

GRAY FOX

THERE IS NO GREATER FEELING...



OSPREY



SOFTSHELL
TURTLE

The Release

Witnessing the release of an animal back into the wild is a thrilling, heartfelt, and often life-changing event! Anyone who has seen an animal's confident and quick departure or brief hesitation experiences the joy and has a renewed commitment to helping return wildlife back to their native environment.

The animals' sense of freedom seems to demonstrate their appreciation for the staff, volunteers, and YOU, who invest in their care, and play a role in returning them to their rightful home.

An osprey—now able to spread his healed wings—gently taking flight, gliding out across the water and taking one furtive glance back to the shore.

A Florida softshell turtle tentatively stepping out of the safety of her

transport carrier, pausing to assess the situation and then quickly diving back into her wetland home with a splash.

Or the gentle, week-long soft release of a gray fox kit as she gradually eases herself back into the freedom of her natural habitat.

We hope you share the same sense of mission accomplished that we do with each and every release. Honestly, we couldn't do it without your commitment and support of our mission.

It has been an amazing year at South Florida Wildlife Center, with thousands of injured, sick and orphaned patients being diagnosed and treated in our hospital and then released.

As supporters and friends you touch the lives of all the animals receiving

attention here. We are grateful to have you as a treasured part of our family, and we are truly thankful for the critical role you play.

Your tax-deductible support during this holiday season will go to work immediately making a difference to your community's wildlife.

Thank you and happy holidays!

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South Florida Wildlife's New Executive Director

Debra Parsons-Drake



I am very pleased to introduce myself to all of you as the new Executive Director of South Florida Wildlife Center.

I bring to SFWC a decades-long commitment to animal welfare and an extensive resume of professional accomplishments in both corporate and not-for-profit management. For the last eight years, I have overseen the daily operations and steady growth of the four animal care facilities operated by The Humane Society of the United States and its affiliate, The Fund for Animals.

Prior to that, I held HSUS leadership positions with both its Animal Rescue Team and its State and Regional offices. My role with the organization began in 2005, with boots on the ground rescue work in response to Hurricane Katrina.

Before joining The HSUS, I spent seven years as executive director of a large animal shelter on the west coast of Florida which took in lost and surrendered pets from both animal services and the public. Prior to that, I had a successful 16-year corporate career as the chief operating officer of a statistical research firm providing stock market research for institutional investors (which was far less fun or rewarding than animal welfare).

As we embark on an exciting future at SFWC, I look forward to utilizing my business skills and passion to help wildlife: helping sick and imperiled wild animals; promoting respect and appreciation for wildlife; growing our role as a community wildlife resource; advancing the cause of animal welfare; solidifying plans for construction of a new, multi-million dollar wildlife hospital; and helping to raise the funds required to support growth and daily operations.

Professionally and personally, I am both humbled and honored to join with you — our dedicated supporters — in SFWC's important mission to help wildlife.

For the animals,

Debra Parsons-Drake



Donor Spotlight

Susan and Richard Loman - *Seizing the opportunity to make a difference*

Susan and Richard Loman view their nonprofit support as an "opportunity." From event sponsorship and other monetary gifts to the donation of a vehicle to SFWC's Wheels for Wildlife program, the Lomans have contributed in many ways over the years. But they are anything but typical donors.

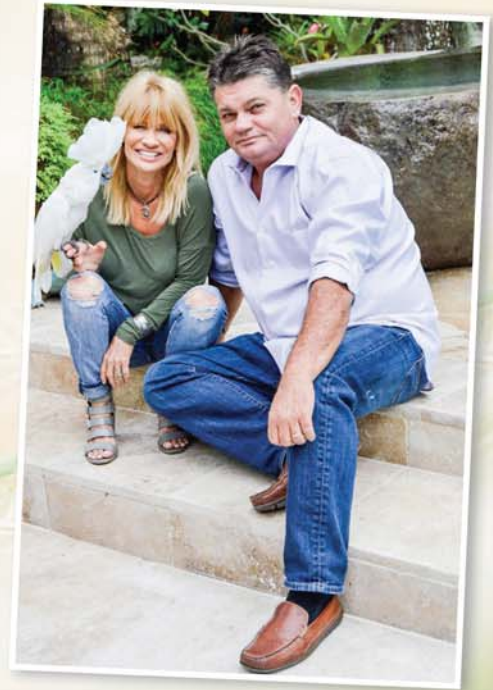
Just ask any staff member who can breathe more easily knowing, should there be a hurricane, there is a safe evacuation site awaiting SFWC's patients at The Fiberglass Shop of Fort Lauderdale warehouse, where Richard is owner and operator. Or the Center's wildlife rehabilitation and release crew, who were offered access to the Loman's property as a release site for native screech-owls. But perhaps the strongest link is the Lomans' ability to welcome non-releasable animals to the safe haven of their property, where they are caretakers of a small sanctuary for iguanas, bearded dragons, tortoises,

