

IN THE SPOTLIGHT



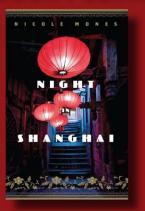
Rodney Cole has been interested in the beauty of nature since his childhood in England and became an avid photographer after a vacation to the Galapagos Islands in 1998. He can often be seen in his golf cart during the early morning hours patiently waiting for the perfect shot of an elegant bird. With his keen eye, he has captured the unique world of birds in the BallenIsles community. By sharing his intimate view of these magnificent birds with others, he hopes to inspire us to preserve and protect the fragile balance of their environment. This could have the ripple effect of protecting and safeguarding all types of wildlife as well as water and air quality and thus benefit the quality of life for all of us.

His photographs have inspired him to self-publish two books, the second one being most popular among the BallenIsles residents - <u>Birds, Beasts and Butterflies</u>. All of the birds in this book were photographed within BallenIsles. Throughout the years, he has documented over 85 species of birds, more than 20 species of butterflies, and many different animals, all within the community.

His third book should be released very soon. His hope is that this third book will encourage everyone to preserve as well as enjoy all the wonders that are right here in BallenIsles for all who are prepared to take the time to look.

Although he thinks all birds are magical, he did admit to having two favorites – the Roseate Spoonbill and Hummingbird. The BallenIsles community is fortunate to have Rodney generously share with us his passion, knowledge, and commitment to protecting our birds and wildlife. He will continue to inspire us with the endless variety and richness of the wildlife around us so we can all benefit and reap great joy from his avocation.

20th Annual Mandel JCC Book Festival Luncheon





Author Nicole Mones

Wednesday, Nov 19, 2014 at 11:00am Kravis Center, West Palm Beach

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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Friends,

Now that we have one issue of <u>Nature Matters</u> under our wing (so to speak), we invite you to enjoy our second issue. As November is the month of Thanksgiving, it is my pleasure to thank profusely all who have contributed to our magazine and our organization. We were gratified to receive so many compliments from residents about our premier issue.

I also want to thank our hard-working Board and committee members for volunteering their time, their expertise, and their passion to BIWF and to the wildlife of BallenIsles. It is literally a labor of love. To quote writer and speaker Sherry Ruth Anderson, "Volunteers don't get paid, not because they're worthless, but because they're priceless. "

Naturally yours, Marianne Guerra, President



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About BallenIsles Wildlife Foundation

BallenIsles Wildlife Foundation (BIWF), a nonprofit 501(c)(3) charitable organization, is a group of volunteers who love and respect animals, both domestic and wild. Our mission is to preserve, protect, foster, and respect all animal life within the BallenIsles community.

Our inspiration comes from Mona Roberts, a resident of Bermuda Bay, who during her 18 years in BallenIsles, devoted herself to the rescue and rehabilitation of animals in need. When she expressed a desire to "retire," several friends stepped in to continue her work and expand her mission. In January 2014, the BallenIsles Wildlife Foundation was born. Word of our mission drew other like-minded volunteers. In addition, we reached out to other communities and organizations with similar interests. BIWF is extremely gratified by the support from other organizations such as the Admiral's Cove and Ibis Wildlife Foundations, Arthur R. Marshall Foundation for The Everglades, Busch Wildlife Sanctuary, Florida Fish and Wildlife, Furry Friends, Animal Hero Kids, Caring Fields, The Humane Society of the Treasure Coast and Peggy Adams.

Foundation Goals

- Educate and inform BallenIsles residents about various wildlife and animal matters.
- Establish working relationships with wildlife and rescue organizations.
- Assist with injured animals, stray animals and lost pets found in BallenIsles.
- Provide financial support to nonprofit agencies that assist BIWF with its wildlife and animal concerns.
- Humanely trap and neuter feral cats found in BallenIsles to avoid overpopulation.

BIWF is a Member of:

- Busch Wildlife Sanctuary
- Audubon Society of the Everglades
- National Wildlife Federation



To learn more, visit the BIWF website at www.ballenisleswildlifefoundation.org or our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/BallenIslesWildlifeFoundation.

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For additional information contact info@ballenisleswildlifefoundation.org.



Thanksgiving Safety Tips

'Tis the season for friends, family and holiday feasts—but also for possible distress for our animal companions. Pets won't be so thankful if they munch on undercooked turkey or a pet-unfriendly floral arrangement, or if they stumble upon an unattended alcoholic drink. Check out the following tips from ASPCA experts for a fulfilling Thanksgiving that your pets can enjoy too.

