

Fall 2007

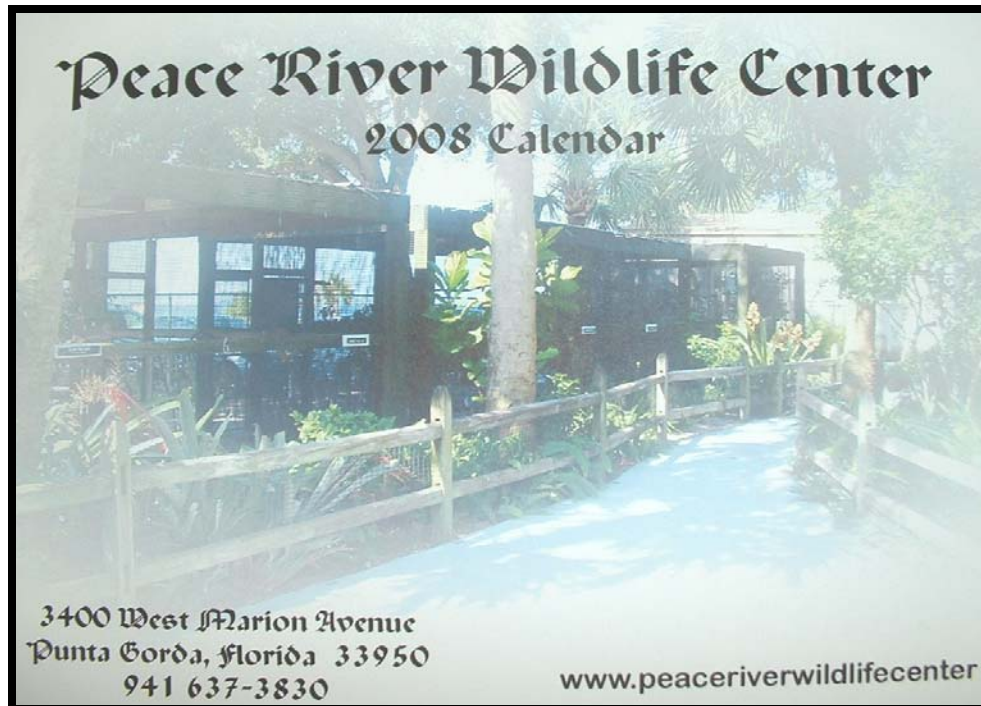
Volume 24 ~ Number 3

# Peace River Tracks

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Peace River Wildlife Center



**Peace River Wildlife Center 2008 Calendar  
Available in Gift Shop**



As a fundraiser, the Peace River Wildlife Center has a 2008 Calendar for sale in our Gift Shop. This 13-month calendar was designed and created by Lois Cross, our Gift Shop Manager. The color pictures contained therein are those of our residents and patients who were brought here for care to the Wildlife Center, many already released back into the wild. Featured are our resident eagles, Bilfred and Captain Arthur, a pelican family, a black-crowned night heron, a purple gallinule, a baby black vulture with its mother who was born free in the area by the Gift Shop, an opossum, a baby gray fox, a red-tailed hawk, a pied-billed grebe, a great horned owl, a baby killdeer, a cardinal, and mottled ducks.

Each monthly page features a notable quote about wildlife and there is room for jotting down appointments and special events. Please consider our calendar for your gift giving as well as your own use.

The cost of the calendar is \$12.00 plus 7% sales tax. They can be mailed at a cost of \$3.00 each.

*Residents and guests welcome you to this issue of Peace River Tracks*

BOARD MEMBERS:

PRESIDENT:

*Barbara Deeble*

VICE PRESIDENT:

SECRETARY:

TREASURER:

*Norman E. (Skip) Schmidt*

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE

*Holly Gunsher*

*Robin Jenkins*

MEDICAL STAFF:

REHABILITATORS:

*Linda Schrader*

*Kris Hoffmann*

HOSPITAL ASSISTANTS:

*Ernie Navarra*

*Ashley Ewing*

MEDICAL DIRECTOR:

*Dr. Cynthia Fiore*

MANAGEMENT:

*Gift Shop Manager:*

*Lois Cross*

*Administration:*

*Cathy Negrycz*

*Sheryll O'Crotty*

***A Message From Our President***

***If you pay real close attention, you can notice the weather starting to change. Mornings and evenings are less like a steam bath and some nights are just beautiful.***

***For us at Peace River Wildlife Center, this also means a return of the birds. Every fall and winter our migratory friends start making their way back to Southwest Florida.***

