

SAVE THE WILDLIFE CAMPAIGN

Building the



Presented by

The Treasure Coast Wildlife Hospital



“In wildness is the preservation of the world.”

- Henry David Thoreau, speech at Concord Lyceum, 23 April 1851

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INTRODUCTION

Winnie the Bald Eagle

Christmas Day 1986 brought both good and bad news for a bald eagle hit by a truck in western St. Lucie County. Jean Henry, Director of the then-named Treasure Coast Audubon Wildlife Hospital, called the bird Winston Churchill because he had “a mind of his own.” Local veterinarian Richard Smith examined the bird and found the tip of the wing hanging by just bone and skin. Dr. Smith determined the eagle would live, but he would not return to the wild. He surgically completed the process of amputation begun by the vehicle, and also discovered that, in fact, “Winston Churchill” was a female. Returned to Jean’s permanent care, Winston became Winnie.

Eagles have a special place in the hearts of Americans, and a special place in the rules of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service. Possession of eagles, even eagles that cannot survive in the wild, is prohibited unless certain stringent conditions are met. One of those conditions is that the bird be on public display as an educational exhibit. Jean, ever ready to question authority when necessary, was prepared to “go to the mat” with the Federal government over possession of Winnie. Thankfully, Jean’s friends and supporters convinced her that public visitation served a valuable and positive purpose, and a Bald Eagle Possession Permit was secured.

So began the transformation of Jean’s simple hospital into an educational and cultural institution. Winnie is still with us today along with hundreds of other non-releasable animals that call the Treasure Coast Wildlife Hospital their home.

Marsh Rabbit Saved!

In 2002, we received a young Marsh Rabbit for treatment. Less than two weeks old, the bunny’s eyes were not yet open and it was covered only by short, downy fur. The good people who brought it in had rescued it from a cat.

Attacks by free ranging cats are one of the biggest problems faced by small animals of all kinds. Cat claws and mouths are filled with bacteria, making even the smallest injury a life-threatening event. Even with speedy medical intervention, survival of these victims is rare. This baby rabbit had the puncture wounds typical of cat attack injuries, and his outlook for survival was bleak. In addition, rabbits are high-stress animals that frequently die simply from handling. Nevertheless, staff began the process of intensive care.

The patient was placed into a temperature-controlled incubator and fed through a stomach tube. Under anesthesia the puncture wounds were cleaned and disinfected. Broad-spectrum antibiotics were administered. And, of course, we all crossed our fingers.

The first twenty-four hours are crucial. Were the bacteria involved sensitive to the antibiotics chosen? Would the tiny animal's system tolerate the handling and the new source of nutrition? Or would the baby succumb to a raging infection or other, unseen, problems? To everyone's delight, morning dawned on a more vigorous, pink, baby bunny! Hydration and circulation had improved, and the substitute milk was being processed. Care continued, as did the visible improvements.

By day ten all wounds had healed, fur had grown, and his eyes were opening for the first time. Removed from the incubator, the baby was placed with others of roughly the same age to socialize and wean onto natural foods. Handling of these animals is minimized to reduce stress and before long the whole group was transferred to an outdoor cage to acclimate them to ambient weather and day/night cycles. Growth and improvement continued; we had a success!

Boxing up the now-grown rabbits and transporting them to a suitable wild habitat brought mixed emotions. We become quite attached to our charges and the longer and more difficult their period of care, the greater the attachment. Still, release days are what Hospital staff live for. **Few events in life are more rewarding than seeing a wild animal returned to its natural environment with a chance for a normal and productive life.** This nameless bunny, now virtually indistinguishable from its cohorts, both deserved and would be given its chance to live wild and free.

Placing the opened cage on the ground an hour before sunset, staff stood back and watched. At first hesitant to emerge, the bunnies peered out at the world around them. Soon after, one bunny and then another hopped off into the bushes until the cage was empty. Their fate now out of our hands, we wished them well.

Oh, and the people who brought the injured bunny to us? They became members and strong supporters and now return often, to show family and friends "their" wildlife hospital.



MISSION

The Treasure Coast Wildlife Hospital (TCWH) is dedicated to the preservation of wildlife and the conservation of natural habitats.

One of the greatest global challenges today in the race to save wild things and wild places is how to connect people to the natural world in a powerful enough way to give them a reason to want to protect and preserve it. Developing meaningful relationships between people and nature is especially important in our growing suburban and urban communities, where natural environments and natural experiences are less and less common.

“For if one link in nature’s chain might be lost, another might be lost, until the whole of things will vanish by piecemeal.”

- Thomas Jefferson

On a local level, the steady influx of new residents to the Treasure Coast area is having a profound impact on our wildlife and natural environments. As we accommodate this growth, it is critical that people who now call this area home understand the delicate balance of human and non-human populations, the affect we have on the natural environment, and the best ways in which we can co-exist.

PURPOSES AND GOALS

The Treasure Coast Wildlife Hospital has two related, and distinct, purposes or goals. Our primary purpose is:

To treat and rehabilitate sick, injured, and orphaned wild animals with the goal of releasing them back into the wild.