Talkin' Turkey

If you decide to feed your pet a little nibble of turkey, make sure it's boneless and well cooked. Raw or undercooked turkey could contain salmonella bacteria.

Sage Advice

Sage can make your Thanksgiving stuffing taste delish, but it and many other herbs contain essential oils and resins that can cause gastrointestinal upset and central nervous system depression to pets if eaten in large quantities. Cats are especially sensitive to the effects of certain essential oils.

No Bread Dough

Don't spoil your pet's holiday by giving him raw bread dough. According to ASPCA experts, when raw bread dough is ingested, an animal's body heat causes the dough to rise in his stomach. As it expands, the pet may experience

vomiting, severe abdominal pain, and bloating, which could become a life-threatening emergency requiring surgery.

Don't Let Them Eat Cake

If you're baking up Thanksgiving cakes, be sure your pets keep their noses out of the batter, especially if it includes raw eggs—they could contain salmonella bacteria that may lead to food poisoning.

Too Much of a Good Thing

A few small boneless pieces of cooked turkey, a taste of mashed potato or even a lick of pumpkin pie shouldn't pose a problem. However, don't allow your pets to overindulge, as they could wind up with a case of stomach upset, diarrhea, or even worse an inflammatory condition of the pancreas known as pancreatitis. In fact, it's best to keep pets on their regular diets during the holidays.

A Feast Fit for a Kong

While the humans are chowing down, give your cat or dog their own little feast. Offer them Nylabones or made-for-pet chew bones. Or stuff their usual dinner—perhaps adding a few tidbits of turkey, vegetables (try sweet potato or green beans) and dribbles of gravy—inside a Kong toy. They'll be happily occupied, working hard to extract their dinner from the toy.

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This is no Butterball!!!

By Tara M. Bardi, Senior Scientist and Director of Education, Arthur R. Marshall Foundation for the Everglades

If you had to catch your own turkey for the holidays—could you? Maybe not! Turkeys are made for short, fast flight, but they can cover a mile without much effort by hopping, gliding and flapping around. But, they can pick up the pace and reach 55 mph! The Florida wild turkey (Meleagris gallopavo osceola), typically called the Osceola, is everywhere in Florida except the Panhandle. The name Osceola is in honor of Chief Osceola, the Seminole Chief who led the 20-year long Second Seminole War that included the local "Battle of Loxahatchee."

The iridescent green and red colors along with a dark tail make it able to better hide in its habitat of flat pine woods, oak and palmetto hammocks, and swamp habitats of Florida; open forests and the edges of forests are the best place to view them.

In southern Florida, turkeys "gobble" doing courtship rituals during January, several weeks before actual mating in late winter. The male has a pinkish red featherless head with red wattles (caruncles) on its neck, and during courtship, the male struts, fans out its tail and gobbles. Females scratch out nests on the ground in tall brush to make shallow depressions. They lay on average 10 eggs over about 12 days in April, and after incubating for 25-26 days, the turkeys hatch in May. Thankful



for what they can get, turkeys peck for acorns, seeds, fruits, insects, leaves, and even small vertebrates.

Native to North America and our largest ground nesting bird, wild turkeys were nearly extinct in the early part of the 20th century. Primarily through habitat destruction, the wild turkeys declined to only 30,000 turkeys in the early 1900s. The efforts to restore the turkeys have been successful with populations across the United States at 7 million birds. Famous for Benjamin Franklin's comparisons of the gobbling bird as a more purely native and "more respectable" national symbol than the already chosen bald eagle, the turkey was not typically seen at the traditional Thanksgiving dinner until the 1800s.

The near extinction of the birds included those in Florida's Everglades, where Pine Rockland areas were the preferred habitat of the Osceola Wild Turkey and most of those areas were destroyed and fragmented. Along with overhunting, the Osceola went the way of the rest of the nation's wild turkey populations. Fortunately, the Ecostudies Institute along with Everglades National Park, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, and the National Wild Turkey Federation released 29 birds in 2000 and 31 in 2006. The everglades was one of the last habitats in southern Florida where the turkey population could be restored, but it is cut off by so much development and habitat loss that the wild turkey could not move in on its own from outside the area. At present, the releases in 2000 and 2009 appear to have been quite successful as the population has rebounded well.



