



Busch Wildlife Sanctuary, Inc.



At Loxahatchee River District

2500 Jupiter Park Drive, Jupiter, Florida 33458

Office: (561)-575-3399 - www.buschwildlife.org - Facsimile: (561)-744-5288

December 4th, 2015

Dear Friends and Supporters,

Season's greetings! It has been another busy year at the Sanctuary, and there has been a flurry of construction activity. Eighteen years ago when we first opened to the public, many of our initial enclosures were built using primarily wood material and framing. Although the structures lasted for years, they slowly deteriorated over time. As we have renovated and rebuilt, we have moved to using construction material that will last much longer. Of course that comes with higher costs that we hope will pay off in the long run. Our upgraded facilities have also been designed to give the animals more room and better accommodations. The bobcats are loving their newly completed home. Although we are still fundraising for our new fox habitat, we have already broken ground on construction because their old enclosure doesn't have much life left in it.

We are very grateful for our dedicated staff and volunteers--not to mention the medical support we get from our veterinarians at Harmony Animal Hospital and the Jupiter Pet Emergency & Specialty Center! Many of their colleagues have kindly helped out as well. This collaborative effort is crucial to the success of our wildlife rescue and rehabilitation efforts. Each year the Sanctuary's hospital treats over 5,000 sick, injured, and orphaned wild animal patients, with the ultimate goal of releasing recovered animals back into the wild. Long-time volunteers, Ed and Karen Abaira, have taken over operating the Sanctuary's rescue ambulance. Ed is a retired firefighter / paramedic and is the perfect captain for "Rescue 1".

With help from people like you, we have truly created a sanctuary for both wildlife and people. In addition to our work caring for injured animals, more than 100,000 children and adults visit the Sanctuary annually and participate in our educational programs, giving them the opportunity to learn about nature and wildlife. The Sanctuary is not a government funded facility. As a non-profit organization, ***our support comes from caring people just like you!*** Together, we have built a safe haven for injured wildlife and provided a refuge for those that are unable to return to the wild. In order to continue to provide our valuable services to the community, we need your continued support! Your involvement is essential to the success of the important work we do to help injured animals and educate the community about Florida's flora and fauna.

Thank you in advance for helping Busch Wildlife Sanctuary fulfill its mission of preserving Florida's wildlife and natural resources. Your tax-deductible donation, of any size, will affect thousands of injured animals and reach hundreds of thousands of children and adults through our education programs. Your generosity will go a long way, whether you make a financial contribution, donate services or time, or donate materials. Have a wonderful holiday season, and again, thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

David Hitzig
Executive Director

P.S. Even if you can't help now, please keep us in mind for your next charitable donation. If you no longer wish to receive communications from Busch Wildlife Sanctuary, please return the form below with the appropriate box checked.

✂ _____

Donation Information (Please Print)

Name: _____

Address: _____

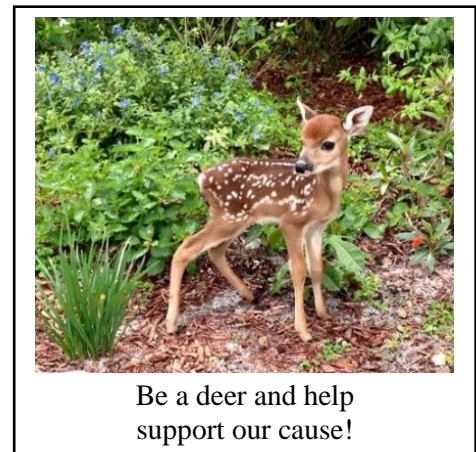
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone #(s): _____ E-mail: _____

- YES!** I want to help save wildlife.
- Sorry, I can't help at this time and please remove my name from the Sanctuary's mailing list.

Contribution Categories

- Friend \$25 Family \$50 Parent \$100 Guardian \$250
- Corporate \$500 Lifetime Member \$2,500 Other \$ _____



Be a deer and help support our cause!

Important: Please return this completed form along with your donation and any name and/or address corrections to:
Busch Wildlife Sanctuary, 2500 Jupiter Park Drive, Jupiter, Florida 33458

Wildlife



Times

Busch Wildlife Sanctuary
At Loxahatchee River District
2500 Jupiter Park Drive
Jupiter, Florida 33458

Fall 2015 / Winter 2016
www.buschwildlife.org
(561)-575-3399

Record Year for Eagles in Need



The Busch Wildlife Sanctuary's hospital treats over 5,000 wild animal patients each year. Sadly, many of these animals arrive in critical condition. 2015 marks one of the busiest years in the Sanctuary's history with the admission of 14 sick, injured, and orphaned Bald Eagles. The cases ranged from baby eaglets falling out of their nests to collisions with automobiles, and the rarest of all, a cancer patient. We are proud to report that 9 of the 14 eagles have already been returned to the wild.

