

Busch Wildlife Sanctuary, a real wildlife adventure!

The Busch Wildlife Sanctuary provides a fantastic learning experience to people of all ages about the fascinating wonders of Florida's wildlife and natural ecosystems. More than just a place to see animals, the Sanctuary truly is a real wildlife adventure. The Sanctuary's educational exhibits, wildlife presentations and guided nature tours are ideal for schools, special interest groups, scouts, community and civic organizations, clubs, birthday parties, and camps.

Children and adults alike find the Sanctuary and its programs to be informative, entertaining and extremely educational. Real live animals are a unique part of the learning experience. The Junior Naturalist Program offers school aged children the opportunity to be part of the Sanctuary's wildlife rehabilitation and environmental education efforts. The Sanctuary also provides life experience opportunities to special-needs youth, works with at-risk children and provides community service opportunities for students needing to perform hours for school and adults with court-ordered community service hours.

The Busch Wildlife Sanctuary is a non-profit organization and dedicated to the protection and conservation of Florida's wildlife and natural resources. This unique refuge combines an environmental learning center with a wildlife hospital. Nature trails lead visitors through pine flatwoods, oak hammocks, and cypress wetlands, where you can encounter a variety of native animals from eagles to panthers, crocodiles, otters, foxes, deer, snakes, and more. Bring the whole family for a real wild experience, or schedule your group's visit with the Sanctuary's education department. **For more information call: (561)-575-3399.**



Local bank hosts fundraiser for the Sanctuary!

BankAtlantic is hosting a fundraiser for Busch Wildlife Sanctuary and it's not the first time they have helped support their wild friends. The staff at the Maplewood branch have taken time to volunteer at sanctuary events, raise money and now they are back at it again to host a holiday fundraising event to raise much needed funds for the Sanctuary.

From November 23, 2009 to December 21, 2009 stop by the Maplewood branch and visit the giving tree for gift ideas for the Sanctuary. Donate at a \$5 level or higher for a free gift of your own from us to you and a chance to win one of four fantastic gift baskets. There's many ways to help and take something home for the holidays so be sure to stop by Bank Atlantic, 1570 W. Indiantown Rd, Jupiter, FL 33458.

Injured Eagle Takes Flight After Recovery

After spending nearly eight months at the Busch Wildlife Sanctuary recovering from an injury, an adult bald eagle was recently released back into the wild. The female eagle was found on the ground near its nest in the Bluefield Natural Area east of Okeechobee. The medical staff at the Sanctuary was successful in mending the bird's wounds. When they heard that its mate had been seen at the nest a few days prior to the scheduled release, they were anxious to get the eagle back home. Moments after the release, the long awaiting male flew in to join its mate. The two landed on a power pole and spent some time catching up before flying off together. Eagles pair for life and seeing the two reunite in time for the breeding season was an awesome feeling!



Exotic African Wild Cat Escapes from Boca Raton Home



A Boca Raton woman had a little problem with her pet "kitty". It escaped and went running rampant through her neighborhood, sparking fear in her neighbors and leading law enforcement officers with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission to confiscate the cat and bring it to the Busch Wildlife Sanctuary for safe keeping.

The pet "kitty" turned out to be a serval, a species of wild feline found in Africa, that was being kept illegally by the Boca Raton woman and managed to escape the confines of the owner's home. The cat lived inside the house without a cage and was allowed to roam about freely. Servals can weigh up to 40 pounds and stand nearly three feet tall. They look similar to cheetahs, with shorter tails, long pointy ears, and have the ability to jump higher than 10 feet in the air to chase after prey.

Florida wildlife laws require special permits for possession of a wild animal like a serval. The Boca Raton woman was forced to appear before a Circuit Court Judge to plead her case. She claimed that she had purchased the cat in North Carolina (where the laws are less strict), and moved to Florida not knowing that she needed a special permit to keep the animal in her home as a pet.

The cat owner was ordered to pay nearly \$1,000.00 in boarding and animal care fees to the Sanctuary and was given two months to secure the proper permitting and meet all the wildlife caging and possession requirements of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.