However, since most problems experienced by wild animals are directly or indirectly related to people, the second purpose is:

To provide public information and education about wild things and wild places so that people develop a closer connection and sense of stewardship towards wildlife.

More specifically, our goals are to:

- Improve people’s understanding of the natural environment and habitats and the wild creatures that depend on those places for *their* survival.
- Make the case for why protecting wild things and wild places is not only ethically sound but will also help to safeguard *our own* survival.
- Increase awareness about the interconnectedness and interdependence of our natural and man made environments.

PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

Hospital: Treatment and Rehabilitation Center

The Treasure Coast Wildlife Hospital operates a comprehensive medical and rehabilitative facility for the care of wild animals. The clinic receives as many as two thousand wild patients each year, providing treatment for animals as diverse as bobcats, eagles, alligators, and songbirds. **Roughly ten percent of the animals we treat belong to Listed Species¹** (Endangered, Threatened, or Species of Special Concern). Upon completion of their rehabilitation, these animals are returned to suitable wild habitats.

Over time, the level of care we have been able to provide has improved dramatically. Where once pounded chicken necks, cracked corn, and other home grown concoctions were dietary staples, now natural, species-specific foods are available. The Wildlife Hospital purchases rats, mice, chickens, quail, a variety of fish, worms, garden produce, and other fresh foods. Dry prescription diets are also now available for many species. Gaining insights from practices pioneered in modern zoological parks, our cages and enclosures now better accommodate the animals' physical as well as psychological health.

Modern veterinary medicine also offers specific course work devoted to "exotic animals". Cooperating veterinarians from across the Treasure Coast provide pro bono goods and services to our patients and also help train staff in valuable new techniques and treatments. Additional staff training is acquired through the International Wildlife Rehabilitation Council, the National Wildlife Rehabilitation Association, and the Florida Wildlife Rehabilitation Association, all professional organizations of which the Treasure Coast Wildlife Hospital is a member.

Whereas the original facility was able to provide rather rudimentary care to perhaps a few hundred animals a year, today's Treasure Coast Wildlife Hospital provides professional, species specific medical and rehabilitative treatment for nearly ten times as many.

Outreach and Education

Outreach and education efforts are designed to increase public knowledge and appreciation of the unique and fascinating wild places and wild animals found in south Florida. We achieve our educational program objectives by providing factual, scientifically based, unbiased information to the public. Our many outreach and education efforts are described below.

¹ The Endangered Species List is part of the Endangered Species Act, administered jointly by the U.S. Department of the Interior's Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Department of Commerce's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Growth in Community Outreach

Environmental Educators travel off site with some of the Treasure Coast Wildlife Hospital's resident animals that cannot be released back to the wild. Site visits are made to public and private schools as well as community, civic, business, and non-profit organizations throughout the Treasure Coast. **The opportunity to see these animals live and up close is a uniquely positive experience for children and adults alike and helps to enhance a respect and appreciation for wild life.**

In the early days, Jean Henry was able to speak before only a few groups of people a year; animal care required the majority of her time. Media coverage of special issues increased this public outreach somewhat, but media coverage is both infrequent and incomplete. Thanks to greater volunteer efforts in animal care, Jean's protégé and successor Ken Christiansen was able to provide school classes and other groups with several educational programs per month in the late 1980's. At that time, public visiting hours also increased visitor frequency.

The real potential for directed educational efforts was not realized until 1993, when Dan Martinelli joined the permanent staff, first as Assistant Director, and now as Executive Director. Dan's training (a Bachelor of Science coupled with Masters course work in Biology, Chemistry, and Secondary Education) enabled the Wildlife Hospital to create a full educational program curriculum.

Today, the Wildlife Hospital offers on site and off site natural history based educational programs suitable for every age group from nursery school to nursing home. Our programs have been provided throughout south Florida, from Key West to Melbourne.

In 2002 alone, 151 programs were delivered to nearly 11,500 people. An additional **4,000 people** visited the Treasure Coast Wildlife Hospital's facility for **self guided tours. Tens of thousands more** experienced the Treasure Coast Wildlife Hospital's Educational Animals "up close and personal" at events like the Stuart Air Show and the Florida Sportsman Magazine Fishing Show. Demand for program services is ever increasing as more and more people become aware of the educational offerings of the Wildlife Hospital.

On-Site Learning Opportunities

Our former site included a number of flight cages and interpretive exhibits, and this facility was open for public visitation and group tours. Animals including Bald Eagles, Mourning Doves, bobcats, deer, pelicans, snakes,

turtles, hawks, owls, and others were on display. These representatives of nature's diversity may be the only such creatures many people had ever experienced outside of a television broadcast. While most people have heard the words Endangered Species, few can make an emotional connection to living representatives of endangered creatures. The opportunity to watch a Bald Eagle preen, and to hear it vocalize to its mate, provokes a visceral response in the observer far beyond anything available in a standard curriculum.

Combining natural history information with direct experience is a uniquely valuable opportunity. Demand for this service, as judged by visitor load, increases every year.