In the circumstances involving the baby eaglets, bad weather and poorly constructed nests are probably the most likely to blame. When a baby eagle comes out of the nest too early, it is always the first priority to try to keep the young with the parent birds. If the baby is old enough to perch on a branch instead of needing the flat surface of a nest, it can be placed back up in the tree. However, if the eaglet is not ready to support itself without the nest, a platform can be constructed to serve in its place. On a number of

occasions the Sanctuary has reached out to Florida Power and Light for their assistance in building and installing these nest platforms. Many times the adult birds will use the platforms and even return the following year to rebuild their nest.

Unfortunately, one of the most common causes of injury to wildlife is collisions with automobiles. It is not hard to imagine how traumatic and life-threatening these type of injuries can be, not to mention the complicated medical procedures required to repair the damaged bodies. The goal of the Sanctuary's wildlife rehabilitation program is to return recovered patients back to the wild. In order for a successful release, birds need to have the ability of full range of motion in their wings to be able to take to the skies once again and hunt on their own. Our skilled medical team performed surgeries that are state of the art and intended to restore the animals to their pre-injured condition. These procedures often include the use of an external fixator that is designed to realign fractured bones in the least invasive manner with the best potential for healing success.

While the Sanctuary has seen a few of its permanent residents develop cancer in their old age, we were shocked to have a six-week-old baby eagle with squamous cell carcinoma come in this year. The young eaglet was initially admitted to the hospital after being found on the ground very emaciated with wounds on his head and eyes. It is unknown how the bird ended up out of the nest or what exactly caused his injuries. The baby was in such poor shape he required extensive around the clock care. While his overall condition slowly began to improve, he developed a growth on his lower eyelid. Within only a week it had grown tremendously, covering his whole eye. The cancerous growth was surgically removed by volunteer Sanctuary veterinarians. Although at this time it appears he has beaten the cancer, we will continue to monitor his health closely for any returning signs of illness. Due to his permanent vision impairment he will remain at the Sanctuary as an animal ambassador.

The picture above is Hannibal, our young cancer survivor. To the right is Sanctuary Executive Director, David Hitzig, releasing one of the young Bald Eagles. It had fallen from a nest and was raised with other eagles in the Sanctuary's flight cage.



David Letterman's Best of Jack Hanna

The Sanctuary's animals were often featured guests with Jack Hanna when he would appear on the Late Show with David Letterman. Over the years we would take bobcats, owls, cranes, foxes, snakes, scorpions, and many more. Our animals were always a big hit on the show. Jack appeared on Letterman more than

100 times over the past 30 years. At the end of Hanna's last appearance Letterman showed a best of montage which featured the Sanctuary's very own Ginger, the Brown Pelican, who managed to get a nip out of Letterman's finger as she reached out to snatch a fish from his hand.



Growing Population Leads to Tricky Rescues

Coyotes have become a very common sight in South Florida over the past several years. Once strictly a western species, they are now found throughout the Eastern United States. They began expanding into Florida in the 1970s, and are now documented throughout the entire state.

The coyote is extremely adaptable and can be found even in the most developed areas. They are not too particular about what they eat or where they live. They are opportunistic hunters and eat a variety of foods from fruits and berries, to insects, rodents, small mammals, reptiles, birds, and carrion. Coyotes usually hunt alone, sometimes as a pair, but rarely as a pack. They are a member of the dog family and are similar in appearance to a medium size shepherd and weigh between 20 and 30 pounds. Their scientific name, *Canis latrans*, literally means "barking dog". They exhibit a variety of vocalizations from barking like a dog to shrill yips and howls. Coyotes are most active at sunrise and sunset.

The Sanctuary has been called out to rescue a number of coyotes over the past year. Pictured left is a coyote that was stuck up against a seawall under a dock with a rising tide on Singer Island. Above is a coyote that managed to get its foot tangled in a wire fence. Both were successfully rescued and their injuries were relatively minor, with the exception of a bruised pride.



