

Spring 2010

Volume 27 ~ Number 1

# Peace River Tracks

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Peace River Wildlife Center



## ADDRESS CHANGE:

The name of the street on which we are located has been changed.

Please send all mail to:  
Peace River Wildlife Center  
3400 Ponce de Leon Parkway  
Punta Gorda, FL 33950



**Bye, Bye Snow Birdie Dinner Dance - March 13, 2010**

(Description of Pictures on Page 3)

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

**BOARD MEMBERS:**

**PRESIDENT:**

Robin Jenkins

**VICE PRESIDENT:**

Angelo Pescatore

**SECRETARY:**

Maryann Sakamoto

**TREASURER:**

Judy Liccini

**MEMBERS-AT-LARGE**

Ronald Heise

Carole Thorn

**MEDICAL STAFF:**

**HOSPITAL ASSISTANTS:**

Ernie Navarra

Noreen Rios

Rick Andrews

Kelly Grutto

Callie Stahl

**MEDICAL DIRECTOR:**

Dr. Cynthia Fiore

**MANAGEMENT:**

***Gift Shop Manager:***

Lois Cross

***Administration:***

Cathy Negrycz

Sheryll O'Crotty

***From the President's Desk...***

Is anyone else sick of the constant barrage of requests for money? With the economy in a slump, every organization is doing overtime asking for donations. Well, add us to that list. However before you even consider giving us another dime, please take time to check out this issue of our newsletter. A new component of this quarterly communication will be an update of our income and expenses so that you can see what we do with all that hard-earned money you all so generously donate to us. We do not have any large-salaried administrators. Even our veterinarians volunteer their services. We do not do any costly advertising. We have a few paid positions to ensure the continued and consistent care of our residents and patients. Most of our funding goes toward the feeding and housing of those animals. This is a grass roots organization that supports the local community and the wildlife of the area - two of the very things that make this such a special place to live.

We are coming to the end of a wonderfully busy (tourist) season here, with lots of generous visitors and helpful volunteers. As we gear up for a busy (baby) season, we must bear in mind that our donations dip way down, just as our expenses for food and medicine go through the roof. Lots of tiny mouths to feed! It is time to bid a fond farewell to our town's winter residents. Those hardworking folks comprise a large portion of our volunteer base. As luck would have it, just as they leave we start seeing our new crop of baby mammals and birds. If you are a year-round resident, we could use some extra help with cleaning habitats, cage maintenance and building, baby feeding, or a generous cash donation. And don't forget to come in over the summer to visit us. There is always something new to view!

*Dr. Robin*

**INCOME AND EXPENSES—JANUARY - MARCH 2010 (Our Best 3 Months Every Year)**

	<u>January</u>	<u>February</u>	<u>March</u>	<u>Total</u>	
Income: Donations	\$ 6,876	\$ 6,910	\$ 9,041	\$ 22,827	
Alum. Cans	1,376	1,522	1,157	4,055	
Events	204	87	9,084*	9,375	*Bye, Bye Birdie Dance
Gift Shop	5,648	7,282	8,640	21,570	
Memorials	300	255	1,200	1,755	
Totals:	\$14,404	\$16,056	\$29,122	\$ 59,582	
Expenses: Salaries	\$ 8,117	\$ 6,813	\$ 7,988	\$ 22,918	
Food & Meds.	5,701	4,252	4,418	14,371	
Operating Exp.	1,147	1,287	2,155	4,589	
Gift Shop	1,457	520	2,861	4,838	
Fundraising	258	150	2,535	2,943	
Finance	217	164	0	381	
Totals	\$16,897	\$13,186	\$19,957	\$ 50,040	

## Bye, Bye Snow Birdie Dance

Peace River Wildlife Center had a fundraising dinner dance on Saturday, March 13th at the Isles Yacht Club in Punta Gorda. Many items were donated for the Silent Auction as well as the raffle. Below is a description of the pictures on page 1 from left to right:

First Row: Fred & Carol Jacob (Carol is a long-time hospital volunteer); Attendees bidding on Silent Auction items; Lillian, mother of Committee Member Cynthia Hassell, selling raffle and 50/50 tickets, Anne Small, fantastic organizer of the event; more auction items; Noreen Rios, hospital rehabber with friend Mike.