The Sanctuary will be assisting the state by providing a safe refuge for the serval while the Court System and Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission work out the legal details with the pet owner. Although servals are gorgeous animals and it is easy to understand what might lure a person to want one as a pet, they are wild animals and not something that should be kept as a household pet. Clearly, this type of animal could be potentially dangerous.

It's A Bird, It's Pink, But It's Not A Flamingo!

There is a new bird living at the Sanctuary that has been catching the eye of our visitors lately. An injured Roseate Spoonbill was transferred to the Sanctuary's wildlife hospital from another facility in Sarasota, Florida. The bird was suffering from a fractured wing and an injured beak. Unfortunately, due to the extent of the spoonbill's injuries the bird is now a permanent resident of the Sanctuary's Water Bird Rehabilitation Enclosure.

Roseate Spoonbills have luminous pink plumage with red highlights. Their long bill has a spoon shaped tip that has an important function; its sensitive nerve endings help the spoonbill detect prey as it sweeps the bill from side-to-side through shallow water. When the bird encounters small fish, shrimp, crayfish, crabs and aquatic insects, it snaps them up for a tasty meal.

Roseate Spoonbills populations were reduced to near extinction by the late 19th century, largely due to plume hunting and disturbance of coastal nesting sites. Although plume hunting has ceased and greater efforts are being taken today to reduce impacts to prime spoonbill habitat, spoonbills are still vulnerable to habitat loss and disturbance. The Roseate Spoonbill is listed as a Species of Special Concern in Florida and the majority of their breeding population is in the Florida Bay area at the southern tip of the state.



Busch Wildlife is Working Hard to Repair the Injured

It's hard to imagine that over 5,000 sick, injured, and orphaned wild animals find their way to the Busch Wildlife Sanctuary each year. Unfortunately, the majority of the animals have suffered in one way or another at the hand of man. That doesn't necessarily mean that people are always out to intentionally hurt wild animals, but because we share our living spaces with wild creatures, they often get injured as a result of our daily activities.

Collisions with automobiles represent the single most cause of death and injury to wildlife in our country. Bobcats, foxes, hawks, and turtles are among the most common victims. Fishing line entanglement is the leading cause of death and injury to water birds. Thousands of pelicans, herons and cormorants are rescued each year literally hanging in trees suspended from monofilament line. Gun shot injuries are also a common cause of injury to wild animals. Hunters usually get the blame, but

more than likely the illegal gun shot injuries are the result of uneducated individuals just using a live animal as target practice. Domestic animals, such as dogs and cats, are often responsible for attacks on baby animals. Even people doing what they perceive as an "act of kindness" in rescuing an orphaned baby, may in reality be a kidnapping while mom is out foraging for food.

The Sanctuary's two-fold mission of wildlife rehabilitation and environmental education work hand-in-hand to rehabilitate and release injured wildlife, while educating the public about the issues that affect our wild neighbors. Caring for injured animals deals with the symptoms of the injuries. While the Sanctuary's education efforts work directly on the causes in an attempt to eliminate the negative impact humans can have on the environment and its wild inhabitants.

It's more than just saving a life for the medical staff at the Sanctuary. The ultimate goal is to restore the injured animals' ability to function in the wild again without any impairments. Just like with people, the rehabilitation and recovery process can take months and even years. Wildlife rehabilitation is a necessary humanitarian act with our ever growing communities. The Sanctuary works hard to keep the balance between human needs and the harmony of nature, even if it means saving one animal at a time.

Giant Tortoise Reunited with Owner

At first glance, they may just look like an overgrown Gopher Tortoise, but African Spurred Tortoises (*Geochelone sulcata*) are becoming a very common sight these days. Usually purchased as small hatchlings, the African Spurred Tortoise can grow to over 200 pounds and may live up to 70 years. These large tortoises are like miniature bulldozers and can easily dig under or push through almost any barrier or fencing, making them very difficult to contain in captivity. Because of this, the Sanctuary receives several escaped Spurred Tortoises every year.

