

NEWS FROM YOUR LOCAL WILDLIFE CENTER

Pelican Talk

Summer 2017 Newsletter

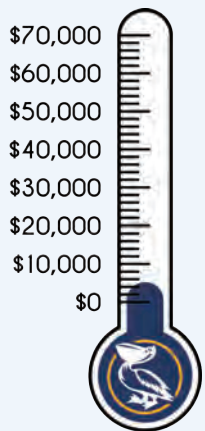


Pelican Talk

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

WE NEED YOUR HELP TODAY.

Double your donation with the Batchelor Foundation Challenge Grant before October 31, 2017.



While our snowbird friends are enjoying more moderate temperatures at higher latitudes, many of our fulltime residents are also traveling. Summer is a slow time in our

calendar year for donations, even though our patient load is higher than ever with lots of baby birds and over one hundred native wildlife patients.

We are fortunate to have received the support of **The Batchelor Foundation** again this year with their generous “Challenge Grant” period, which runs through October. All cash donations from individuals, businesses, foundations, or corporations received during the Challenge Period will be matched dollar for dollar. Please consider a donation today that is meaningful to you and know that it will be doubled and put to good use healing the voiceless sick, injured, and orphaned native wildlife of Miami and the greater Everglades area.

New Songbird Aviary for Rearing Baby Birds



Spring time means songbirds are nesting and when songbirds nest, baby birds appear at our door by the dozens. These babies come to us for all sorts of reasons - they fall out of the nest, the tree the nest was in gets cut down, winds blow the nest out of the tree, nests are removed from the eaves of homes and businesses. We do an excellent job at raising these babies. However, mom and dad do a much better job and teach the babies things we can't like where to find water, how to catch dinner, what to do when it rains, and so much more. We reneest whenever possible to give parents a chance, but when reneesting isn't an option, proper caging is important to the development and growth of the babies.

Last year we decided to keep the babies and raise them to the size and age appropriate for release. We

needed additional caging to meet this goal so this year we purchased a custom-built songbird aviary from Cage Masters. The aviary is beautiful and provides an ideal environment for the baby birds. Thank you, Tom Johnson, for building such a wonderful aviary and setting it up and delivering it for free. Also, thanks to all of you for your donations that made purchasing the aviary possible. Together



Tom Johnson from Cage Masters and Yaritza, PHSS staff.



2-Hour Sunset Cruise

View up to 400 birds of twenty species on this narrated boat tour to the largest bird colony in Biscayne Bay. The tour costs \$40 & departs from the Pelican Harbor Marina. All proceeds support wildlife rehabilitation at the Seabird Station.

Upcoming dates are: 7/8, 8/5 & 9/30
Details at pelicanharbor.org or
305.751.9840

Volunteer Spotlight



Steve Sussman joined our Volunteer Receptionist-Docent Team in November of 2016 and spends each Tuesday afternoon helping our visitors, answering the phone, and giving tours. He has wonderful customer service skills, can easily provide directions to our facility from almost anywhere, and has the unique ability to calmly explain how to help an injured animal to callers who are trying their best to help. He loves working with people and does an excellent job sharing our story and facility during tours. He never fails to introduce his friends Pepe the Brown Pelican and Rosie the Sandhill Crane. Thanks for all you do, Steve!

Basic Wildlife Rehabilitation Training Class Coming in August

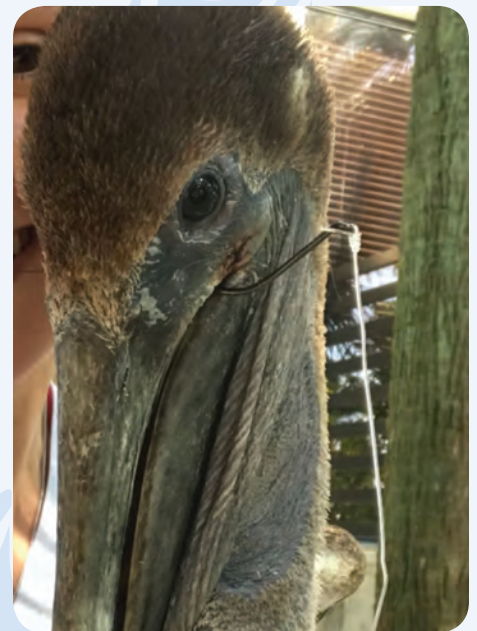
PHSS will be hosting the Basic Wildlife Rehabilitation Training Class presented by the International Wildlife Rehabilitation Council (IWRC). IWRC is one of the most prestigious wildlife rehabilitation organizations in the U.S. This two-day class includes 4 hours of laboratory training and a 1 hour exam. If you've ever had an interest in wildlife rehabilitation, this is a wonderful opportunity to learn and to network with working rehabbers from the local area.



