

Pelican Talk



**Help Us Start
off 2020 with a
Freezer Full o' Fish!**

See details inside ...



*Save the
date!*

**Pelican Party
April 18, 2020**

*Mark your calendar to join us at Pelican
Harbor Seabird Station's Annual Gala!*



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



Pelican Talk

Help Us Start off 2020 with a Freezer Full o' Fish!

Thirteen years into the Seabird Station's existence, the idea of an Annual Holiday Fish Drive was born to help stock the freezers and feed the pelicans for the entire coming year. The holidays are known for "Food Drives," so why not a "Fish Drive" for the pelicans? The Seabird Station's fish bill has ranged from \$10,000 per year to \$35,000 at the peak. In 2018, the fish and food bill for patients was \$19,100. This cost covers a variety of fish types (thread herring, capelin, smelt, glass minnows and more). It's essential to feed a varied diet and supplement our long-term patients with vitamins. In recent years, we've also begun feeding live fish when available and each delivery is \$100. This keeps the fishing instinct strong in our rehab patients and also provides enrichment for our permanent patients.



26th Annual Holiday Fish Drive

The Seabird Station is busier than ever with over 100 native species each year. In addition to pelicans and seabirds, we also treat warblers, songbirds, raptors, various waterfowl, wading birds and even Sandhill cranes. We are deeply grateful to Jon & Kate Sage for sponsoring the Fish Drive for 23 years, even from afar in California. This year, Fish Drive donations adding up to 5,000 pounds will be matched by a generous donor who wishes to remain anonymous. Funds raised will be used to purchase fish for the pelicans/seabirds, as well as seed, crickets, mice, etc. for the myriad native bird species treated at our center each year. The "Fish Ticket" is included in the remittance envelope should you be able to help. Happy Holidays and as they say at the closing of "Hitchhikers Guide to the Galaxy", "So long, and thanks for all the fish."

Bald Eagle Expands our List of Species Treated

In October, we received a call reporting an injured juvenile Bald Eagle on Old Cutler Road found in a bush that the caller had thought it had crashed into a tree. A Florida Wildlife Commission (FWC) officer contained and brought the eagle to us. It was weak and was impaled in the shoulder with a tree branch. Radiographs revealed a fractured humerus close to



the shoulder joint, but the tree limb did not penetrate major organs. The branch was removed, and treatment was started. Bald eagles are found year-round in Florida, but this was a first-time intake for us! Unfortunately the bird did not survive, but testing is being done with FWC to see if any kind of toxicity contributed to the bird crashing into the tree.

Remembering Darlene

By Judy Mishcon

Talking to friends at the Seabird Station a few weeks ago, I was asked to write something about the changes I have seen since my first few years volunteering back in the '90s. That is what I set out to do, but as I reflected back on those earlier days, and my great memories, I kept seeing Darlene's face before me, working around the clinic, always busy, always with a warm, friendly smile on offer. I decided to put some of my recollections of this gentle, humble woman on paper as a way to honor her.



My first introduction to Darlene was over coffee and donuts in the room, which is now our main office, on my first Saturday volunteering. It was then a messy, friendly space with a big recliner, a couch which had seen better days, and an old desk with a Mr. Coffee machine on top. Darlene and Harry returned from their early breakfast at Dunkin' and sat catching up with us (the Saturday morning crew) before we went outside to work. This turned out to be a weekly ritual, a favorite part of my week. It was my habit to arrive early and get the coffee started, and one Saturday after doing that, I ran outside to get a few things done before everyone arrived. Instead of the boots, I should have been wearing, I had on a pair of old sneakers. Hurrying from one

pen to another, I slipped and went down hard, hearing a distinct cracking noise as my elbow was jolted from its socket. Darlene and Harry soon arrived, and Darlene would not leave my side. She insisted on riding with me in the ambulance and stayed to keep me company and cheer me up till all was well again, and we were sent home. Sometimes when my shift was done I would visit with Darlene on the Kelton's boat (docked at the marina). Darlene's vision had begun to decline, and curtains were needed for the boat, so she commissioned my roommate Marta to sew them. When they were completed, Darlene gave Marta her sewing machine as a gift. Marta already had a newer machine of her own, but she used Darlene's for years, making some of her favorite things on it. She still has the thread that Darlene gave her along with the machine.

The last time I saw Darlene was at the hospital shortly before she died. When I left her that evening, I thought I would be seeing her again soon, back at the Station. In fact, I often see her in my mind's eye when I am in the clinic area, smiling over a shoebox full of baby birds, their mouths open wide, bright yellow inside, stretching toward her to be the first to eat. Those little birds miss you, Darlene. I do too!