***Among these are our "Snowbird" friends, volunteers and supporters. We look forward to seeing you all again and want to welcome you back. Please come visit us, volunteer and get reacquainted with our staff and our residents.***

***Barbara Deeble, President***

**BOARD SEEKS NEW MEMBERS, PLANS TO RESTRUCTURE**

By Norman Schmidt, Treasurer

Members of the current Board of Directors will meet with prospective new Board members in early October to present proposed modifications to the organization's bylaws including plans to restructure PRWC's governance hierarchy. The present Board consists of long-term volunteers and members of the organization. The new governing body will consist of two parts: an Operations Board and an Executive Board. As proposed, the Operations Board will include both paid and volunteer staff members with skills in wildlife rehabilitation, veterinary medicine, educational outreach, facilities, supplies and inventory, and budget management. The Executive Board will be made up of representatives of business and community organization and the general public. Its functions will include organizational advocacy (PR, community affairs, marketing); financial management (budget approval, investment strategies, fundraising, endowments); and program development (values, ethics, long-range planning, vision, policy setting and enforcement, and general governance). The link between the two organizational components will be a yet-to-be named Executive Director. More information on this restructuring proposal will follow in future newsletters.

## COMING EVENTS

The Peace River Wildlife Center will be a participant in various events that are taking place in the Charlotte County area. We hope you will join in the fun of some of the following festivities:

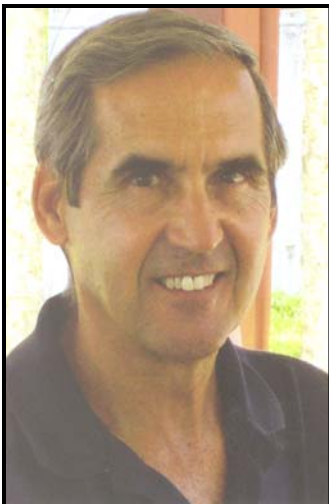
On Saturday, **October 13, 2007**, there will be a “Shop For a Cause” day at Macy’s to benefit the Peace River Wildlife Center. This is the perfect time to start holiday gift shopping. Discount cards are being sold in our Gift Shop at a cost of \$5.00 with the proceeds going to the Center. Upon presentation of the card, a **20% discount** will be given on most purchases that day at Macy’s in the Port Charlotte Mall. The shopping time for ticket holders is from 8 till 10 the morning of October 13th. Please call the Wildlife Center at (941) 637-3830 for other locations in Port Charlotte and Punta Gorda where the card can be purchased.

On Saturday, **November 3, 2007**, from 10:00 AM until 3:00 PM, the Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program is holding a Nature Festival at the Charlotte County Sports Park, SR 776 in Port Charlotte, 2.5 miles west of U.S. 41. Volunteers from PRWC will host a table with informational material and bird-related items, such as stuffed animals and tee shirts. There will be a hand-painted mailbox as a raffle and possibly two caged Cedar Waxwings on display. There will be free admission and parking for this event which is a day for guests of all ages to “connect with nature” and have an opportunity to participate in activities that are unique and varied—families can take a wagon ride or a guided walk in the Tippecanoe Environmental Park, spend time in the Children’s Discovery Zone, see live native animals, and visit more than 60 nature exhibits pertaining to Southwest Florida.

On Saturday, **November 17, 2007**, Peace River Wildlife Center will be represented at the “Party in the Park” that will take place in Gilchrist Park, Punta Gorda, FL from 9 AM to 2 PM. This event is for the benefit of The Animal Welfare League of Charlotte County and leashed dogs are invited to attend with their owners. Volunteers from PRWC will hold a bake sale for our benefit. Other activities include agility and obedience demonstrations by Southwest K-9 Academy, an American Idol costume parade, entertainment and silent auction and meeting AWL’s shelter orphans.

On Saturday, **November 17, 2007**, the Audubon Society is holding a 30th Anniversary celebration from 10 AM to 2 PM in the pavilion in Ponce de Leon Park next to Peace River Wildlife Center. Our fabulous gift shop will be open and, remember, PRWC members receive a **10% discount** on purchases.

## VOLUNTEER PROFILE



Joe Mehok (pictured on the left) is a volunteer who comes in every Monday morning to clean cages, and PRWC considers him an asset. For 30 years, he lived on Long Beach Island along the coast of New Jersey with his wife, son and daughter. After 33 years as a life science teacher in New Jersey, he retired to Punta Gorda. Joe enjoys fishing, boating, traveling and nature photography and Florida’s fauna and flora and year-round casual life style. This year Joe plans to travel to Africa and next year to the Galapagos Islands.