Guided Interpretive Tours

The Treasure Coast Wildlife Hospital's **Nature and Wildlife Tours** feature small group size, personal attention, and no lengthy walks. Participants explore some of the special native habitats found only in south Florida.

By journeying directly into the natural environment, staff naturalists open the door to nature's classroom and make it easy for people to connect with the environment and observe the delicate balance of nature first-hand. Novice and advanced birders, photographers, and nature lovers of all kinds participate in these tours and come away with a rewarding and memorable experience. Some of the specific tours are described briefly below.

Everglades National Park

The majestic beauty of Tropical Florida is highlighted in this tour of one of the most popular national parks in the country. Unique habitats including tropical hardwood hammocks, dwarf cypress sloughs, and mangrove estuaries are featured. A variety of egrets, herons, ibis, nesting anhingas and others provide for an outstanding birding experience. Alligators and the less commonly seen American crocodile along with raptors, bald eagles, and swallow-tailed kites may also be encountered.

Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary

A special solitude surrounds the trail and boardwalk through several of south Florida's increasingly rare native plant communities. Featured are slash pine flatwoods, sawgrass marsh, and the world's largest remaining old growth cypress forest. Tropical trees, ferns, bromeliads and orchids proliferate here.

Wildlife that may be seen include White-tailed deer, bobcats, and otters as well as a variety of birds such as Pileated woodpeckers, barred and screech owls, herons, egrets, migratory warblers, eastern meadowlarks, common yellowthroats, red shouldered hawks and nesting wood storks.

Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge

This tour of one of Florida's premiere wildlife viewing areas is home to more than 300 bird species including fifteen Threatened or Endangered species. Black Point Wildlife Drive, a seven mile auto tour through some of the choicest marshes, is the main observation area where migratory concentrations of ducks, shorebirds, avocets, and others are common. Nearby Cape Canaveral National Seashore may also be visited.

Other Community Services

The Treasure Coast Wildlife Hospital also participates in the management of urban wildlife, offering information and advice to homeowners, businesses, and government entities that encounter or deal with wild animals in their daily lives.

Treasure Coast Wildlife Hospital staff frequently answer more than 100 telephone calls a day, many of which are requests for information about wildlife. "What can I do about the armadillo under my house?" "Why is that cardinal attacking my window?" "What kind of snake did I see on my back porch?" "My granddaughter handled a wild animal! Can she get West Nile Virus or Rabies?" "Can I put up a nesting platform for Ospreys?" These are but a sample of the questions put to The Treasure Coast Wildlife Hospital every day.

The Treasure Coast Wildlife Hospital is a proven community resource and has been so for decades. Educators and homeowners, tourists and residents alike, and most especially the wildlife, all benefit from our programs and services.



PRESENT NEED:

FROM CRISIS SITUATION TO CATALYST FOR CHANGE

After effectively running our operation from our Bridge Road location for nearly twenty years, in May 2003, the current landowner informed us that we must leave! **A lawsuit filed against the Treasure Coast Wildlife Hospital by the landowner made the situation urgent and time sensitive.** Practically speaking, there is no local, ready-made wildlife hospital in which we can either temporarily or permanently relocate. We cannot house our eagles in a cow pasture or rehabilitate deer in a rented storefront.

To satisfy the requirements of the landowner, we vacated the Bridge Road property on October 31, 2004 and moved into temporary facilities adjacent to our Palm City property. The Wildlife Hospital will build permanent facilities as rapidly as funding becomes available and construction timelines allow. For the sake of the wild creatures in our care, for whom no alternatives exist, any other scenario is simply unacceptable.

While the eviction notice was completely unexpected, we had already been planning for years the evolution of our present operation into a more effective tool for serving wildlife and the community. The eviction, in effect, has been a catalyst for positive change for the Treasure Coast Wildlife Hospital.

THE CASE FOR A COMMUNITY WILDLIFE CENTER

One of the greatest challenges to be faced in the sustainability of wild things and wild places is finding ways to make our natural environment directly meaningful to people. This is especially true in our expanding suburbs and urban areas, where people are rapidly losing contact with nature. Even more critical is providing factual, unbiased information to the thousands of new residents who annually make Florida their home. One way in which we can help people develop a greater sense of their relationship to the natural world is to provide them with a place where they can interpret what they see, hear, and feel in the outdoors.

The vision for a Community Wildlife Center is an evolution and expansion of the current Treasure Coast Wildlife Hospital. It is not a zoo exhibiting caged animals, nor is it a museum displaying inanimate materials, although it incorporates elements of both. Rather, it is to be viewed as a cultural resource, available to students, artists, photographers, and the public at large, as well as those with specific interests in wild things or wild areas. The Center will specialize in exhibiting live, native plants and animals as they are actually seen in nature, and interpreting the natural environment for the enjoyment and edification of visitors. Situated in the heart of the Treasure Coast, where there already exists a high level of environmental awareness, this facility will serve public needs and enhance the prestige of the entire community.

