

SPECIAL NEWSLETTER EDITION / FALL 2019

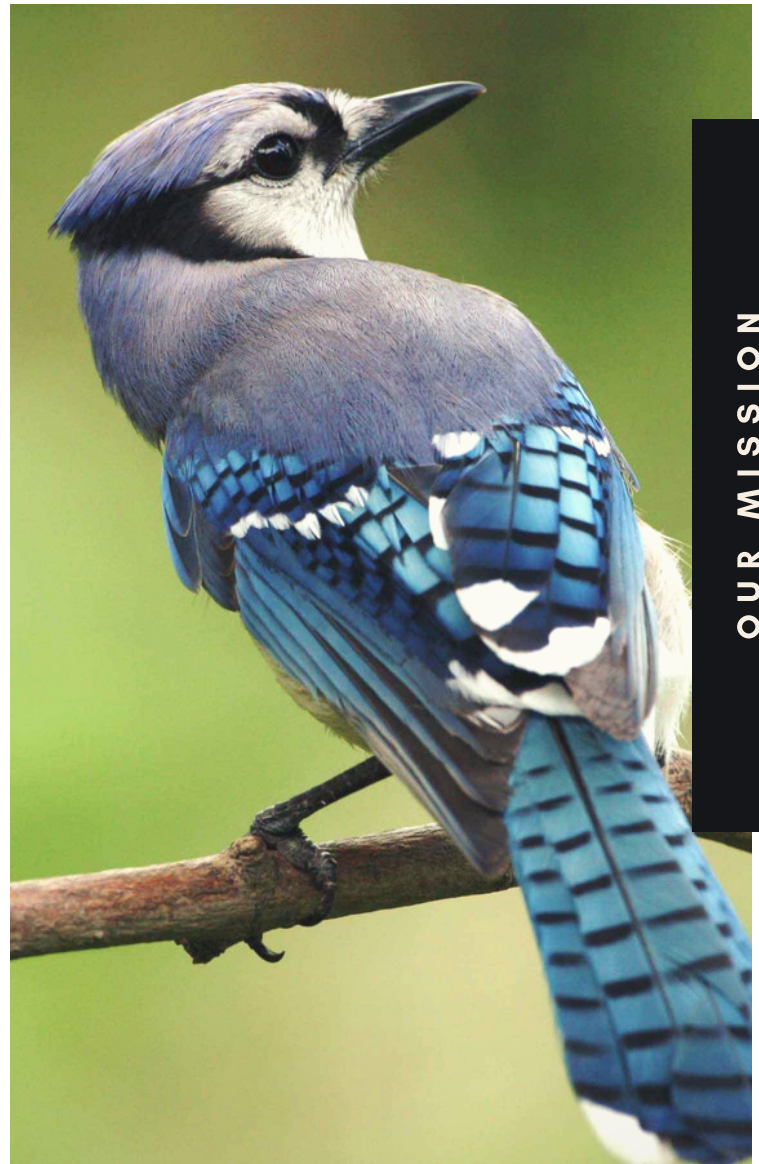
SEA BISCUIT WILDLIFE SHELTER

OUR JOURNEY STARTS TODAY



PROJECT FLIGHT

We are spreading our wings!



OUR MISSION

OUR MISSION

Rescue. Rehabilitate. Release.

Sea Biscuit Wildlife Shelter is a non-profit wild bird rehabilitation organization located in Brunswick County, North Carolina and serving the surrounding areas. It was founded in 2007 to provide medical treatment for wild birds that are injured, sick, or orphaned. Since then, thousands of wild birds have been returned to their natural habitats and thousands of people have been educated about the needs of these amazing animals.

Our current facility located in the basement of my home, continually struggles with space issues as we take in more and more birds each year. Duke Energy has granted us the land to expand our center and spread our wings! Project Flight is here! A new dedicated facility with plenty of space, educational rooms and public viewing is now a reality and we need your help. .

MARY ELLEN ROGERS
DIRECTOR

OUR VISION

EXPANDING BEYOND...

