

# 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 | PelicanHarbor.org





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## 25% Increase of Patients in 2019!



**We've had a busy year so far!** In the first nine months of 2019, we've treated a record 1,494 patients of over 90 species. This is a 25 percent increase in our patient load from last year. This includes 37 Cooper's Hawks, 51 Laughing Gulls, 109 Northern Mockingbirds, 119 Grey Squirrels, and more.

**So, is more wildlife being injured in 2019 than last year?** The intake data shows it's a relatively similar increase across seabirds, waterfowl, raptors, songbirds and mammals. This leads us to believe the increase is more a factor of having a larger profile in the community—more people knowing about us, so more patients are making it to the Seabird Station. Help us increase our education and profile even further by following us on social media and sharing posts or info about the work we do together by posting this newsletter in your break room at work or sharing it with others.

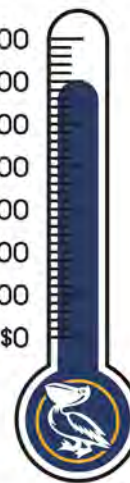
We're deeply grateful to our awesome volunteers and Operation Rescue wildlife transport team who have helped us respond to this marked increase in patients this year. As always, our doors are open 365 days a year, so drop by for a visit or a tour to learn more about the work we do! Thank you for reading and caring.

### Can You Help?

## Give Today and Your Donation Will Have Double the Impact

The Batchelor Foundation is generously matching gifts to our wildlife rehabilitation program dollar for dollar. Our staff and volunteers have risen to the challenge of treating 25% more patients this year than in 2018. Now with the help of the Batchelor Foundation's Challenge Grant you can help us cover the unforeseen costs associated with more food, medications, x-rays, treatments, boarding, transport, and care.

\$70,000  
\$60,000  
\$50,000  
\$40,000  
\$30,000  
\$20,000  
\$10,000  
\$0



As of September 30th, we have 63 patients in care, including masked booby, black-and-white warbler, clapper rail, gopher tortoise, eastern screech owl, and sanderling. We also have two ovenbirds and nine brown pelicans along with 46 other patients and 17 permanently injured ambassador animals. Pelican Harbor Seabird Station is your community wildlife rehabilitation center. We couldn't do it with the support of kind hearted people like you who value wildlife and understand the importance of taking care of helpless creatures that are harmed directly or indirectly through our actions. Thank you for making a gift today—it will mean a lot and go twice as far.





# 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 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.

FULL MOON CRUISES		SUNSET CRUISE	
 <p><b>Saturday October 12</b> 6:00-8:00 p.m. \$50/person</p>	 <p><b>Sunday October 13</b> 6:00-8:00 p.m. \$50/person</p>	 <p><b>Saturday November 23</b> 5:30-7:30 p.m. \$45/person</p>	 <p><b>Saturday, December 21</b> 5:30-7:30 p.m. \$45/person</p>

*Space is limited, so buy your tickets now! Purchase online at [PelicanHarbor.org/events](http://PelicanHarbor.org/events)  
For more information, contact Stephanie Moure at [Stephanie@pelicanharbor.org](mailto:Stephanie@pelicanharbor.org) or 305-762-7633.*

## 3rd Annual Natural History Speaker Series Kicks Off!

**Wednesday, November 6  
6:30-8:00 p.m.**



**PHSS Overview with  
Ambassador Animals**  
*Sarah Curry, PHSS  
Communications Coordinator*

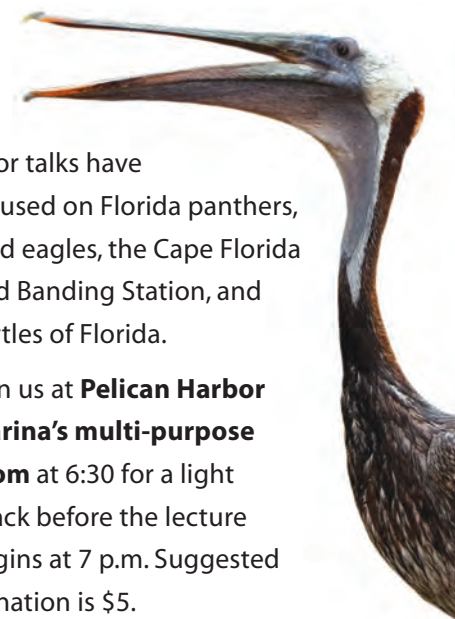
**Friday, December 4  
6:30-8:00 p.m.**



**Invasive Burmese  
Pythons**  
*Donna Kalil,  
Python Contractor Programs*

Prior talks have focused on Florida panthers, bald eagles, the Cape Florida Bird Banding Station, and Turtles of Florida.