Second Row: Pictures 1 - 4 are auction items; display of PRWC's patients and residents.

Third Row: Ernie Navarra, hospital rehabber with wife Dottie; auction items; Lois Cross, Gift Shop Manager; Dennis John, the DJ; basket for auction.

Fourth Row: John and Pat Hatfield - Pat's a Tour Guide; Dave Mason, a tour guide sharing a table with Irena Rudz, a volunteer cleaner; Lenox bird figurines for auction; Cathy Negrycz, office worker, with husband Ray.

The Center wishes to thank Carole Thorn, Board Member, and the fantastic hard-working members of her committee, Anne Small, Cynthia "Spunk" Hassall, and Cindy Gerber, as well as their spouses and Cynthia's mother, Lillian, all of whom also lent a helping hand. DJ Dennis John did a great job with the music and was also our Master of Ceremonies.

The Center also thanks our local community members and merchants who donated items for the Silent Auction and raffle such as dinner certificates, boat rides, jewelry, pottery, etc. The Center really needed the support of all our friends and members and the Community to make this event a success and to help ensure our continued survival in these difficult economic times. Again, thank you, thank you, thank you.

## HAPPY NEWS



The young bald eagle shown on the left has found a new home at the Squam Lakes Natural Science Center in Holderness, NH. This eagle arrived at the Center last June after being hit by a car, which knocked the tip off its wing leaving it unable to soar ever again. After it recovered, it was able to fly short distances and jump. Our New Hampshire members may soon be able to visit it in person or you may soon see it on their website [www.nhnature.org](http://www.nhnature.org).

## GIFT SHOP NEWS

Two beautiful hand-made quilted wall hangings were donated to the Center by Mirium Hersey to be raffled off in our Gift Shop. In January, the beautiful Holiday Cardinal Quilted Wall Hanging was raffled off and the winner was Chris Costanzo of Bradenton, FL. In April, Charles Sweet of Port Charlotte, FL picked up the Eagle wall hanging that he won. They were both happy winners.

There is another beautiful wall hanging displayed that will also be raffled off on August 31st. Our Gift Shop has beautiful pictures of our residents, books, jewelry and tee-shirts for adults and children, as well as lots of other interesting items. Come in to see for yourself seven days a week from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.



### HOSPITAL STATISTICS

	<u>Birds</u>	<u>Reptiles</u>	<u>Mammals</u>	<u>Total</u>
December	26	6	26	58
January	37	2	27	66
February	35	0	22	57
March	46	2	60	108



### THE PELICAN WHO FLEW IN FOR TREATMENT

Visitors and staff are not too surprised when an occasional pelican flies into the Pelican Pond area to visit with residents and join them for a free meal. What was surprising was when a juvenile brown pelican flew in with a fish hook and line attached on Tuesday, March 9th. Our rehabber Noreen Rios went to its assistance, brought it into the surgery for removal of the hook, applied antibiotic ointment, and then treated the injured pelican to a great fish meal, as can be seen on the left. After a few days recuperation, the pelican was free again.



### A VISIT FROM STUDENTS OF MEADOW PARK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL OF PORT CHARLOTTE

Pictured on the left and right are some of the kindergarten students and teachers of Meadow Park Elementary School who visited the Center on Wednesday, March 24th. Volunteer tour guides identified the birds and answered the children's questions.



### SPECIAL WISHES ANSWERED BY SANTA'S HELPERS

There were a few things that the Peace River Wildlife Center needed that we listed on our special Wish List to Santa. The Center wishes to thank some special people who supplied several of the requested items.

Our brand new Pelican Pond area needed some grass and landscaping, and that wish was granted by Dan Powell of the Edison College Ecology Club and landscaper Nick Wilt.

An old-fashioned reel mower was needed to keep the inside of the large off-site raptor cage mowed, and Frank and Jill Leggio generously donated a brand new one to the Center.

The laptop in the hospital that is used to track admissions and create state and federal reports was causing problems and needed to be replaced. A used laptop and printer was received from Rose E. Morgan and an unnamed gentleman brought in another used laptop that we are setting up for presentations to groups and schools.

