increasing. The results of this encroachment are rarely in favor of wildlife, and through our clinical work we can provide many animals a second chance when these two worlds collide. It is our hope that we can ultimately prevent or lessen instances where wildlife get injured through human dealings. Our most common injury for seabirds is hook and tackle related injuries.

Ordinance Sec. 14A-1 is a newly adopted law spearheaded by PHSS to inform the public on proper ways to deal with deadly discarded tackle. Fishing shops are now required to display appropriate signage that informs the consumer on how to properly dispose of fish and tackle. By getting this information in the hands of the public we can lessen the negative impacts we are having on our native wildlife.

Help us help them! If you know of any fishing tackle stores and would like to help in distributing these signs please email doug@pelicanharbor.org.



Don't Kill Me with Kindness
No Me Mates Con Amabilidad

Never feed seabirds fish scraps. It is illegal to do so and the gutted fish bones will get stuck in their throat. Nunca le dé restos de pescado a las aves marinas. Es ilegal hacerlo y los huesos de pescado se pueden atascar en la garganta del ave.

In the case that you hook a seabird, do not cut the line. Reel it in and call the Seabird Station. Always dispose of your hook/tackle in monofilament recycling bins. En el caso de que enganche un ave marina, no corte la línea. Enróllala y llame a la Estación de Aves Marinas. Deseche siempre su anzuelo/aparejo en recipientes de reciclaje de monofilamento.

Pelicans are a federally protected species.
Los pelicanos son una especie protegida por el gobierno federal.

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Sunset Cruises Sail On!

Saturday, March 7 | 5-7 p.m.

Saturday, April 18 | 5-7 p.m.



Experience a 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.

Purchase tickets online at PelicanHarbor.org/events or contact Stephanie Moure at Stephanie@pelicanharbor.org or 305-762-7633.

Natural History Speaker Series: Stories from Your Local Wildlife Rehabilitators

Wednesday, March 4 | 6:30-8 p.m.



PHSS's wildlife rehabilitators Yaritza Acosta, Hannah McDougall, and Tori Fields are on the front lines, treating thousands of animals a year. Come hear some of their most memorable cases and learn what it's like to be in the clinic every day. Join us at Pelican Harbor Marina's multi-purpose room at 6:30 for a light snack before the lecture begins at 7 p.m. Suggested donation is \$5. Advance registration requested at pelicanharbor.org/speaker-series.



Enrichment: Going the Extra Mile in Rehab

By Tori Fields

Enrichment is an important part of the rehabilitation process for our patients, as well as our permanent animal ambassadors. There are two types of enrichment: habitat enrichment and behavioral enrichment. Habitat enrichment is anything you provide to mimic the animal's natural habitat. For example, we provide songbirds with branches to perch on and lots of greenery. Behavioral enrichment is anything you provide to encourage natural behaviors. Foraging is encouraged by hiding food or placing food in a maze for the animal to find. This allows animals to exhibit natural behaviors and helps to prevent them from getting bored in their enclosures and injuring themselves. Animals that are raised in captivity need enrichment that encourages natural behaviors to prepare them for release. Follow us online to see pictures and videos of our animals unique enrichment.

Volunteer Spotlight: Allison Hitt



Allison has been a dedicated volunteer at Pelican Harbor since October 2018. Not only does she come once a week for her normal three-hour shift, she is also active in Operation Rescue – picking up birds around Miami and bringing them in. She also volunteers in schools and outreach events to educate the community on the work we do at the Station.

Allison is thoughtful, engaging, and a hard worker. We're proud to call her a volunteer at the Station. It's through dedicated, passionate community members like Allison that we're able to save native wildlife here in South Florida.



Get your PHSS shirt today!



pelicanharbor.org/phss-shop

Help support the Station by wearing some of our Pelican Merch. You'll be supporting the treatment of sick, injured, and orphaned native wildlife. Our shirts are in stock and ready to be shipped out! \$30/each.

Paint for Profit Fundraiser



February 28 | 5-9 p.m.

Join the Pelican Harbor Seabird Station team for a fun night of painting ceramics at Color Me Mine!s "Paint For Profit" fundraiser event. 25% of all proceeds will be donated to PHSS!

However, we will be forwarding all proceeds to WIRES, a wildlife rescue organization in Australia to help with the wildlife injured and displaced due to the wildfires. They're an amazing organization and are working on saving so many animals right now. We will have donation boxes to collect extra donations for them and have information pamphlets on the work they do.

Find more details and tickets online at pelicanharbor.org/colormemine