So Where can you see a turkey near Ballenisles? The Loxahatchee Slough and Riverbend Park of course! http://www.pbcgov.com/erm/natural/natural-areas/loxahatchee-slough/http://www.pbcgov.com/parks/locations/riverbend.htm

Photo credits www.ecoinst.org; based on information from: http://myfwc.com/; http://www.nwtf.org/; http://www.ecoinst.org/

FUN FACTS

- Gorillas can catch human colds and other illnesses.
- A newborn Chinese water deer is so small it can almost be held in the palm of the hand.
- Ostriches can run faster than horses, and the males can roar like lions.
- A lion in the wild usually makes no more than twenty kills a year.
- The female lion does ninety percent of the hunting.
- The only dog that doesn't have a pink tongue is the chow.
- Almost half the pigs in the world are kept by farmers in China.
- On average, dogs have better eyesight than humans, although not as colourful.
- Deer have no gall bladders.
- There is an average of 50,000 spiders per acre in green areas.
- The bat is the only mammal that can fly.
- The leg bones of a bat are so thin that no bat can walk.
- Some male songbirds sing more than 2000 times each day.
- The only mammals to undergo menopause are elephants, humpback whales and human females.
- A tarantula spider can survive for more than two years without food.
- For every human in the world there are one million ants.
- If you lift a kangaroo's tail off the ground it can't hop they use their tails for balance.
- If you keep a goldfish in a dark room, it will become pale!
- Cows can sleep standing up, but they can only dream lying down.
- The sentence "The quick brown fox jumps over a lazy dog." uses every letter of the alphabet.
- The average fox weighs 14 pounds.







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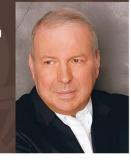
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Sandhill Cranes

By Marge Barham

There are two Crane species in Florida, the Whooping Crane and the Sandhill Crane. The Whooping Cranes is critically threatened while the Sandhill Cranes are on the threatened list in Florida. These two Cranes are the only ones in North America and are most likely the oldest birds on Earth, dating back possibly to over 6 million years.

Sandhill Cranes are tall, graceful birds known for their courtship dances and loud, bugling calls. They are omnivorous and are usually seen in marshes, prairies, pastures and golf courses. Florida has two subspecies of Sandhill Cranes. The resident Florida subspecies can be found throughout much of the peninsula, where it breeds. The Greater Sandhill Crane, which breeds in the northern United States and Canada, migrates to Florida for the winter and can be found in large flocks, especially in the northern

peninsula. A spectacular roost with thousands of Greater Sandhill Cranes can be observed at Paynes Prairie Preserve State Park in Gainesville during the winter.

Up to 4 feet tall, gray overall, except during mating season when they turn a rusty brown, they have red foreheads, white cheeks, and long dark pointed bills. They vary considerably in size. An average female weighs 7.5 lb., is 37 inches in length

and has a wingspan of 5 feet 3 inches; the average male weighs 11 lb., is 47 inches in length, and has a wingspan of 6 feet 11 inches. In flight, their long dark legs trail behind and their long necks keep straight. Their lifespan averages about 20-24 years.

Sandhill Cranes' diet includes a wide range of plants and animals, like insects, fish, lizards, crustaceans, and rodents as well as seeds, grain, grasses, nectar, and berries. They often change their diet seasonally for whatever food sources are most readily available and feed in shallow wetlands with vegetation or various upland habitats.

Fairly social birds, Sandhill Cranes usually live in pairs or family groups thoughout the year. In non-migratory populations, laying begins between December and August. In migratory populations, laying usually begins in April or May. Both the male and female build the nest usually in marshes or bogs but occasionally on dry land and use plant material from the surrounding area. Females lay one to three oval, brown eggs with reddish markings. Both parents incubate the eggs for about 30 days.

The new chicks are covered in down, born with their eyes open, and able to leave the nest within a day. The parents care for them for up to three weeks, feeding them intensively for the first few weeks, then gradually less frequently. They remain with their parents until one or two months before the parents lay the next clutch of eggs the following year. After leaving their parents, the chicks form flocks with other juveniles, remaining until they form breeding pairs at between two and seven years old. Sandhill Cranes mate for life, but if one dies the partner will try to find another mate.



As a conspicuous ground-dwelling species, Sandhill Cranes are at risk from predators. Mammals like foxes, raccoons, coyotes, wolves, and bobcats often hunt them. Ravens and crows and smaller raptors like hawks feed on young cranes and eggs. Cranes of all ages are hunted by eagles, large owls, and Peregrine falcons. Sandhill Cranes defend themselves and their young from aerial predators by jumping and kicking. For land predators, they move forward, often hissing, with their wings open and bill pointed. If the predator persists, the crane kicks

and stabs with its bill, which is powerful enough to pierce the skull of a small carnivore.