This newsletter is all about our plans for expanding our care for wildlife.

For the past 12 years, we've been responding to mostly wild bird injuries, illnesses and orphans. We rescue them from fish hooks, car strikes and lots of other entanglements. The demand for this service increases every year.

Our mission is to return healthy animals to freedom and allow the ones that would not survive an opportunity to remain alive in accredited zoos and other educational facilities.

We have been educating the public in Brunswick County by public programs. We bring our education birds to environmental events like Earth Day and Naturefest. We meet visitors at the Oak Island Nature Center. We pack up our education birds and bring them to club meetings, schools and church groups for formal presentations. We have an annual Open House so everyone can see what we do with what we have.

The new facility will allow for even more educational opportunities and public awareness.



OUR PLANS

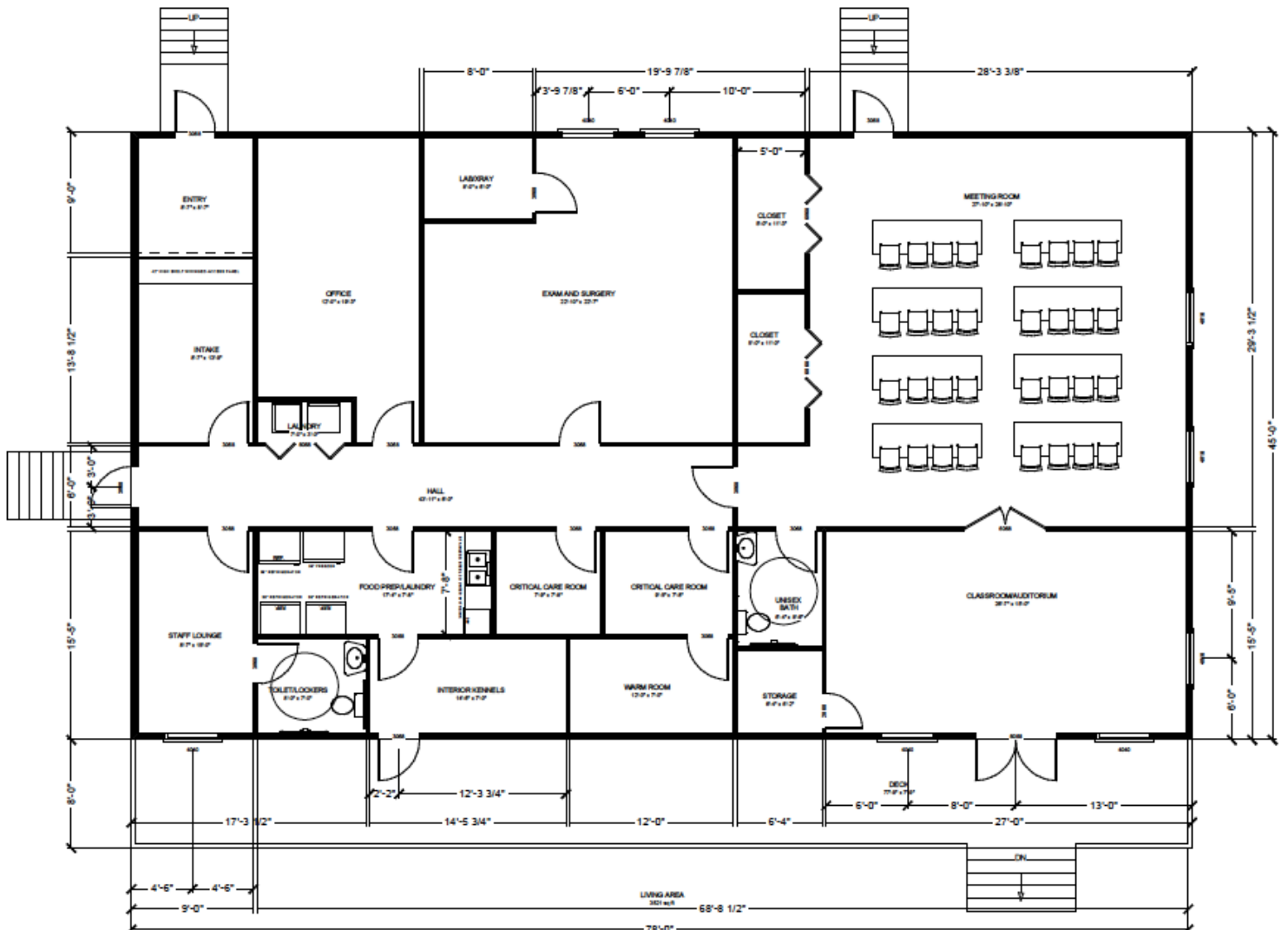
Our new facility will allow a lot more wildlife aid and outreach to the people. We will have regularly scheduled visiting hours. There will be public programs in the building. Other organizations such as local birding groups can gather in this location.