**SPECIAL THANK YOU'S TO:**

*The Charlotte Harbor Parrothead Club has made both monetary and in-kind donations to the Center in memory of one of their members, Janice Brandt. Additionally, at their monthly Club meetings, they are collecting aluminum cans for the Center, and have already collected over 1,000 cans, which greatly helps the environment. The Center sells the cans and the money received helps feed our residents and patients. Again, many thanks.*

*Prompt Appliance Services, Inc. for their very fast response to our defrosting freezer/refrigerator, which was promptly repaired, and to their service manager, Cindy Taylor, for "taking care of the bill" for the Center. Many thanks from our patients and residents, too.*

**PEACE RIVER WILDLIFE CENTER WISH LIST**  
**SPECIAL REQUEST - SEASONAL FRUITS - EXCEPT CITRUS**

*If you have any fruit trees such as apples, avocados, bananas, mango, papaya, or nuts trees - acorns, pecans, and walnuts - and have an overabundance, we would love to have such fruit or nuts for our residents and patients. Sorry, we cannot use any citrus fruits.*

**BABY BIRD SEASON'S HERE! - BABY SHOWER ITEMS:**

**Evo Cat Food - From Pet Stores**  
**Kleenex (non-lubricated, non-scented)**

**AnimaLuvrs Gift Certificates**  
**Cat/Dog Food - Adult Dry**  
**Chicken Cutlets - Frozen (skinless and boneless)**  
**Del Monte Fruit Cups**  
**Dawn Dish Soap**  
**Exam Gloves - small and medium**  
**Finch Seed (with millet, not just thistle - no sunflower seeds)**  
**Cards - Gasoline - Home Depot - Publix**  
**Heating Pads - No Automatic Shut Off**  
**Hose Nozzles**  
**Insect Spray for our Volunteers**  
**Laundry Detergent - non-scented - HE (high efficiency)**  
**Letter-Size Laminating Pouches (for heat seal)**  
**Mixed Nuts in Shells**  
**Paper Towels**  
**Pool Chlorine**  
**Pool Salt - 40 lb. bags**  
**Science Diet Small Bites Dry Adult Dog Food**  
**Shelled Walnuts**  
**Trash Bags - 13 or 33 gallon**  
**Trash Bags - 55 gallon heavy duty - contractor grade**  
**Wild Bird Seed**

**HARRY, THE HERRING GULL WOULD LIKE TO BE ADOPTED!**



Harry is my name, and I know my name when I'm called to eat my food! I am a herring gull. I was found in Laishley Park and taken to the Center in April 2002 with a broken wing that was badly infected. I had to have an amputation at the right elbow. Because I can't live in the wild, I make my home here at the Center in the shorebirds compound.

I have a beautiful stream with a waterfall and have great food to eat - smelts, superworms, scrambled eggs and moistened dry dog food, If I can't be free, this is the next best thing, but I would like someone to adopt me. It's pretty easy to do, just call or come into our Gift Shop. Remember: The adoption fee helps defray the cost of the specialized food purchased for a particular bird. Don't forget - it's tax deductible.

If you have a child in school, or are a member of an organization that would like a presentation from the PRWC, please call 941-637-3830 and set up an appointment. School groups and organizations can also arrange with the Center for a tour guide when they come to the Center.

Here's a list of our residents and the adoption fee per month:

<b>Barred Owl</b>	-	<b>\$28.00</b>	<b>Gull or Tern</b>	-	<b>\$15.00</b>
<b>Black Crowned Night Heron</b>	-	<b>20.00</b>	<b>Osprey</b>	-	<b>20.00</b>
<b>Caspian Tern</b>	-	<b>15.00</b>	<b>Pelican</b>	-	<b>25.00</b>
<b>Cooper's Hawk</b>	-	<b>25.00</b>	<b>Red-Shouldered Hawk</b>	-	<b>30.00</b>
<b>Cormorant</b>	-	<b>20.00</b>	<b>Red-Tailed Hawk</b>	-	<b>30.00</b>
<b>Eagle</b>	-	<b>35.00</b>	<b>Sandhill Crane</b>	-	<b>15.00</b>
<b>Fish Crow</b>	-	<b>15.00</b>	<b>Screech Owl</b>	-	<b>15.00</b>

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.*

## **GIFTS / BEQUESTS / MEMORIALS**

A very generous gift was received from Lucy Schmidt of Lake Suzy, FL. Alfred and Charmaine Gwynn of Punta Gorda, FL gave the Center a very generous gift.