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](http://pelicanharbor.org/speaker-series)*



# Darlene and Harry Kelton's Vision— Forty Years and 33,000 Patients Later

In 1980, when Harry and Darlene Kelton treated their first injured brown pelican, they couldn't have known the domino effect that one act of kindness would have here in the south Florida community and world at large. They focused their loving care on brown pelicans and treated 100–400 pelicans per year in the 1980's and 1990's. The Seabird Station actually predates the Pelican Harbor Marina, which was named after the Pelican Harbor Seabird Station! In 1992, with the help of Harvey Ruvin and the Miami-Dade County Parks, Recreation, and Open Spaces department the 950 sq. ft. Seabird Station was constructed on 0.18 acres along with the existing pelican pens as seen today. The building must have seemed like a mansion to the Keltons, who spent the first 12 years caring for pelicans on their houseboat and then in a tool shed.



Like bald eagles, brown pelicans were an endangered species back then due to the “soft eggs” caused from DDT. Over the decades more than 8,900 brown pelicans were treated at the Seabird Station and the species was removed from the endangered species list in 2009. The word gradually got out about the Keltons' work at the Seabird Station and more and more patients of various species started coming in over the years. Some of the strangest patients to be admitted (or left in the 24-hour drop-off cages) include a kinkajou, a prairie dog, a butterfly, and a coyote.

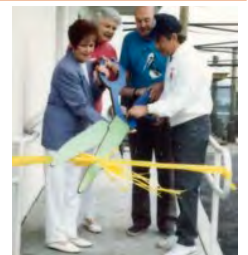
Patient intakes peaked with 2,553 intakes in 2016. In reviewing the numbers we ascertained that 960 of those patients were comprised of non-native or domestic species such as Muscovy ducks, chickens, peacocks, European starlings, collared doves, rock doves, and the list goes on. The Seabird Station was designed to handle one species and 400 patients per year. This heavy patient load was not only a burden to our resources, but also unsustainable. The Board of Directors revisited our mission statement and added in the words “native wildlife.” The Seabird Station is not a bird center, but rather a native wildlife hospital that specializes in brown pelicans.

Release rates for 10 of our 25 most common species increased by 20% in 2017 as staff had more room and more time to dedicate to them. Even with this reduction to an average of 1,450 patients in 2017 and 2018, we have outgrown Seabird Station's single room clinic at, which is only 425 sq. ft. and also contains the bathroom and laundry. We need to separate predators from prey and provide a separate nursery that is warmer and quieter for orphaned baby birds and mammals. We need to separate birds from mammals and reptiles.

Seabirds comprised 32% of total patients last year, while water fowl, wood warblers, song birds, reptiles, and mammals made up 68% of the patient load. PHSS has evolved into a native wildlife hospital over the years. It is a beautiful thing that the Keltons, the community, and Miami-Dade County flocked together to make the Seabird Station a reality and keep it open 365 days a year. It's also wonderful that brown pelicans were removed from the endangered species list and that they served as the impetus and umbrella species that has resulted in the care and treatment of more than 33,000 native wildlife patients of over 225 different species! It is a bittersweet realization that we have outgrown the property and facility generously provided by Miami-Dade County back in 1992. We are working out the details for our new larger home with more room to provide professional care for the diverse species we are charged and privileged to care for. More details will be forthcoming soon on our future home. While change is not always easy, this is in the best interest of our patients. Brown pelicans will always be our signature species and Pelican Harbor Marina will always hold a very special place in our hearts. As permitting, architectural plans, and construction will take some time, our move from Pelican Harbor likely would not take place for a few years. We are excited to share more news with you once the details are finalized. Keep us in your thoughts and well wishes as we navigate this process and change.