This Spurred Tortoise aka "Durda" was found wondering a neighborhood in West Palm Beach and brought to Busch Wildlife Sanctuary. It seems the turtle had a history of escaping. While examining the large tortoise, Sanctuary staff discovered a business card epoxied to the bottom of its shell. Only part of the card was still legible, but after a quick search on the internet, it was discovered that the card and tortoise belonged to a Broward County avian and exotic veterinarian. The animal doctor had been worried sick about their beloved pet. It seems that the gate to the tortoise's enclosure had not been closed properly, allowing the turtle to escape. The owners were very grateful for the turtle's safe return.

Identification on all pets, whether domestic or exotic, is a must to ensure that rescue facilities such as Busch Wildlife Sanctuary can get lost pets home safely. Thanks to the creative thinking of Durda's owners, the epoxied business card on the turtle's shell got him home safe and sound.



Help a Wild Friend!

Each year the Sanctuary's wildlife hospital treats over 5,000 sick, injured, and orphaned wild animal patients. Our primary goal is to return recovered animals to their natural habitats. Nearly 90% of the patients admitted to the wildlife hospital have suffered from some type human related injury, which include illegal gunshots, collisions with cars, poisonings, entanglement with fishing line and electrocutions.

It is very expensive to provide the professional care needed to treat injured wildlife. The annual medical and grocery bills alone for the Sanctuary total nearly \$150,000.00. The Busch Wildlife Sanctuary is a non-profit organization and although we do not charge for our services, we are not a government funded agency. The Sanctuary is funded entirely by donations from caring people just like you!

You can help save a life by sponsoring an animal today! Your donation will help provide the necessary food, shelter and medicine for the animals at the Sanctuary. Simply fill out the sponsorship application below and return it to the Sanctuary along with your tax-deductible donation for as much as you can. You can sponsor one of the Sanctuary's permanent residents or choose an animal from the list below. Thank you in advance for your support!

Sponsorship Levels

Animal	Month	Year
Snakes & Turtles	\$15	\$180
Water Birds	\$25	\$300
Hawks, Owls & Falcons	\$35	\$420
Skunks, Racoons & Opossums	\$50	\$600
White-tailed deer	\$65	\$780
Crocs & Gators	\$75	\$900
Bobcats, Foxes & Otters	\$100	\$1,200
Eagles	\$150	\$1,800
Bears & Panthers	\$200	\$2,400

Ozzie: River Otter - taken out of the wild illegally and kept as a pet and suffered a fractured hip due to poor nutrition.

RC: Red-Shouldered Hawk - victim of a collision with a car and suffered from a fractured wing.

Dakota: Florida Panther - sold illegally as a pet and confiscated by Wildlife officials.

Scout: White-Tailed Deer - taken from the wild after mother was killed and raised illegally as a pet.

Socks: Virginia Opossum - orphaned when mother was hit by a car and suffered from multiple injuries.

Sparky: Bald Eagle - electrocuted by a high power line.



Ozzie



RC



Dakota



Scout



Socks



Sparky

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Sponsored Animal: _____

Please send your tax-deductible membership to:
Busch Wildlife Sanctuary
 2500 Jupiter Park Drive, Jupiter, FL 33458

Monthly Anually \$ Amount _____

Weekly Activities

Monday:

3:00pm Wildlife Encounter
 (Cypress Amphitheater)
 4:00pm Croc & Gator feeding
 (Croc & Gator Exhibit)

Tuesday:

3:00pm Wildlife Encounters Program
 (Cypress Amphitheater)

Wednesday:

9:30am storytime for toddlers
 3:00pm Wildlife Encounters Program
 (Cypress Amphitheater)

Thursday:

12:30pm Hunters of the sky
 (Owl Alcove)
 3:00pm Wildlife Encounters Program
 (Cypress Amphitheater)

Friday:

2:00 Snakes Alive
 (Snake House)
 3:00pm Wildlife Encounters Program
 (Cypress Amphitheater)

Saturday:

11:00am Wildlife Encounters Program
 (Cypress Amphitheater)
 2:30pm Wildlife Encounters Program
 (Cypress Amphitheater)

Sunday: Closed

Shop and Save Life!