The Center is being designed to attract new visitors and to encourage others to return often, through dynamic exhibits and interpretive programs. It will serve all ages and segments of the community: students and teachers, clubs and civic groups, business and community leaders, families, seniors, and south Florida visitors.

The Center will be a source of community pride, as important as an arts center, a museum, or a school. Indeed, it will include all of those elements, providing educational, scientific, cultural, and recreational benefits to the community, while helping to instill far-reaching values. Like other cultural institutions, it will attract new residents, businesses, and industries. It will help to build a sense of community, and an increased awareness that the community is a model place to live and work.

Most importantly, the Community Wildlife Center is insurance that present and future generations of young people can learn to understand their natural heritage, and develop the attitudes and beliefs that are necessary if south Florida's living and nonliving resources are to be preserved.

PRELIMINARY PLANS

Preliminary construction plans include both the Hospital Element and the Public Element. A general overview is described below. Estimated costs are included in Attachment A:

- **Hospital/Treatment Center** - enhancement of existing facilities
- **Welcome Center/Administrative Offices**
 - Housing the reception area, gift shop, and staff offices
- **Food Preparation and Storage Facility**
- **Caretaker/Director Residence** -for 24-hour supervision and care
- **Caging** - for Rehabilitation and Display
- **Workshop & Equipment**
 - For maintenance and enhancements to the Center
- **Nature Trails** through native habitats with live, caged exhibits
- **Community Resource Center** - multi-use room for educational classes and available to the public for group meetings, retreats and other uses.
- **Discovery Center** – living and non-living materials displayed in an interactive fashion for hand-on learning.
- Landscaping, Parking and Public Accommodations
- **Ampitheatre** – for educational programs and special events.

One of the distinct enhancements at the new Community Wildlife Center will be the development of the nature trails with the animals themselves seen in their natural habitat. Larger and more naturalistic enclosures will be spaced along these trails. Alligators, for instance, may be exhibited in a Wetland setting and Great Horned Owls in pinewoods. Thus the opportunity to experience and learn about the animals themselves will be put into context with the wild world around

us. Interpretive naturalists will provide information as appropriate, but the setting itself will also allow reflection, contemplation, and absorption of both the cognitive and the emotional impacts.

No facility of this kind currently exists on the Treasure Coast. Zoological parks exhibit primarily exotic, non-native, animals, and are commonly landscaped with exotic plants. State and national parks and preserves provide access to native, wild areas, but wild creatures — especially unusual or endangered species — rarely make themselves visible. The planned Community Wildlife Center, combines native wild animals with native wild areas, and provides unique educational and experiential opportunities available nowhere else.

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

In the past, funding has been secured primarily through legacies and bequests, membership dues, educational program fees and grants.

<u>REVENUE SOURCES</u>	<u>2002 (percentage)</u>
Legacies and Bequests	57.8
Membership Dues	18.3
Educational Program Fees	6.2
Special Events	6.2
Grants	5.5
Admission Fees/Drop-Off Donations	2.4
Other Sources	<u>3.6</u>
Total Revenue Sources	100.0

The largest costs incurred in operating the Wildlife Hospital are salary and administrative expenses, utilities, and food and medicine for the animals

<u>EXPENSES</u>	<u>2002 (percentage)</u>
Salary & Administrative	55.2
Utilities and General Operating Expenses	12.8
Animal Feed & Medicine	9.6
Equipment & Supplies	6.9
Professional Fees	4.9
Outreach & Education	4.3
Fund Development	2.7
All Other Expenses	<u>3.6</u>
Total Revenue Sources	100.0

The Wildlife Hospital's most recently audited financial statement is included as Attachment C.

Our fundraising goals and plans are described in the section that follow and also include estimated budgets for our **Capital Campaign** as well as **General Operations**.

FUND DEVELOPMENT/PLAN OF ACTION

The Treasure Coast Wildlife Hospital is currently developing a comprehensive Fund Development Plan to identify funding needs for the immediate relocation of the facility to its new home in Palm City as well as long-term fundraising goals for the Community Wildlife Center.

A combined campaign strategy is being used to raise funds for the capital campaign, support of operations, support of programs, and building an endowment. A consultant has been hired to assist us in creating our fund development plan, strengthening our organizational structure, and improving our marketing materials and communications efforts with the general public to further engage them in supporting the Treasure Coast Wildlife Hospital's plan for the Community Wildlife Center.

Capital Campaign

Our Capital Campaign goal is to raise approximately \$2.32 million during the next three to five years. The Table of Gifts below shows the number and size of gifts needed to reach this goal.

TABLE OF GIFTS NEEDED TO RAISE \$2.32 MILLION

Size of Gift	Number Needed	Total
\$ 500,000	1	\$500,000
250,000	1	250,000
150,000	2	300,000
100,000	3	300,000
50,000	4	200,000
25,000	8	200,000
10,000	15	150,000
5,000	25	125,000
less than 5,000	all others	<u>295,000</u>
		\$2,320,000

A Capital Campaign Cabinet is being developed to provide the campaign with the necessary leadership to effectively move the process forward. A market survey is currently being administered to provide additional insights into the campaign goals, objectives and strategy.