Looking for a unique holiday gift?

Pepe & Enrique \$300



Wildlife Crystal Photography

Monroe \$200



Wildlife Crystal Photography

Larry \$150



Wildlife Crystal Photography

Luna \$125



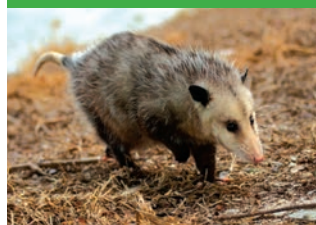
Wildlife Crystal Photography

Mowgli \$100



Wildlife Crystal Photography

Bruce \$75



Adopt a bird or opossum today!

It makes a great holiday, anniversary, or birthday gift and comes with an 8x10 photo, adoption certificate, and your adoptee's story.

By adopting one of these animals in need, you are helping to offset the cost of their care, medications, veterinary exams, and medical treatments.

Visit PelicanHarbor.org to learn more about each of the animals shown here and find complete details about finalizing your adoption.



Volunteer Spotlight:

Oskar Garcia



Volunteer extraordinaire and the 2019 AFP Outstanding Youth Philanthropy Awardee, Oskar Garcia, has won over the hearts of elected officials, news anchors and helped to shine a light on our important mission of rescuing injured native wildlife in the greater Miami area.

Oskar's creative, innovative, and resourceful approach to fundraising has raised over \$12,000 for PHSS making him our youngest

major donor. But, Oskar doesn't stop at fundraising, this self-directed, confident, emerging leader also volunteers at community events, the speaker series and Camp Peli to inspire other young people interested in making a difference.

Now 15, Oskar has been focused on helping injured wildlife since the age of 6. His joyful spirit fueled by a passion for helping others and a commitment to the privilege of service is an inspiration to all of us. Thank you, Oskar!' Channel 10 morning news anchor Jacey Birch attended the awards luncheon to help us celebrate Oskar.



Thanks to Our Bird Key Rookery "Ton 'o Trash" Cleanup Crew!

Pelican Harbor Seabird Station held its second annual Bird Key Rookery cleanup this past November on Veteran's Day. 25 staff and volunteers removed over a ton—2,700 pounds—of trash from the private islands. Trash is deadly to wildlife, so PHSS was grateful to have permission to visit the island for the cleanup to help prevent injuries. The crew went out midday to minimize interference with the birds on the island.

This island is off-limits to kayakers, boaters, and other visitors, but unfortunately, there were signs that people do visit the island—and leave their trash behind. But much of the trash found was deposited on the shores of the islands from the bay during high tide. We couldn't have done it without our partners.

A big thank you to the Pelican Harbor Marina, and it's staff for providing the dumpster and coming out with the Pelican Skipper. A special thank you also to i-Paddle Miami. Visit our Facebook page to view photos from the day.

Final Sunset Cruise of 2019!

Saturday, December 21 | 4:30-6:30 p.m.

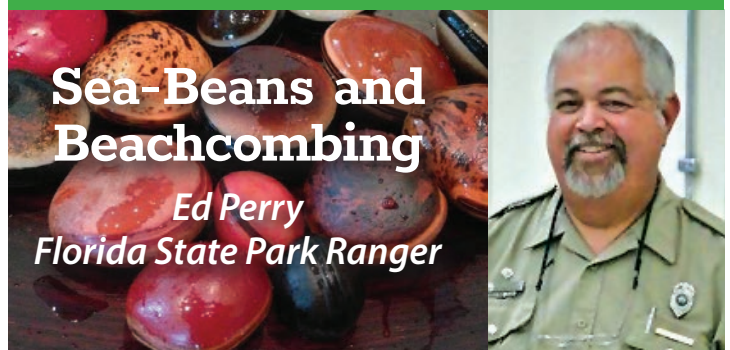


Don't miss out on our last cruise of the year! Experience a stunning skyline and sunset views while learning about local wildlife. Enjoy a beautiful 2-hour sunset, birding, and skyline cruise aboard Miami Dade Parks' Pelican Island Skipper as we tour Biscayne Bay and scan the mangrove shoreline of the 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

Weekday, January 8 | 6:30-8:00 p.m.



Sea-Beans and Beachcombing

Ed Perry
Florida State Park Ranger

Ed Perry, a Florida State Park Ranger and co-author of *Sea-Beans from the Tropics*, will share a lifetime of information gleaned from beachcombing Florida's shores. Ocean currents, rainforest plants, history, and folklore will also be discussed. 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.**

