

Call of the Wild

2013 Volume 1



Walkin' on the Wild Side

Your Support Can Save a Life

The mission of the Back to Nature Wildlife Refuge is to rescue, raise, rehabilitate, and release injured or orphaned Florida native species and to provide education about respecting and preserving the environment through our non-releasable permanent residents known as “educational ambassadors”.

The Back to Nature informational guide helps to keep the you abreast of the activities, status, stories, and happenings here at the refuge.

We're Building a New Home

In 2007, BTN was granted 20 acres of land by the Orange County Environmental Protection Department, as part of a 40 year lease. The new site will be located off of Narcoossee Rd and Clapp Simms Dudda Rd. (adjacent to Split Oak Preserve). We are extremely grateful to be partnering with the county to help Central Florida's wildlife.

Ground Breaking is expected to take place Summer 2013. Our goal is to relocate the entire facility, including all of our resident animals (currently residing in East Orlando/ Bithlo). Actual completion date is still pending.

Please fill out the form if you have any interest in sponsoring a wildlife enclosure or facility building.

Sponsorship packages coming soon!

Social Media:

[Twitter.com/BTNWildlife](https://twitter.com/BTNWildlife)

[Facebook.com/BTNwildlife](https://facebook.com/BTNwildlife)

www.BNT-wildlife.org



Puma, the bobcat, has been at the refuge for two years.

We are the largest registered non-profit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to the Rescue, Raise, Rehabilitation and Release of Central Florida's injured and orphaned native wildlife.



Rascal is one of our newest friends.

Rescue: Friend in Need

Back to Nature can ONLY accept injured and orphaned Florida native wildlife. We currently do not have the resources to pick up injured wildlife. (NO DOGS OR CATS)

Survival Tips: 3 Things to Know

•Keep the animal in a quiet, dark, holding container with plenty of ventilation.

•Keep animals warm via a heating pad on LOW, under (not in direct contact) the box or carrier.

•Offer little or no food. Water is ok for injured ADULT wild animals. For newborns, provide children's unflavored Pedialyte via a dropper every 2 to 4 hours.

If you can safely transport the animal without putting your safety at risk, place it in a carrier or a box and bring it to us. If you cannot, call your local animal services agency and give them the location of the injured animal. Be sure to ask about their policies on wildlife.



Ralph is recovering after he was hit by a car.



Kelly Geckler takes care of an injured possum.

Raising and Training the Wild

The process of raising a wild animal is MUCH more complex than many realize. Though it seems appealing to some people, it is very much illegal for a person to attempt raising a baby wild animal(s) without a rehabilitation permit. With that said, we at BTN take this process very seriously in hopes to return each one of them back to nature.

Your Environmental Impact

Environmental/human impact, domestic animal attacks, lack of knowledge about how wild animals are raised by their parents, death of the mother and rejection from the mother are all possible reasons why you might find a wild baby animal. Not knowing what to do and wanting to do what's best for the animal are the two main reasons why people bring injured and orphaned wild animals to us.

In most cases, 24 hour care is required (just like a human child). Formula, bottles, aspirators, blankets, medicine, baby wipes, and very little sleep are all a part of ensuring these tiny creatures survive and thrive. Our hands-on nurturing, however, is limited. Once these babies are capable of eating on their own and

can be placed with others, they learn to identify with many, many others of their own species. This process is extremely crucial to their survival.



Raising Bert and Ernie

After they have proven they can be on their own, we place them in outdoor enclosures (aka hackouts) where they 'train' to be the wild animal they are meant to be. At this point, very little human interaction occurs up.



Hoot is just months away from his release.

Mission: Rehab

Rehabilitating an injured, wild animal is not always easy, as often times, a wild animal is not as cooperative as a domestic animal. Different medical care is required for each animal. Our vet is not on site, so most of the medical care and rehabilitation is administered by the BTN staff.

In more serious cases, an animal is brought to our vet for check

ups, surgeries, and tests. Our team is dedicated to getting an injured animal the care it needs to get them back to their home. This process can sometimes take months.

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Release: Back to Nature



Incorporated in June 1989, and founded by Carmen M. Shaw, Back to Nature Wildlife Refuge (BTN) is the largest non-profit 501(c)(3) public wildlife rehabilitation facility in the Central Florida Region, serving 2,500-3,000 of Central FL's Wildlife per year. We rely on the generous support of the public to help us fulfill our mission.

Our Mission Statement

BTN employs four dedicated full time staff to rescue, raise, rehabilitate, and release injured and orphaned Florida native wildlife.

We permanently house over 40 resident wild, non-releasable animals that serve as educational ambassadors for the facility.

In 2007, BTN was granted 20 acres of Orange County land, managed by the Environmental Protection Division. Our hopes for a brighter future are in your hands.

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These little guys are ready to head back to the Ocala National Forest.