Annual Fund

The Wildlife Hospital will conduct its first annual campaign as part of the overall capital campaign. The goal is to raise funds to offset the costs of moving the Hospital to the new Palm City site and to support increased operational expenses during this transition period.

Endowment Fund

We will also embark on a long term Endowment Campaign to raise an additional \$5 million during the next five to ten years. This will ensure the sustainability of the Wildlife Center as we anticipate the growing general operating and programming costs required to effectively meet our goals and objectives. Planned giving instruments and bequests will be the cornerstone of the endowment fund.

Special Events

Several public education events are already sponsored by the Wildlife Hospital including it's annual Open House (in March), the "Woodstork" April music festival, and "Octoberness" in the fall.

New special events will occur at the Palm City site and through other venues to raise awareness about the immediate crisis for the Wildlife Hospital and to educate supporters about the long-term plans for the Wildlife Center.

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has."

- Margaret Mead

Target Markets

The Wildlife Hospital will reach out to the entire Treasure Coast Community and beyond for financial as well as leadership support to ensure a successful capital campaign. Contact — in a variety of forms — will be made with current and former Treasure Coast Wildlife Hospital members and major donors as well as local businesses, private and corporate foundations, government, civic groups and clubs, and the public at large.



Campaign Timeline: Details of Activities

PHASE I. Quiet/Planning Phase

(12 – 15 months)

- Strategic Planning
- Develop Case Statement
- Conduct Market Survey
- Organize development and campaign office
- Draft Fund Development Plan and Timetable
- Recruit and Solicit Leadership
 - Enlist campaign chair
 - Enlist other key campaign committee members
- Review campaign plan with committee
- Build prospect lists
- Identify, research, evaluate, and cultivate primary major prospective donors for lead gifts
- Solicit/Seek lead gifts
- Develop basic marketing and communications materials
 - Incorporate architectural plans into outreach/solicitation materials
- Enlist and educate major gifts and special gifts committee(s)
- Publicly announce campaign (major event)
- Monitor and maintain donor information
 - Develop confidential contact sheets and reporting structure
 - Personalized pledge cards and proposals
 - Ensure technology is in place to track information
- Develop donor recognition process
- Begin Speakers Bureau presentations
- *End first phase:* deadline for 50% of campaign dollar objective (minimum of 1/3 of goal must be met)

Phase II: Public Phase

(12 – 15 months)

- Announcement at Public Event — when 1/3 of goal is achieved
- Continue adding names to lists of major and special gift donors
- Continue prospective donor contact
- Continue major gifts solicitation
- Continue Speakers Bureau presentations
- Solicit members for special gifts committee
- Launch special gifts committee solicitations
- Continue distribution of campaign information to news media
- *End second phase:* deadline for 80% of campaign dollar objective

Phase III: Sweep Phase (Cleanup)

(12 – 15 months)

- Formally launch general gifts solicitation – gifts at all levels
- Continue solicitation by major and special gifts committees
- Continue distribution of campaign information to news media
- Continue public awareness efforts
- Launch final campaign thrust, followed by final report meeting for top volunteers
- Evaluate uncollectibles, adjust where necessary
- Victory event
- *End third phase:* deadline for 100% of campaign dollar objective

References

Calhoun, Peggy - presentation on “How to Run a Capital Campaign” given as part of a Nonprofit Resource Institute workshop, 2003.

Dove, Kent E. *Conducting a Successful Capital Campaign*. New York: John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 2000.

COLLABORATION AND SUPPORT

A 20-acre parcel located in Palm City has been deeded to the Wildlife Hospital by the Martin County Audubon Society. Ownership of the land will mean that never again will the Treasure Coast Wildlife Hospital be at the mercy of a landowner; this type of crisis will never occur again. We will also own and have complete control over all buildings, cages, enclosures, and other infrastructure at the new site.

The tremendous outpouring of community support for the Wildlife Hospital's current crisis and future plans has been inspiring and motivating. In just a few short months, prior to the development of a comprehensive relocation or fund development plan, and without solicitation for assistance, we have already received commitments for a variety of in-kind donations of services as well as monetary support. These include, but are not limited to professional services in the areas of land planning, site planning, engineering, architecture, financial and cost analysis, legal support, and environmental assessment as well as various construction and building trades that have pledged their support.

Civic groups, businesses, and individuals throughout the community have already begun to organize special events to assist in raising much-needed funds for the relocation effort and larger capital campaign.

TREASURE COAST WILDLIFE FOUNDATION

In 2004, a group of community leaders came together to create a new organization dedicated to supporting the Treasure Coast Wildlife Hospital. Chartered as the Treasure Coast Wildlife Foundation, this 501(c)(3) charity has the long term purpose of serving as the fund-raising arm of the Wildlife Center and managing and investing donations received. In the shorter term, the Foundation will spearhead the capital campaign effort and other fund-raising activities to support the construction of the new Center and ensure the ongoing operations of the Hospital.