parrots, and cockatoos – all who live in harmony with two humans, two cats, and a dog.

"Richard and I are animal lovers and always have wanted in some way to give back," Susan says. "After getting involved with the SFWC and experiencing their commitment to saving animals, we knew we wanted to help make a difference. We feel that if just one life of an animal is saved because of our contribution, we have made an impact."

Susan recalls one memorable experience when she got a call from SFWC about an iguana with a head injury that had left the animal blind. Once healed, the iguana took up residence at the Lomans' sanctuary.

"The Center is run on donations from people like us who are passionate about animals," Susan notes. "There are many ways to help animals in need through the SFWC. No matter how small or large, no help will ever go unnoticed."



Susan and Richard Loman are anything but typical donors here at South Florida Wildlife Center.



Wheels for Wildlife Vehicle Donation Program

Does selling an unwanted vehicle seem like a hassle? How does a tax deduction, free towing from anywhere in the U.S., and helping animals at the same time sound? Donate cars, trucks, RVs, motorcycles or boats-running or not. On average, SFWC receives 80% of the proceeds from vehicles sold at auction! Visit WheelsForWildlife.com or call (855) 647-1618.

Volunteers

Helping the community help SFWC

We could not provide the services we do without our trained and committed corps of superb volunteers. Increasingly, we are offering volunteers the opportunity to become actively engaged in hands-on work both at the Center and in their own communities in the tri-county area SFWC serves.

Growing numbers of volunteers are in the field responding to ambulance rescue calls, assisting and training people with the re-nesting of infant wildlife, doing “soft releases” on their own properties, and educating their neighbors and community groups about how to live in harmony with our native wildlife.

Onsite, our trained volunteers assist in the hospital, nursery and outdoor habitats as well as with constituent relations in admissions, development and communications. The depth and breadth of ways to lend a hand are considerable.

For those who have limited time to volunteer or who want to work offsite, we suggest opportunities to work within

your own community to help introduce, educate, and raise awareness and support for SFWC. Individuals host SFWC events in their homes, workplaces, community centers, and clubs. Businesses encourage employees to volunteer for projects. Schools and universities take on projects and host speakers.

There are so many ways to make a positive impact. Just pick up the phone and call us. Thousands of animals will benefit from your generosity of time and resources.



Volunteer Spotlight

Todd Sorrin

Helping people help animals

Volunteers at SFWC often find that the experience goes beyond initial expectations. Consider Todd Sorrin's “oh wow” moment.

“I first came here to work with animals but realized it's about the people that work here,” he explains. “That's what brings me back. I volunteer to help people help animals.”

He says the SFWC staff is very respectful of him and his time and appreciative of his efforts.

“I want to make good use of my skill-set, but I jump in as needed,” he says. “They know what I'm good at and what I can do. We work well together.” About five years ago, Todd became semi-retired and was looking for volunteer opportunities. That's when he saw an article about South Florida Wildlife Center, and even though he hadn't heard about the organization before, he applied to be a volunteer.

On his first day, he was cleaning an outdoor enclosure and knew he was in the right place. He watched squirrels bounding around the habitat, on their way to full rehabilitation and eventual release back to the wild.