## CALL FOR HISTORICAL PHOTOS

If you have old photos of Darlene, Harry, Wendy, the pelicans and patients at the Seabird Station from over the years we ask that you please scan them and email them to us at [info@pelicanharbor.org](mailto:info@pelicanharbor.org). We are setting up an archival database and want to ensure that as many of sacred memories of “the good ole days” are preserved for the future. *Photo at right: The Keltons participating in the Pelican Harbor Seabird Station's Ribbon Cutting Ceremony with Clerk of the Court Harvey Ruvin, who was the Mayor of North Bay Village when this photo was taken in 1992.*





## Meet our newest team member, Kiki!

Colombia's rich biodiversity and emerald green lushness planted a passion for nature when Kiki was a little girl.

In 1981 her family brought her to Miami, where she began to learn about the subtropical richness of south Florida's ecosystems, so vastly different from Colombia's Andes. During a fifth-grade camping field trip in the Everglades, she learned to her astonishment that there were panthers in the Everglades! During that evening swamp hike, a naturalist was born.

Kiki received a Bachelor of Art in Environmental Studies and a Master of Science in Environmental Science from Florida International University. She worked as a Peace Corps Natural Resource Volunteer in Bolivia between 1999 and 2001 under the auspices of Peace Corps' Master International Program. As a volunteer, her work focused on soil and natural resource conservation, environmental education, gender equality, and youth development.

After Peace Corps, Kiki worked with Citizens for a Better South Florida, the first South Florida, environmental education organization that focused its energy in underserved communities. She helped to organize urban forestry projects helping to increase Miami Dade's tree canopy and hands-on after-school science programs, to instill environmental ethics and a love of nature to children in our community.

After seven years at Citizens, Kiki moved to Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden to work as the Community Outreach Coordinator. There for nine years, she developed and taught professional development workshops for Pre-K through 12th-grade teachers, led inquiry-based field trips for homeschool families and students with special needs, trained volunteers and integrated educational activities for Fairchild festivals and community events.

This summer Kiki started working at the Seabird Station as the Operations and Volunteer Coordinator. She brings her passion for the environment and admiration to volunteerism. She oversees 60+ volunteers, assists with environmental education programs and daily operations of the Seabird Station.



## Helping Miami's Birds One Painting at a Time

This past June we hosted our first Painting with a Purpose event with Painting with a Twist (PWAT). Painting with a Purpose is a monthly event PWAT holds to support local nonprofits by donating 50% of all proceeds to the selected nonprofit of the night. At our first event, attendees included PHSS staff, volunteers, and supporters, as well as the local female birding group The Phobes, the North Bay Village Optimist Club, and even new supporters. The event was sold out, and we raised over \$700 for the Seabird Station and had a fun night painting a pelican in the sky.

It was such a successful night we decided to have a second one in September and painted an owl. For some artistic inspiration, we brought Aries, our ambassador Eastern Screech Owl. It was a blast painting with Sensei Nate! These events have been a great way to not only raise awareness about our work in the community and raise money to help us treat more local native wildlife, but to get our creative juices flowing and have a fun time together.

At the event a local artist teaches you step by step how to paint the selected work of art for the evening. All art supplies are included, but the event is BYOB, so feel free to bring a tasty beverage. We're looking forward to our next event in December and we'd love for you to join us and bring a friend. Follow us online to find out the exact date and buy tickets (\$35). All levels are welcome in this casual environment where you can get to know Pelican Harbor—and support the birds—in a different way.

Please email [Stephanie@PelicanHarbor.org](mailto:Stephanie@PelicanHarbor.org) if you have any questions about this event.



# 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](http://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.

## Bruce \$75



Bruce is an adult male Virginia Opossum that came to us as an orphan with a neurological issue permanently affecting his back legs.

While we treat upwards of 1,800 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.



The purpose of the Society is to recognize those individuals and families who have remembered Pelican Harbor Seabird Station in their estate plans through a documented planned gift.

The Legacy Society serves to enable members and friends to witness the value of PHSS in their lives and in securing Florida's native wildlife populations.

**Membership is simple—no need to donate today!** You simply name PHSS as a beneficiary in your will, trust, insurance policy, donor advised fund, or foundation. You can make your gift anonymous, or, with your permission, PHSS will publicly acknowledge your commitment. We encourage our legacy society members to participate in the benefits of membership.