Serving as the organization's founding board members were: Sue Hershey, President; Terrence McCarthy, Vice-President; Jeff Weber, Treasurer; Tobin Overdorf, Secretary; Glenn Hess; and Tom McNicholas. Ruth Ann Vega has now replaced Jeff Weber as Treasurer and the Board has welcomed Scott Eccleston and James Haugk to membership.

An anonymous donor has already gifted the Foundation with one million dollars. Set up as an endowment, earnings from this fund now help support the ongoing operational expenses of the Wildlife Hospital.



GOVERNANCE

The Treasure Coast Wildlife Hospital is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization incorporated in the state of Florida in 1984. The Wildlife Hospital is not a government agency. The organization is currently governed by a seven member Board of Directors that meet monthly. Board members serve one-year terms in a volunteer capacity. (See Attachment B for the Board of Directors for 2005 to 2006.)

PROFESSIONAL EXPERTISE

Our staff includes both trained professionals and dedicated volunteers from all walks of life. Between staff and volunteers the Wildlife Hospital has four individuals who are permitted by the State of Florida and by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service as Wildlife Rehabilitators. These professional credentials are granted only to individuals who have obtained extensive professional training and hands on experience with the care and rehabilitation of wildlife. Combined experience of these people exceeds fifty years.

Ongoing training is provided by cooperating veterinarians and through the International Wildlife Rehabilitation Council, the National Wildlife Rehabilitation Association, and the Florida Wildlife Rehabilitation Association. These are all professional organizations of which the Treasure Coast Wildlife Hospital is a member. Our Executive Director also teaches classes for rehabilitators in the Florida Wildlife Rehabilitation Association.

Most wildlife rehabilitators work individually, without benefit of such facilities as the Treasure Coast Wildlife Hospital has today, as did Jean Henry and Ruth Stanwood in years past. Many have limited caging and may have knowledge only of certain species. The Treasure Coast Wildlife Hospital provides help, education, and facilities for these individuals as well. Patient transfers have been accepted from throughout Florida, and even from as far away as The Raptor Trust, a distinguished institution in New Jersey.

Staff routinely works with and assists various government agencies on an as-needed basis. The Treasure Coast Wildlife Hospital also provides help and advice to: police departments of various jurisdictions, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, the US Fish and Wildlife Service, Animal Control agencies of Martin, Palm Beach and St. Lucie Counties, county, state, and national parks services, local humane organizations, and a host of others.

Staff serves on the Martin County Health Department's West Nile Virus Advisory Panel and its Rabies Advisory Panel. Staff also served on panels created by the Martin County Board of County Commissioners to reorganize the Animal Control department under the Sheriff's Office, and to update and revise County ordinances relating to animal care, welfare, and control.

HISTORY

Jean Henry and Ruth Stanwood came to Martin County from Vermont in 1969, bringing with them their Morgan horses and a huge store of commitment to all living things. Before long their ranch in Stuart was filled with animals, wild and otherwise. But Treasure Coast Wildlife Hospital traces its real beginning back to 1974, when Jean was asked by the local Audubon Society to accept phone calls about birds needing help. “I figured it’d be a call a month with a baby bird that fell out of a nest,” she said later. That first year, perhaps 50 birds received care at Jean and Ruth’s home, paid for entirely out of their own pockets.



Jean and her father

With help from friends and due in large part to Jean’s characteristic outspoken style, the group became known as the Martin County Audubon Wildlife Hospital. Over time the patient load steadily increased, as did the diversity of species treated. Retirement of first Ruth then Jean turned their part time avocation into a more-than-full-time life work. Funds, primarily their pittance of pension money, were always short but the ladies made do and kept on treating wildlife.

Recognizing that most animals in their care suffered from people-related problems, Jean became a high profile environmental advocate. She spoke before school classes and other groups, educating everyone around her on environmental issues. Never hesitant to castigate anyone, from county commissioners on down, for decisions she considered detrimental to the environment, nevertheless February 21, 1980 was declared “Jean Henry Day” by the Martin County Commission. Other awards included the Sertoma Club Service to Mankind Award, St. Lucie County Conservation Alliance 1984 Conservationist of the Year Award, President Reagan’s Private Sector Volunteer Initiative Award, and seven Partners in Education citations from the Martin County School Board. Jean was the subject of countless local newspaper and television stories, and a number of national press and television features. Environmentalist Nat Reed called her “one hell of a human being.”



Jean accepting one of many honors

Long time partner Ruth Stanwood passed away in November of 1985, coincidentally on the day that a major fund raising drive for the Hospital was to begin. Community response was tremendous, helping Jean to overcome the personal tragedy. Still, Jean's failing health made it increasingly difficult for her to continue the heavy load of wildlife care and educational programs.

Salvation came in 1987 in the form of a six and a half foot tall volunteer named Ken Christensen. Immediately recognizing a kindred spirit, Jean said "He is the first person who has come into this organization since my partner died who has been able to fill her shoes- and is as caring." Before long, Ken was Assistant Director of the Treasure Coast Audubon Wildlife Hospital, Inc.