What would you like to see?

Field trips for local kids? More volunteer opportunities? Let us know what more we can do for both the wildlife and education of the public.



OUR PLANS



HOW IT BEGAN...

The new site for Sea Biscuit comes after a long process which started about five years ago in conversations between Mary Ellen and the community relations person for Duke Energy's Brunswick Nuclear Plant, Karen Williams.

After helping get a new pelican pond installed, Williams asked what other help was needed. We explained the challenges of operating a wildlife shelter on an island. When storms come and evacuations are ordered, the birds must be packed up and transported somewhere. During Florence, for example, birds were relocated where they stayed in a garage until it was safe to return to Oak Island.

Access to a parcel of land near water but off of Oak Island has been on the Sea Biscuit wish-list for years. After some research, Williams identified some options and it then took about a year for a new survey to be completed and a lease to be drawn up allowing Sea Biscuit to use the Duke Energy property behind Bill Smith Park. "We can't solve every problem," says Williams, "but it is important to invest in organizations that make our communities stronger. Sea Biscuit is one of those organizations." And the employees wanted to have a part in the project, too.

Williams organized a team-building project spanning five weeks, involving over 60 employees who worked over 400 hours to build the enclosures for the educational birds. "That is the caliber of people at Duke Energy," says Williams, "they work here, live in this community and care deeply about protecting the environment and wildlife." And it turns out that nuclear power plants are good for the environment because they don't pollute the air.

Williams explains that "many of our employees are advocates for the environmental and economic benefits of nuclear power and so it makes sense that they are also supportive of the efforts of Sea Biscuit." Sea Biscuit also recently received a grant from the Duke Energy Foundation to promote education about wild birds and conservation of their habitat.

The grant of \$9,500 will help offset the costs associated with moving to the new site and supporting our educational program. We estimate, however, that the costs to develop the land and construct a building will be over \$500,000. So we have much work to do. As for Williams, she has long marveled at birds.

Her favorite book is Richard Bach's *Jonathan Livingston Seagull* and it is no surprise that she earned her private pilot license and has flown small planes all across the United States. "The view from above enchants me," she says, "helping these creatures return to flight is an honor."

Williams is originally from the Pacific Northwest and now lives in Southport. She has worked at the Brunswick Nuclear Plant since 2015.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

With everyone's input this will be a regional wildlife center so many more animals receive the help they deserve. This will be your rescue and rehab center caring for native wildlife only. You have supported us in the past and we want to know what you would like to see us do in the future.

How to Donate, Volunteer or Help with Project Flight.

Donate here: seabiscuitwildlifeshelter.org

Or call Mary Ellen at

Sea Biscuit 910-294-2555

or send an email to:

SBprojectflight@gmail.com

HOW YOU CAN HELP

MISSION STATEMENT

The Sea Biscuit Wildlife Shelter at Oak Island, North Carolina cares for injured or orphaned wild birds. We provide minimum medical care, safety from predators, food and shelter from the elements. When an animal is able to care for itself, it is released to the wild. We do not keep non-releasable animals nor use heroic methods to sustain the quality of their life. However, the Shelter does make every effort to rehabilitate a species of special concern and every animal brought here is treated with respect and caring. We educate the public and participate in research projects.