Todd has also volunteered in the wildlife nursery and took some SFWC classes, like “Safe Animal Handling.” Then an opportunity opened up in the hospital, assisting veterinary department staffers in medical exams, treatments, and surgery. Todd is also involved with rescues and releases; he says he likes trying a variety of things. “My home base is the hospital,” he says, “but I like to mix it up. If there is a need, I can fill it. I'm always looking to grow my value to the facility.”

Todd's background is in the private sector, involved in the business of real estate

development. He remembers one project that had a deadline inconveniently delayed because Gopher Tortoise burrows were found at the job site.

“It was troubling for me at the time, but now I see it from a whole different perspective,” he says, citing SFWC's numerous hospital patients and successful releases of this threatened species into the wild again, where they and their burrows are protected by law.

Spreading the word about the Center's work, and its numerous wildlife patients from a range of animal species, is important to Todd. He even helped make an open house a reality recently for veterinary professionals, letting them know about this impressive resource in the community.

“Everybody I talk to is amazed,” he says.



SFWC's permit to outfit Gopher Tortoises with tracking devices helps in the protection of this threatened species. Rehabilitated tortoise patients are then released back to the wild at an approved “waif” site, if the animal's home has been destroyed or we do not know the location.

Helping Florida's At-Risk Species

Donors enable SFWC to provide lifesaving care to wild animals in need of rescue and medical attention — including hundreds of animals each year with threatened, endangered or other protected status. From the Florida Bonneted Bat and the Gopher Tortoise to almost a dozen bird species native to the state's distinctive landscape, these especially vulnerable animals all play an important role in the ecosystem. These and about 250 other wildlife species we've seen over the years amaze us with their presence in the natural environment we all treasure.

Your support is vitally important to our successes for Florida's imperiled wildlife.

Numbers of Vulnerable Wildlife Admitted to the SFWC Hospital in 2015-2016

STATE SPECIES OF CONCERN

Black Skimmer



7

Burrowing Owl



65

Limpkin



47

Little Blue Heron



4

Snowy Egret



8

Tricolored Heron



8

White Ibis



170

FEDERALLY-DESIGNATED THREATENED SPECIES

Wood Stork



7

STATE-DESIGNATED THREATENED SPECIES

Gopher Tortoise



60

Least Tern



12

Roseate Spoonbill



5

FEDERALLY-DESIGNATED ENDANGERED SPECIES

Florida Bonneted Bat



1

Snail Kite



2

* Number of hospital admissions

amazonsmile
You Shop. Amazon Gives.

If you start your holiday shopping at smile.amazon.com and select South Florida Wildlife Center as your charitable organization, then eligible purchases made will result in a donation from the Amazon Smile Foundation!

Does your holiday list include helping animals? Check out SFWC's Amazon Registry! Browse our hand-picked list of needed supplies for all departments, and any purchases will be shipped directly to us and put to good use right away to benefit the wildlife in our care. Find us by searching under Your Lists - Baby Registry - Find a Baby Registry - South Florida Wildlife Center.



South Florida WILDLIFE CENTER

In partnership with The Humane Society of the United States

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Fort Lauderdale, FL 33315

CONTACT US

Online: southfloridawildlifecenter.org

954.524.4302

Hospital Admissions: **ext 10**

Volunteers: **ext 40**

Donations: **ext 25**

Email: info@southfloridawildlifecenter.org

HOURS OF OPERATION:

8am to 6pm ET

365 days a year



Follow us on Instagram!

[instagram.com/southfloridawildlifecenter](https://www.instagram.com/southfloridawildlifecenter)

Planned Giving

Planned gifts have a significant positive impact on our organization and our ability to properly care for the animals entrusted to us now and in the future.

For information about planned giving opportunities, please contact Jan Del Sesto at 954-524-6344.

Photos tell the story...Thank you!

Words cannot express how grateful we are for the photo contributions of Toby Blades, Aaron Ansarov, Christine Capozziello, Brian Jackson and so many other volunteers and staff members. Your photos speak for themselves as they embody the beauty and heartfelt importance of our mission.



We were prepared...

Even though Hurricane Matthew did not make landfall in South Florida, we are thankful to our volunteers and donors for helping to make sure we were prepared and that safety was assured for SFWC's wild patients.