Jean's death on February 2, 1989 was a tragedy felt by people throughout the Treasure Coast. But Ken, along with Jean's friends and champions, resolved to make sure that her dream endured. And one more thing: "It's gonna grow," Ken said.



Ken Christensen

New Director Christensen orchestrated an aggressive campaign to improve both the facilities and the financial security of the Hospital. Patient numbers increased to roughly 800 per year and new skills and enclosures were acquired to accommodate them. Ken continued Jean's educational programs and expanded them by opening parts of Treasure Coast Wildlife Hospital to the public, helping the Wildlife Hospital evolve into a form still recognizable today.

Ken's tenure continued until the end of 1992, when he decided to return to his hometown in Ohio. Dan Martinelli was hired and, moving here from Miami, became first the Assistant Director and then the Executive Director, a role he still serves in today. His training in both biology and education have allowed Dan and his staff to improve the Outreach Educational Programs, create and use new medical facilities, improve rehabilitation procedures, and add popular new exhibits.

Dan says, "I am both proud and gratified to be involved with this amazing organization. Few groups of its kind can claim such a noteworthy history, nor such a bright future. I see it as my job to ensure the continued expansion of the Hospital's commitment to the wild creatures and the human residents of the Treasure Coast."



Dan Martinelli with his own Morgan horse

ATTACHMENT A

Estimated Cost

ESTIMATED EXPENSES - CONSTRUCTION

General Conditions ¹	75,000.00	
Site Work ²	100,000.00	
Professional Services: Legal)	<u>30,000.00</u>	
Total GC & SD		205,000.00

Phase I

Hospital/Treatment Center	165,000.00	
Welcome Center/Admin Office	265,500.00	
Workshop	75,000.00	
Food Prep & Storage	58,000.00	
Director/Caretaker Residence	250,000.00	
Equipment & Furnishings	100,000.00	
Caging: Rehabilitation and Display	100,000.00	
Development Interpretive Nature Trail	30,000.00	
Landscaping & Public Accomodation	50,000.00	
Total - Phase I		1,093,500.00

Phase II

Community Resource Center	180,000.00	
Discovery Center	162,000.00	
Ampitheatre	45,000.00	
Total - Phase II		387,000.00

Total GC&SD, Phase I & Phase II		1,685,500.00
Contractor's Fee (~20%)		337,000.00

Estimated Construction Costs		2,022,500.00
Contingency (~15%)		303,000.00

Total Estimated Constuction Costs		\$2,325,500.00
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ANTICIPATED INCOME AND SUPPORT - CONSTRUCTION

Major Gifts	\$1,628,000.00	
Legacies & Bequests	330,000.00	
Special Events	65,000.00	
Annual Appeal	90,000.00	
Grants & Corporate Contributions	50,000.00	
In-Kind Donations	162,500.00	
Total Anticipated Income & Support		2,325,500.00

¹ Permits, surveys, soil testing, temporary power & water, sewer & water hookup temporary fencing, general cleaning and dumpsters, final cleanup, builders risk insurance and general liability

² Lot clearing, grading & fill, compaction, soil treatment, culverts, swales & drainage, driveway/parking & walkways landscape labor, trees, shrubs, sod. Mulch top soil & grading, sprinkler system, ponds & lakes