The Honorable Order of Kentucky Colonels of Punta Gorda, FL gave the Center a gift of \$400.00.

Leonard P. Conte of Punta Gorda, FL requested memorials in November, December, January, February and March in memory of his wife, Esther G. Conte and dog, Tiger.

George and Okle Clarkson were honored in a memorial by Judith Clarkson of Punta Gorda, FL.

A memorial in memory of Charles and Margaret Cairns was requested by Thomas and Carol Cairns of Punta Gorda, FL in the name of James Condo and Diane Silver.

Clyde Prier was memorialized in January, February, March, April, May and June by his wife Judith of Port Charlotte, FL.

Marne Kelleher of Treasure Island, FL made a memorial donation in memory of George and Jody Friess.

Rose Wawrzyniak of Port Charlotte, FL requested a memorial for Walter Slank.

A Pelican Pond Renovation donation was received from Ed and Kate Curley of Punta Gorda, FL.

Memorials for Kristopher Hoffmann was made by Donna & Michael Checchi of Upper Saddle River, NJ, and by Rhonda Taylor and Family for Kris for the Pelican Pond.

Memorials were received for Jean Visovatti of Punta Gorda, FL from the following: Mike & Rita Becker and Family of Pewaukee, WI; Stanley R. & Karen J. Breiwick of Racine, WI; Mr. & Mrs. Calvin Byers and Carolyn Byers of Pewaukee, WI; Jennie & Chris Dunn of Racine, WI; Andy & Tracey Fox and Family of Pewaukee, WI; George and Delores Hubmann of Racine, WI; and S.E.I.U. Local Union 152 of Racine, WI.

Avadna Coghill of Myersville, MD honored the Johnsons and Klines.

George and Nancy Whitton of Burlington, KY requested a memorial for Betty Knasel of Edgewood, KY.

Katherine Genaw of Port Charlotte, FL requested a memorial for her friend, Matthew O'Brien, who would have 33 on March 20th.

Janice Brandt of Punta Gorda, FL was memorialized by members of the Charlotte Harbor Parrothead Club by in-kind and monetary donations, as well as by Bill and Judy Barry of Port Charlotte, FL; Joe Caparo of Lansdale, PA; Bob and Marilyn Lehman of Punta Gorda, FL; Holly Matikiewicz of Collegeville, PA; Rosalie and Edward Swetkowski of Lafayette Hill, PA; and Marcia Wade of New York, NY.

Marshall Lapidus and Suzanne Gordon made a memorial donation in memory of Bootie, a miniature poodle owned by Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Krystofinski.

A memorial donation was made by Marsha Dryer of Punta Gorda, FL for Ed Sheets of Islamorada, FL.

Ralph and Kathy Winkler of Punta Gorda, FL memorialized Susan Buchanen.

Leonard and Betty Myszkowski requested a memorial for Betty Jane Collins.

Peace River Wildlife  
Center  
3400 Ponce de Leon Parkway  
Punta Gorda, FL 33950  
(941) 637-3830

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

CURRENT RESIDENT OR

IF YOU FIND AN INJURED OR ORPHANED BIRD, MAMMAL, REPTILE bring it to us, or if necessary, call: *Animal Control 833-5690* 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 our quarterly newsletter and a 10% gift shop discount. Please choose from the following:  
PELICAN: \$25/yr. \_\_\_ OWL: \$50/yr. \_\_\_ EAGLE: \$100/yr. \_\_\_ OTHER: \$ \_\_\_  
PELICAN POND RENOVATION: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City & State: \_\_\_\_\_  
Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_

MEMORIALS: In memory of \_\_\_\_\_  
Mail check to PRWC- 3400 Ponce de Leon Parkway, 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!!