In 2002, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission made it illegal to feed Sandhill Cranes. People inadvertently put them in harm's way when they do. Cranes fed by humans can become aggressive toward people, and in several instances, children have been attacked by cranes. There are also many Sandhill Cranes, especially the young cranes, killed each year on Florida roads.

Sandhill Cranes bugling calls are unique and can be heard from miles away. They can help alert you to their presence, particularly as they pass overhead on migration. If you would like, copy this link into your browser to watch a short film and listen to their haunting calls: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dvC6xsacncA

Florida Wildlife Happenings - November

Birds

Set up winter seed and suet feeders.

Cedar waxwings come south for the winter. Their flocks can be seen on cedars, hollies, cherry laurels, privet, and other fruit plants.

Look for downy, hairy, red-bellied, and redheaded woodpeckers on suet feeders.

Bald eagles begin their nesting season. Look for spectacular aerial courtship displays.

Sandhill cranes return in full force from their breeding grounds up north. (Only a small number live here all year round).

Many yellow-rumped warblers and palm warblers will be in neighborhoods, natural areas, and yards, and gray catbirds have already arrived, and will be skulking (and cat-calling!) in thickets.

Kinglets, phoebes, robins, and other northern songbirds have arrived for the winter.

Amphibians

Ornate chorus frogs begin calling.

Mammals

Peak of deer rutting in central and north Florida.

Bears are on the move and crossing roads, especially in Central Florida.

As water temperatures lower, manatees begin to move to relatively warm waters at springs. Boaters beware of idle speed zones.

Look for migrating Hoary and Red Bats in North Florida. The Hoary Bat is a large bat with frosted fur.

Fish

Spotted sea trout should enter tidal creeks around Thanksgiving.

Bass congregate around jetties in south end of Lake George.

Plants and Trees

Cypress begin turning a rust color.

Source: University of Florida: Wildlife Ecology & Conservation

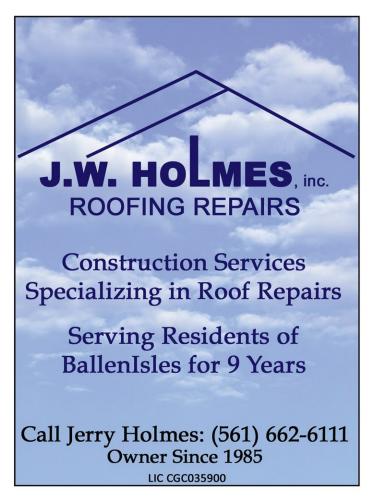


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Two Turtle Heroines

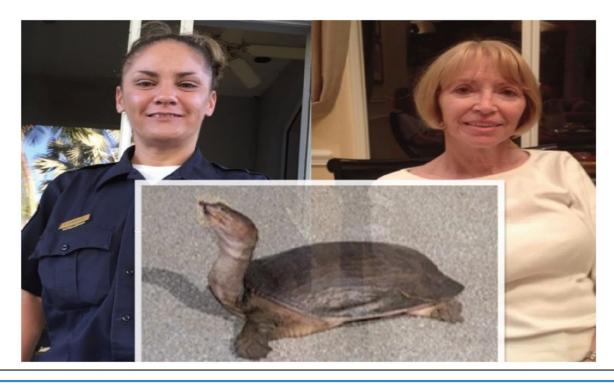
By Denise Johnson

On the morning of Saturday, September 27, one very lucky turtle was saved through the efforts of two fabulous BallenIsles women.

"Pokey" had been hit by a car and was lying on East Island Avenue near the Military Trail gate. His first savior, resident and BIWF volunteer, Kerry Beren, saw the injured animal and immediately went to his aid. Pulling her car over to the side of the road, she picked the turtle up and moved him to safety in the grass. She then returned home and retrieved a box, some towels and some water to soothe the turtle. Pokey's shell was shattered, and he was bleeding. It didn't look good for our boy!

However, Kerry believed that he deserved a chance at survival, so she brought Pokey to the Gatehouse where his second savior took over. Officer Dionne Ehrgood watched over the turtle until the end of her shift, and then she transported him to the Busch Wildlife Sanctuary for treatment. At first it was touch and go for Pokey...his injuries were pretty extensive. However, thanks to the caring medical staff at Busch, Pokey is now fully recovered and has been released back into his familiar environment.