While enjoying boating activities at Ponce de Leon Park, Joe discovered the Peace River Wildlife Center and began volunteering in 2003. He also volunteers at the Charlotte Harbor Environmental Center as a trail guide. Joe has a Masters Degree in Environmental Science and has served on environmental advisory boards.



*Peace River Wildlife Center Wish List*

AnimaLuvrs Gift Certificates  
Autoclave - used  
Beechnut Chicken / Chicken Broth / Turkey Baby Food  
Bird Seed—small with no sunflowers-Vita Finch or Kaytee  
Cable Ties  
Chicken Cutlets—Frozen (skinless and boneless)  
Cotton Receiving Blankets - used  
Del Monte Fruit Cups  
Dishwashing Gloves  
8 m. hand Dremel Drill  
Esbilac, Multimilk, Goats Milk , KMR Powder from Pet Stores  
Eukanuba Kitten Food—Chicken & Rice Formula  
Exam Gloves - small and medium  
Ferret Hammocks  
Finch Seed (with millet, not just thistle)  
Gift Cards - Gasoline - Home Depot - Publix  
Glad or Rubbermaid Reusable Containers (small or medium)  
Hardware Cloth  
Heating Pads  
Hose Nozzles  
Insect Spray for our Volunteers  
Kleenex (non-lubricated, non-scented)  
Laundry Detergent - non-scented - HE (high efficiency)  
Letter-Size Laminating Pouches (for heat seal)  
Paper Towels  
Pet Owners Warehouse Gift Certificates  
Pillow Cases and Sheets - used  
Publix Adult Cat Food  
Science Diet Canine Small Bites Dry Dog and Cat Food  
Scrub Brushes - long-handled  
Scrub Sponges - two-sided  
Sterilite Showoff Boxes (small or medium)  
Tall Kitchen Trash Bags (drawstring)  
Tranquillizer Gun  
Trash Bags - 55 gallon heavy duty - contractor grade  
Vari-Kennels / Cat and Dog Crates (new and used)  
Walnuts - shelled  
Ziploc Bags - quart and gallon sizes

## GIFT SHOP NEWS



Star Pattern Quilted Wall Hanging by Miriam Hursey

The Peace River Wildlife Center Gift Shop has nature related gifts for everyone on your “giving list.” Our special items include shirts with embroidered birds and animals in various colors and styles, and hats with eagle or pelican embroidery. As always, our nature books for adults and children are great gifts. We have plush animals including the Audubon birds with authentic birdcalls. There is a large selection of Wild Bryde earrings and pendants along with the Zodiac semi-precious stone necklaces and bracelets.

The Tagua hand-carved figurines and ironwood carvings are popular items. Beginning in October, we will have the handmade “Star” wall hanging shown in the above photograph as our Holiday Fundraiser Raffle. The winning ticket will be drawn on December 18th by Miriam Hursey who was the creator. Tickets are \$1.00.

All proceeds from the sale of the items in the gift shop are used to provide food and medical supplies to the patients and residents of the Center. Members receive a 10% discount on purchases. Please support our endeavor to help wildlife.

Lois Cross, Gift Shop Manager

## HOSPITAL ASSISTANT AT WORK



Ashley Ewing (pictured on the left) is one of the hospital assistants here at Peace River Wildlife Center. She works part time assisting our rehabber, Kris Hoffmann. Ashley, who is a native Floridian, graduated Charlotte High School in 2006. She then attended UCF in Orlando for one semester and is now attending Edison College. Her main interests are biology and literature.

Ashley is shown here feeding a baby squirrel. She is presently taking care of three babies in home care, feeding them four times a day. In addition, she has a yellow Labrador Retriever who was a rescue, a Quaker parrot, and “Willie,” a one-eyed blind epileptic Eurasian-collared dove.

## ADOPT A RESIDENT BIRD

Foster parents are needed for all of our resident birds. Our volunteers take care of cleaning out their cages and providing special foods. We make it very, very easy to become a foster parent.

Anyone of our resident birds can be adopted for a month or even longer. The adoption can be arranged to be given as a birthday, anniversary, wedding or holiday gift, or as a memorial. Parents and grandparents have adopted a child's favorite bird and presented the certificate or card as a birthday or holiday gift.

A certificate of appreciation is issued which bears the picture of the particular bird chosen or, if arranged for in advance, a greeting card can be created. The adoption fee helps defray the cost of the specialized food purchased for that bird.