Our Message:

“This certainly isn't a job for the faint hearted. The dedication needed to care for (sometimes) over 300 animals at a time, doesn't end at 4pm and often occurs even on our days off. Round the clock care is required for many animals forcing us to bring them (infant wildlife) into our homes at night, to be fed anywhere from every 2-4 hours. It's our love for them and the desire to promote public awareness of our furry friends, that keeps us going everyday”

-Staff of BTN

Board:

Executive Director: Debbie Helsel
Manager of Administration: Kelly Verduin



How You Can Help

Our Wish List:

- Dry & Canned Dog food
- Dry & Canned Cat food
- Wild Bird Seed
- Cracked Corn/ 10% Sweet feed
- Clean used towels, sheets, blankets & T-shirts
- Bleach and *Dawn dish soap
- Paper Towels
- Gallon and sandwich size ziplock bags
- 13 gallon/39 gallon/45 gallon /55 gallon Trash bags
- Shelled nuts
- Wood (4x4, 2x4, etc. for new enclosures and repair of older ones)
- 14 gauge and 16 gauge wire (for enclosures and repair)
- Gift Certificates to Wal-Mart, Home Depot, Lowes, Office Depot, Office Max
- OFF Bug Repellent

Please drop off at the refuge during normal hours of operation.



Fred is ready to be free.



Lincoln is one of our youngest members.

Sponsor an Animal

Your donation includes: a beautiful 8x10 photo of the animal(s) you chose to sponsor, a certificate of adoption and their unique story as well as facts about that species!

Adoptions available for pick up at the refuge or by mail. Please allow up to 3 weeks for mail delivery and/or pick up.



Even iguanas need some love.

Our Furry Friends



Rocky wants you to come visit BTN.



Our cover boy. Snow is gentle and loves kids.



Cujo may look fierce but she is as gentle as a lamb.



Back to Nature Visa cards are here!

The refuge receives \$50 when you make your first purchase.

A percentage of your purchases will also go to BTN.

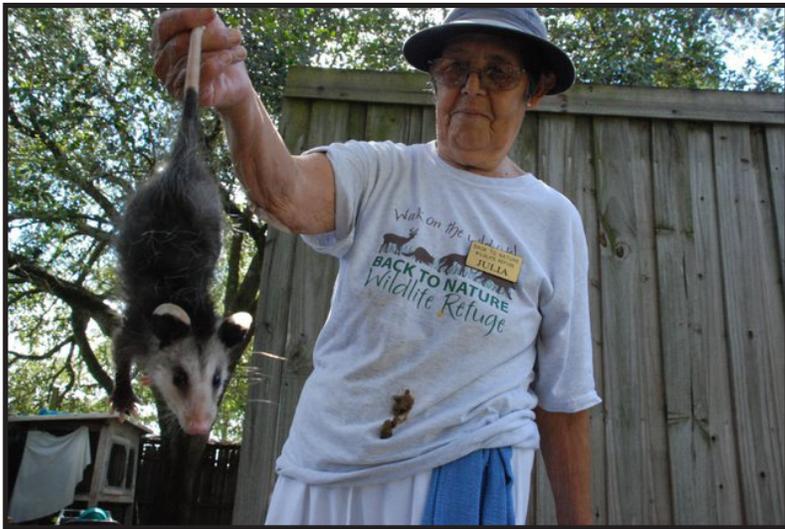
Becoming Part of the Team



Volunteers help an injured falcon.

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The Rewards of Helping



Judy has been a volunteer since BTN first opened.

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Volunteer Requirements

- 18 years old or older
- Volunteer shifts are a minimum of 4 hours a week (consistently and for at least a 6 month period)
- Proof of tetanus shot dated within the last 3-5 years.
- A positive attitude and strong work ethic.

Cool. Just for Kids.



Jessie loves playing with the other 'kids' at the refuge.

Never Too Young

The goal of the program is to come together in nature and with peers to appreciate one's self and learn new and fun ways to manage daily life.

As David Suzuki says, "Nature is the best nurture".

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Back to Camp

Community Organization- Back to Nature Kids Camp is a place where kids can come to be in nature and enjoy a natural setting. Children will love to explore the woods, a pond, gardens and lots of birds and harmless critters.

Mission

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Description

The setting provides kids the opportunity to connect and relax in nature.

A day program is being offered for kids from 9-12 years of age. Small groups will participate in cooperative activities and have some quiet time in nature. The experience will help kids feel their worth, community and connection to nature. The dates the program is currently offered are August 20th, 28th and 29th. Call or email to register for the one day program it promises to be a delightful day.

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Up Close & Personal with the Residents

Children will love to explore the woods, a pond, gardens and lots of birds and harmless critters.

Mission

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Robert's class had a great day at BTN. He even made a friend



Call of the Wild



1st Annual 5K! Coming soon!

Wine Tasting Event! Coming Soon!

4th Annual
"Baby Squirrel Shower"
July 2013

7th Annual
"Sleuth's Mystery Dinner"
Fall 2013



Thanks for supporting 'Cupid Gone Wild.'

Calendar of Events:



Back to Nature Wildlife Refuge
P.O. Box 4117
Winter Park, FL 32793-4117

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage
Paid
Winter Park, Fl
Permit No. 75