ATTACHMENT B

**TREASURE COAST WILDLIFE HOSPITAL
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
2006 - 2007**

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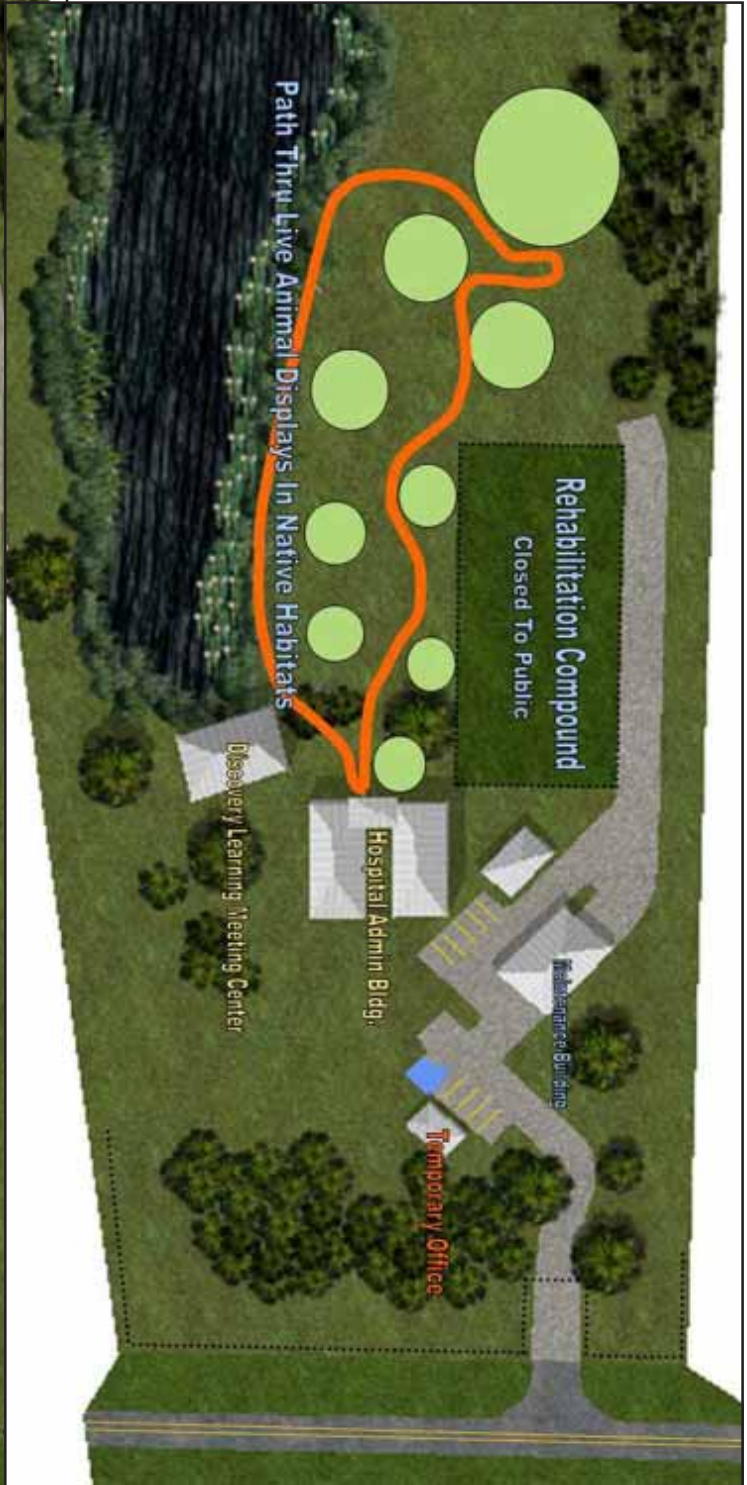
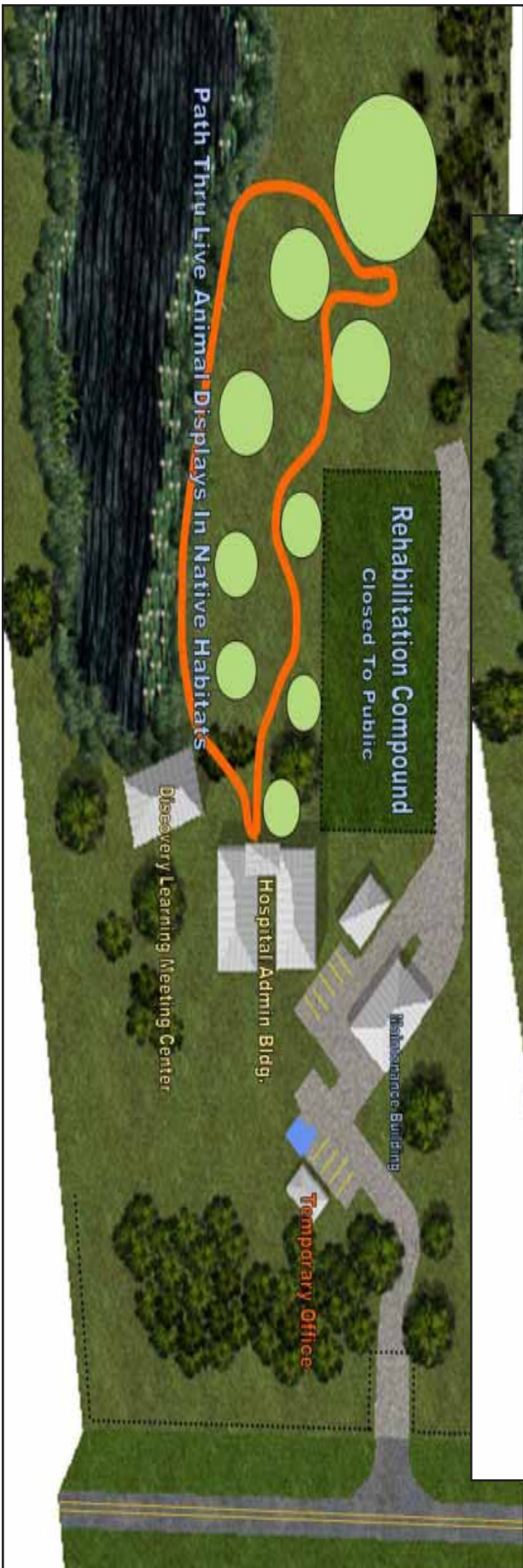
Staff

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Site Plan of the Wildlife Center

Enlarged view





Above: A.J. Smith conceptualization of the Discovery Center

Top right: interactive exhibits in the Discovery Center will make the outdoors meaningful to youth and adults through experiential learning

Bottom right: an amphitheater for directed educational programs in an outdoor setting





TREASURE COAST WILDLIFE CENTER

wildlife recovery - human discovery