Kudos to Officer Ehrgood and to Kerry for their amazing compassion and commitment to the animals of BallenIsles.





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Widife Outside the Gates









- 1. Leopard taken in Mala Mala Camp South Africa. Photograph by Margie Berg.
- 2. Zebra and reflection taken in Mala Mala Camp South Africa. Photography by Margie Berg
- 3. Friendly penguin from South African protected beach. Photography by Mary Kirby
- 4. Colorful chameleon in Tanzania. Photograph by Margie Berg
- 5.– Female monarch butterfly emerging from cocoon. Photograph by Mardy Hornsby
- 6. Paul and Lynne Goldsein at Giraffe Manor in Nairobi, Kenya.





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Growing Green

Hands of the Hort

by Deborah Carlin, 2014 Summer Photography Intern

When I tell people that I am the photography intern at the Horticultural Society, most respond, "Oh...so you're taking pictures of flowers." It certainly seems that that would be the job description, but in fact my work this summer involved people much more than it did plants. As an organization, the Hort serves to build and sustain relationships between people and plants. Plants are quite open to being active members in this relationship, but it's the people that need some convincing. Through countless programs, the Hort works to call attention not only to the beauty of plants and nature but also to the idea that without plants humans could not survive. Bianca, a head gardener at the Communilife housing complex, put things into perspective when she said, "To watch things grow...its amazing. To do so little while they do so much. People step on them and ignore them, and they don't know...they are here for us." This could not be truer, especially during a time when the consequences of human selfishness are becoming apparent on earth.

My focus this summer was to photograph the hands of those who participated in some of the Hort's programs. My intention was not to diminish their identities to mere appendages but rather to show that our actions as individuals matter. In their own ways, the people shown in the photos are working to create a better future – for themselves, their communities, and the environment—and to illustrate the importance of the small connections that we make with other species, because doing so is essential for their survival and ours.



The GreenTeam is a group of GreenHouse

graduates from Rikers Island. This paid internship provides GreenTeam members with real world experience as they re-enter the workforce. GreenTeamers perform a variety of tasks--from planting flowers in neighborhood plazas to weeding, pruning, and mulching gardens throughout the city.



Teachers taking part in the Hort's professional development course learn methods for teaching students about plants and their uses. As part of the Hort's Green Family Circle Membership, parents and kids took a tour of the Queens County Farm. They went on a hayride, learned about composting, and fed goats and sheep. At he Hort's annual Urban Agriculture Conference, I took a workshop at Bosywck Farms, a Queens-based hydroponic farm.

Pictured is founder Lee Mandell, holding coir, an alternative growth medium derived from coconut husks and often used in hydroponics.



With help from Chef Noah and Horticulture Intern Max, students at PS-210 harvested greens from their rooftop garden and made minestrone soup.



Meet Ariel

About three years ago, Joan and Richard Krim of Victoria Bay went looking online to find a Havanese breeder. They found one who had puppies available, so they drove to the west coast of Florida, where a fluffy 9-week-old female Havanese puppy "picked them" to be her human parents.

Joan's grandson wanted to name her Mason, but they ultimately agreed on the more feminine name Ariel. Joan describes Ariel as "the most adorable dog we have ever had, but we should have named her Trouble. Although she has had extensive training and is smart as a whip, she has a mind of her own and in particular loves to chew—on anything and everything!" She has pulled apart their

daughter's golden retriever's toy, a stuffed lamb, so many times that finally it was beyond repair.

Shortly after they returned to New Jersey last May, Joan and Richard noticed that Ariel was not feeling well. They took her

immediately to their veterinarian who diagnosed Ariel with early onset Lupus. She underwent chemotherapy to which she responded and was then put on steroids and an immunosuppressant. Luckily, her health is almost back to normal. To quote Joan, "We should all be aware of our dogs' habits so that we can get them to a vet before they get too ill."

It looks like Ariel will have many more years to be loved by Joan and Richard, their children, and their grandchildren and to love them unconditionally in return.

DONATE TO BALLEN SLES WILDLIFE FOUNDATION

BallenIsles Wildlife Foundation needs your financial support. Your charitable contribution will provide funds necessary to help us implement our mission to preserve, protect, foster, and respect the wildlife in our community and serve as an educational resource for our residents. We are a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organization; therefore, your donation is tax-deductible as long as it qualifies for the tax deductions permitted by law.