The class will be held at the Pelican Harbor Marina on **August 12-13, 2017**; Registration fees vary from \$205 - \$260, but cover training, course books and certification. To register visit <https://thewirc.org/courses>. Use PHSS coupon "flgroup" to receive a discount

Pelican Rescue via Kayak

Victoria, an Assistant Wildlife Rehabilitator at PHSS, was relaxing at home when she noticed a young brown pelican swimming in the canal by her house. A closer look revealed the poor pelican had a fishing hook in its beak near the left eye and a long fishing line trailing behind it in the water. She immediately called PHSS for help. Carla, our Rescue and Release Coordinator, grabbed a bucket of fish and raced off to Victoria's house which is thankfully close by. They both jumped into a kayak and attempted to use the fish to lure the pelican close enough to catch. The young pelican wasn't cooperating and after a few minutes flew off trailing the line behind it. Carla returned to PHSS to tend to our patients, but Victoria decided to go out in the kayak to look for the bird. Soon she spotted a fisherman trying to help the pelican which was caught in a mangrove tree by fishing line. Together, they were able to free the pelican down from the tree and into the kayak. Victoria not only paddled back with the bird safely under her arm and then drove to PHSS holding it in her lap she also helped remove



the hook from the beak and treat the pelican. The pelican healed and was released after 41 days at PHSS. This was one lucky bird, other than being hooked of course. The hook penetrated the beak only one centimeter from its eye. If the hook had injured the eye there may have been a different outcome. This rescue demonstrates how by working together we can make a difference for wildlife.

Come Meet Luna, the Great Horned Owl, and See Her New Home



Luna, is a beautiful adult great horned owl who recently joined our Animal Ambassador Team. She came to us from the East Coast Wildlife Center (ECWC) in Port Orange, Florida where she was being treated for eye and wing injuries. Unfortunately, one eye could not be saved and her wing did not heal properly so while she can fly she cannot fly well enough to hunt and feed herself. With two strikes against her it was determined that she was unreleasable. ECWC could not keep her so we decided to bring her to PHSS to become an Animal Ambassador.

We were very excited when Luna arrived safely and passed her quarantine period in the hospital. She was moved outside to a temporary enclosure while we designed her new home. One of our volunteers, Ricardo Borrás and his father also named Ricardo, retro-fitted one of our existing enclosures for the great horned owl. It was a lot of work, some of it treacherous, requiring them to crawl

on top of the pens but what a beautiful job they did! Luna seems to love it. It is a home worthy of such a majestic bird.

How did she get the name Luna? Well, we auctioned off the naming rights at this year's Pelican Party in April. The winner, one of our special friends and supporters, Dr. Mark McGovern won the auction and decided on the name Luna.

Special thanks to the Borrás' and Dr. McGovern for providing a home for and a name for Luna. Please come out and see Luna and her new home!



Species Spotlight: Yellow Billed Cuckoo



The yellow billed cuckoos can be found in South Florida most often during the summer months, which is their nesting season. They spend most of their time high up in trees foraging for caterpillars and have been observed eating as many as 100 tent caterpillars at one sitting. Both parents incubate the eggs and raise the babies which can take as little as 17 days from egg to fledging. When the babies are hatched they are naked, but within a week are fully feathered and almost ready to leave the nest. Yellow billed cuckoos have been known to lay their eggs in the nests of other birds and let the other bird incubate and raise the young. However, when they do have their own nest and a predator approaches, one parent will stay with the nest while the other attempts to lure the predator away with a "distraction display". The parent jumps to a visible perch and act as if injured in hopes of distracting the predator from the nest. Watch for these interesting birds in your neighborhood.

MISSION: Natives Only

The Migratory Bird Treaty Act is limited to native species and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission deem it illegal to release non-native wildlife. We have stopped accepting non-native species in order to honor our mission statement, as well as comply with federal and state laws. Focusing our limited resources exclusively on native species allows us to provide a higher quality of care.



Learn more about exotic species, threats, impacts, disease and more at PelicanHarbor.org/exotics

Check Our Website to:



- View our 2016 Annual Report
- See our new exhibit
- Learn about our Legacy Society

www.PelicanHarbor.org

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If you would prefer to receive our quarterly newsletter electronically or would like to be removed from our mailing list, please email us at info@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 is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, operating solely on donations.



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Keep in touch!   