A list of our residents and the adoption fee per month follows:

Barred Owl	-	\$28.00	Great White Egret	-	\$20.00
Black Crowned Night Heron	-	20.00	Gull or Tern	-	15.00
Caspian Tern	-	15.00	Osprey	-	20.00
Cooper's Hawk	-	25.00	Pelican	-	25.00
Cormorant	-	20.00	Red Tailed Hawk	-	30.00
Crow	-	15.00	Sandhill Crane	-	15.00
Eagle	-	35.00	Screech Owl	-	15.00
Great Horned Owl	-	30.00	Turkey and Black Vultures	-	20.00

Adoptions can be arranged by mail, through a visit to our gift shop, or even over the phone. Your contribution can be charged to a credit card if you wish, and the adoption packet mailed to you or your named gift recipient. If you are a group of friends or co-workers, an adoption can be a great gift for someone special.

If visiting our gift shop, you can take home your certificate and we have even created specialty cards for family and friends and special occasions. Adopting a bird makes visiting PRWC even more enjoyable, and your contribution is tax deductible!



### Mission Statement

*The mission of the Peace River Wildlife Center is to treat and rehabilitate injured and orphaned native Florida wildlife (except venomous snakes) and, if possible, to return them to the wild. If they cannot be returned to their natural habitat due to sustained non life-threatening physical limitations, a permanent home shall be provided by the Center.*

*We also seek to inform the public about native Florida wildlife and how to coexist with these beautiful creatures successfully through formal educational outreach activities.*



### HOSPITAL STATISTICS

	<u>Birds</u>	<u>Reptiles</u>	<u>Mammals</u>	<u>Total</u>
July	113	9	32	154
August	81	9	27	117

### THANK YOU, 4 SEASONS!

We wish to thank Greg Hamilton and his staff at 4 Seasons Air Conditioning, Inc. for coming to the rescue when the air conditioning unit for the hospital did not work in 90+ degree temperatures. Our staff and hospital patients really appreciated their quick response.

### GIFTS / BEQUESTS / MEMORIALS

Leonard P. Conte of Punta Gorda, FL has requested three memorials in memory of his wife, Esther G. Conte, one in July, one in August and one in September.

PRWC received a very generous bequest from the estate of Margaret G. Bechtolt and have placed a plaque in her memory.

A plaque was placed in the name of Linda Fagal Rose of Punta Gorda who made a generous gift to the wildlife center.

Marilyn Wendell of Naperville, IL requested a memorial on the one year anniversary of the death of Jim Gibbons of Punta Gorda.

A bequest from the estate of Matilda Sharpless was received and a memorial plaque has been placed in her honor.

Rosemary Sargent of Port Charlotte requested a memorial in memory of her husband, Bill.

A gift was made to PRWC on behalf of the Lynn Russell Advised Fund of Aspen Community Foundation, Aspen, Colorado.

**PEACE RIVER WILDLIFE CENTER WISHES TO THANK THE HOME DEPOT OF PUNTA GORDA FOR THE DONATION OF FOUR HIBISCUS TREES FOR THE NEW GOPHER TORTOISES HABITATS.**

Peace River Wildlife  
Center

3400 West Marion Avenue  
Punta Gorda, FL 33950  
(941) 637-3830

Nonprofit Organization  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Punta Gorda FL 33950  
Permit #182

IF YOU FIND AN INJURED OR ORPHANED BIRD, MAMMAL, REPTILE bring it to us, or if necessary, call: *Animal Control 764-4320* to pick it up and bring it in. For domestic animals, call the *Animal Welfare League 625-6720*.

PEACE RIVER WILDLIFE CENTER MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL/DONATION FORM

All memberships include a 1-year subscription to newsletter & 10% gift shop discount.

Choose from the following:

PELICAN: \$25/yr. \_\_\_ OWL: \$50/yr. \_\_\_ EAGLE: \$100/yr. \_\_\_ OTHER: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City & State:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Zip:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **E-mail:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**MEMORIALS:** In memory of \_\_\_\_\_

Mail check to PRWC- 3400 West Marion Avenue, Punta Gorda, FL 33950

Charge my credit card: \_\_\_ Visa \_\_\_ M/C \_\_\_ Amex

**Account Number:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Exp. Date** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name on Card:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

*MAILING LIST CORRECTIONS:* Please, if your address label is incorrect in any way, please let us know. This includes duplications, spelling errors or any other correction which is necessary. Just drop us a note. Thanks!!