The Sanctuary's gift shop offers a wide variety of educational books and toys, jewelry, home decor and many other unique gifts. It's a great place to do your holiday shopping or find that perfect gift for a special occasion. Not sure what to buy the wildlife enthusiast in your life? How about a gift certificate? The best part about shopping at Busch Wildlife is that 100% of the proceeds goes to support the Sanctuary and it's animals.

The perfect place for all your holiday shopping!

Visit Busch Wildlife Sanctuary!

2500 Jupiter Park Drive
 Jupiter Florida

Visitor Hours:

Monday thru Saturday: 10:00am – 4:30pm
 Closed Sundays (except for special events)

Sanctuary Admission:

Walk-in Visitors (friends and family) – Free!
 (donations are greatly appreciated)

Organized groups, private tours, schools, clubs, scouts, birthday parties and etc. please contact the Sanctuary for more information, pricing and availability.

Visit our website at www.buschwildlife.com
 or call (561) 575-3399 for more information.

Wish List

There are a number of projects that need funding at the sanctuary. Below is a small list of some of our major projects and immediate needs. All are equally important in their own way.

Digital X-Ray Machine.....	\$50,000
Blood Diagnostic Processesing Machine.....	\$15,000
Funding for new Surgical Suite & ICU.....	\$30,000
Storage Shed & Workshop.....	\$15,000
Funding for new Nature Cafe & Watering Hole.....	\$35,000
Funding for new Entryway & Gift Shop.....	\$50,000
Funding for Discovery Center Renovation.....	\$90,000
Funding for new Bird of Prey Habitat.....	\$30,000
Funding for new Panther Habitat.....	\$50,000
Funding for new Coyote Habitat.....	\$40,000
New Microwave.....	\$300
Housing for Student Interns.....	guest house, apt. or room
Money.....	all shapes & sizes!
Volunteers.....	willing to have fun & get dirty!

Wildlife Times

Busch Wildlife Sanctuary
 In partnership with Loxahatchee River District
 2500 Jupiter Park Drive
 Jupiter, FL 33458

Winter 2009
www.buschwildlife.com
 (561) 575-3399

Partnership Protects Environment, Saves Wildlife, & Educates Community

The Busch Wildlife Sanctuary exists largely through a partnership with the Loxahatchee River District and is located on 20 acres of the District's 160 acre wastewater treatment facility.

The Loxahatchee River District is a special district of the State of Florida with the main mission of preserving the Loxahatchee River and its surrounding environments. The Loxahatchee River was Florida's first federally designated "Wild and Scenic River". The Loxahatchee River District works very hard to protect the 260 square mile watershed of the Loxahatchee River through research and monitoring, education and wastewater treatment.

The district's wastewater recycling program is a very important part of protecting the environment and works to help keep our local wetland habitats healthy and safe for people and animals alike. Working together, the Busch Wildlife Sanctuary and Loxahatchee River District have developed a unique program that combines the protection and conservation of Florida's wildlife and natural resources with public environmental education efforts. This partnership has resulted in a well recognized, environmental stewardship program.



Once Injured Pelican Makes a Big Hit on National TV

Although her story began tragically, Ginger the brown pelican has become quite the celebrity on national television lately. Ginger was found just over a year ago hanging sixty feet up in a tree with her wing tangled in fishing line. Sanctuary staff rescued her, but her injuries were too severe and left her flightless. Ginger didn't let that get her down, she was not shy and had no problems strutting her stuff for Sanctuary visitors. Her outgoing personality makes her stand out in the crowd.

Ginger began making local appearances with Sanctuary educators at schools and then animal expert Jack Hanna offered Ginger a special appearance on the Late Show with David Letterman. She was such a hit the bookings just kept coming in. Ginger has traveled the country from New York to California and has been a guest on the Jay Leno Show, Good Morning America and the Today Show.

Although Ginger's antics have gotten her many laughs (especially when she bit David Letterman on live television), her celebrity status has made her an important animal ambassador. Ginger has helped the Sanctuary educate millions of people about the problems animals face with discarded fishing line. Fishing line entanglement is one of the most common causes of injuries treated at the Sanctuary's wildlife hospital, when it comes to water bird injuries.