

### **A Volunteer's Story**

I met Mary Ellen Rogers in 2015 and was immediately struck by her energy and dedication to the care of birds. I made up my mind that upon retirement, I would volunteer at SBWS. In the meantime, I did a watercolor of Tim, the pelican, that is sold at local shops with the proceeds benefiting Sea Biscuit.

Fast forward five years and here I am! I began my volunteer work in January of this year. My first week consisted of meeting all the other volunteers and working with them. They guided me through the daily duties and provided me with their own suggestions and insights. Besides the cleaning of pens and feeding and assisting with the birds,

one of my duties is to help with the detailed documentation of "patients." Every animal that comes into the facility has to be recorded, as per federal guidelines. It's amazing to me to see the number and varieties of birds and animals that are cared for. On the average, SBWS treats 500 birds per year. As of mid June, the number is 302, a busy season for sure!

I truly look forward the days I volunteer. Believe me, when I say that each day provides a new learning experience. I never dreamed I would handle a turkey vulture or marvel at its unique beauty!

I feel fortunate to work so closely with such magnificent birds and to volunteer with such caring people at Sea Biscuit Wildlife Shelter - a vital and important part of our coastal community.

#### — Ardelia Secosky

SEA BISCUIT WILDLIFE SHELTER www.seabiscuitwildlifeshelter.org 910-278-7871 or 910-294-2555 • wildlifeshelter@bellsouth.net





# **Lots of Birds Need Lots of Help**

- The first 6 months of 2020 brought us 364 animals.. a record for us.
- So our all volunteer staff have stepped up and given more time than ever.
- Our 6 month total hours in 2020 are 2609
- Total volunteer hours last year were 4945
- We could not handle the case load without these trusted, skilled but unpaid staff.
- Nancy Gillen, Carol Carpenter, Jean Agner, Ardelia Secosky. Erin Kirley, Cheryl Vogel and Dr. Kristen Colleran who assists with her medical expertise.
- We've all heard that in any organization 20% of the people do 80% of the work and it's no different here at the Sea Biscuit Shelter. Kathy Hout has given hundreds of hours of care to our tiniest patients, the orphans who need frequent feedings.
- Beth Green has done a fantastic job of categorizing and accounting for every bird that comes in or goes out as well as serving as volunteer coordinator.
- Janet Kurz has been quietly taking photos and doing the facebook posts every week for at least 10 years
- Jackie Idol tracks all volunteer hours and serves as our cell phone and computer expert
- And thank heaven for Kat Walker for her budgeting, planning, marketing, mailing and bookeeping skills.



Jackie & Daughter, Jenn



Kat











Janet

**Found a Bird that Needs Help?** Contact Sea Biscuit Wildlife Shelter's injured/sick bird line at (910) 294-2555.

Beth

## Happy Endings (A few of many!)



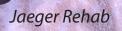
Red-tailed Hawks

April Pelican Release





Common Loon -Released in May





Anhinga

Jaeger Release

## Summer 2020 News

#### **Update On Expansion**

We had to cancel our planned fundraiser last May due to Covid restrictions. But we have some serious sponsorships that allow us to continue to move forward. Our new location at Bill Smith Park has no services at this time so the funds donated to date are being used to build a driveway, erect fencing and move the education hawks, owls and pelicans to the site.

**Duke Energy** volunteers built three beautiful and sturdy enclosures for the birds so that the general public might view them and appreciate what we do.

We hope to have these gorgeous, special birds in public view this fall.



1638 East Beach Drive Oak Island, NC 28465 If you wish to donate towards the expansion or to support our day to day expenses, please send a check marked as expansion or maintenance to:

> Sea Biscuit Shelter 1638 East Beach Drive Oak Island, NC 28465

There is also a PayPal button our website **Seabiscuitwildlifeshelter.org** 

Look for our online auctions news on the website or our facebook page: Sea Biscuit Wildlife Shelter