HOW TO DONATE

- 1. **Gifts by Check** Gifts may be made in the form of a check payable to BallenIsles Wildlife Foundation, which can be mailed to 303 BallenIsles Circle, Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33418.
- 2. **Gifts by Credit Card or PayPal** Submit electronic payment gifts via the Donations page at **www.BallenIslesWildlifeFoundation.org** or click on the Donate Now link on our Facebook Page.



3. **Tribute Cards** - Request a Tribute Card in any financial increment to recognize a special person or life event. A charitable donation in the name of your designee is a most thoughtful and appreciated gift. BIWF will send an acknowledgement card to your designee.

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Turkey Rhyme Time

Just a few facts for this turkey season You can gobble them up---you don't need a reason We think of turkeys at Thanksgiving time We tell of their virtues in song and in rhyme!

Ben Franklin wanted the turkey as national bird of the USA But the bald eagle got the title and still holds it today Americans serve turkey at their family Thanksgiving dinner The meat is not fattening if you want to be trimmer.

Wild turkeys live in the woods—they're the ones that can fly Domestic turkeys are for eating---they're too heavy to try A baby is a "poult," hatched from an egg in his mom's nest She sits on it for a month, then Mother Nature does the rest

The boy turkey is a gobbler or Tom...the girl is a hen The gobble is made by the boy---over and over again The girl doesn't gobble—she makes a clucking sound Both gobbles and clucks can be heard all around

The boy turkey is more colorful than she Wild turkeys sleep in flocks atop a large tree Turkeys have exceptional hearing and sight Two stomachs but no teeth, so therefore can't bite

Hanging on the turkey's neck is red skin called a wattle Do you think a poult drinks from a baby bottle? Now you've gathered some knowledge---share it on Thanksgiving day Maybe after all you've learned, you'll help it to run away!



Turkey Jokes

Q: How are a Turkey, a Donkey, and a Monkey the same?

A: They all have keys



Q: What kind of weather does a turkey like?

A: Foul weather

Q: Why did the turkey cross the road?

A: To show he was not chicken

Q: Why did the turkey bolt down his food?

A: Because he was a gobbler.

HOW TO HELP BALLEN SLES WILDLIFE FOUNDATION

Donations

- 1. Financial BallenIsles Wildlife Foundation depends upon your generous financial gifts to continue operating our organization. Advertising support found within this magazine only helps cover publishing costs. We welcome your continued financial support of our organization.
- 2. **Supplies** We will gladly accept any gently used linens and pet supplies that we will donate to our partnering organizations. Popular items include bedding, towels, pet toys, pet food, cat litter and other household items that can be used by rescue organizations.

Time

- 1. **Volunteer** We are always looking for volunteers to serve on our various committees: Rescue, Education, Finance, Fundraising.
- 2. **Kitten Fostering & Adoption** From time to time we rescue abandoned kittens found within BallenIsles and need both temporary and forever homes.
- 3. **Content** We have an ongoing need for articles and photos of animals and plants for both our website and magazine.
- 4. **Expertise** There is always a need for veterinary skills to help the animals we rescue and foster and for volunteers with computer skills.

Online Support

- 1. Amazon Smile Amazon donates 0.5% of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to the charitable organization of your choice. Please register for this great program at smile.amazon.com and select BallenIsles Wildlife Foundation as the organization you support!
- 2. Facebook Follow our progress by simply "liking" our Facebook page for easy access to news, articles and photos.



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BALLEN ISLES PET REGISTRATION FORM



Owner's Name:			Date:		
	Mobile:				
Email:					
Pet's Name:					
Breed:					
Please circle:	Canine	Feline	Other (specify):		
	Female		Male	Spayed	Neutered
Description and/or Personality Traits: (include distinguishing markings/characteristics to assist in identification)					
Color of collar & ID	tag info (if ap	oplicable):	_		
			Registry's phone number:		
Microchip registere	ed with:				

Please attach a photo of your pet

- Should your pet go missing please contact:
 - Security Help Desk at 561.625.5709
 - o **BICA at 561.625.5724** (prompt #1)
- Please return this form to Security by:
 - o dropping it off at any of the Gatehouses
 - o handing it to any Security Officer you encounter

Inputted by: Date: Form: BIWL-Pet Rev. Date: 7/14/2014

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To speak to a Registered Nurse 24/7, call Consult-A-Nurse at 561-548-4JFK (4535)