Busch Wildlife Sanctuary ...a real wild 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 wild adventure. The Sanctuary's educational exhibits, wildlife presentations, and guided tours are ideal for schools, special interest groups, scouts, community and civic organizations, clubs, birthday parties, corporate picnics, weddings, 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 a 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 who need to perform hours for school, and adults with court-ordered community service hours.

The Busch Wildlife Sanctuary is a non-profit organization 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 they 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.**

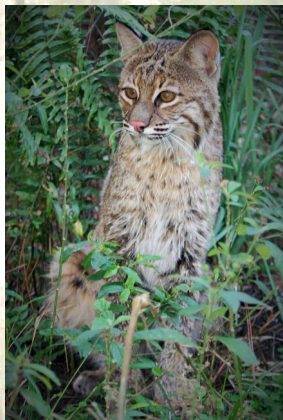
New Bobcat Exhibit Opens

Last year, the Sanctuary opened its new Florida Panther exhibit. Their old enclosure had a complete makeover and was remodeled for our bobcats (Jasper, Jesse, Baston, Porter, Paisley, and Penelope). The new habitat has a spacious day yard, complete with resting platforms, shelter, and a pool equipped with a waterfall for those hot Florida afternoons. The covered night house area has eight rooms for the bobcats.

The cats all adjusted to their new surroundings very quickly. Their old enclosure was a fraction of the size, so it is a real pleasure to watch them running and playing in their nice new home. The lush new habitat has ferns, grass, and other Florida native plants that the bobcats just love rolling around and hiding in.

Jasper, the oldest of the bobcat clan is 21 years old. We were a little worried that he might not be able to keep up with the younger crowd, but to the contrary, he has proven that he's got plenty of spunk left in him.

This project was years in the making and we would like to thank everyone who helped. Without the generous contributions from our friends and supporters projects like this would never come to fruition.



Trio of Baby Otters Released After Losing Mother



Otters are relatively common in South Florida. There is plenty of available habitat with all the wetland environments scattered about. Otters will utilize marshes, rivers, lakes, ponds, and canals. Even in very developed areas, you can see otters.

Sadly though, otters are often hit by automobiles as they try to navigate across our roadways. Such was the case earlier this year when a mother otter was leading her three babies to a canal. The impact left her unconscious, but somehow her babies made it unscathed. A passerby saw the accident and noticed the babies trying to run back to their lifeless mother. He pulled the mother otter off of the road and called the Sanctuary for help.

Sanctuary rescuers arrived shortly later, but there was a bit of a problem. The baby otters were agile enough to make catching them somewhat difficult, but they were way too young to be left to survive on their own. The babies didn't venture too far from their mother's body. One by one they were eventually captured and brought back to the Sanctuary. Sadly, the mother otter passed away from internal injuries.

It didn't take long for the baby otters to settle in and begin feeding on their own. Having one another's company was a great added plus and prevented them from becoming too accustomed to their human caretakers. It can be a challenge when raising young animals, as it is very important to prevent them from becoming imprinted or habituated to people. The majority of the injuries the Sanctuary sees to wild animals are often connected to some type of human related cause. So the more fearful the animals are of people when they are released the greater their chances for survival in the wild.

The main goal of the Sanctuary's wildlife rehabilitation program is to see animals returned to the wild to live happy and healthy free lives out in nature. We go to great lengths to provide the animals in our care everything we can to ensure the best and most successful release. Once the three baby otters were old enough they were released into a natural area that would give them plenty of space to roam and an abundant supply of food far from dangerous roads.



Creature Feature - Sabal the Great Horned Owl

Sabal was brought into the Sanctuary nearly 14 years ago. She had been a victim of a gunshot injury and had over 20 pellets scattered throughout her body, and her wing was fractured. The majority of the pellets were successfully removed, but some were imbedded too deeply and still remain to this day. The fracture to her wing could not be fully repaired, rendering her flightless. Sabal is a very popular animal ambassador at the Sanctuary and helps us teach children and adults about her species. She lives with her companion Hoot, another Great Horned Owl that is also a permanent resident. These are the largest of the owls found in Florida and get their name from the long horn-like feathers on their head.

Sanctuary Expands Education Programs and Activities

As the Sanctuary has grown over the years, it has become clear that education is a key component of our conservation efforts. The Sanctuary's programs, tours, and exhibits are designed to teach children and adults about the fascinating world of wildlife and nature. For years we have offered an array of daily activities at the Sanctuary. These programs include presentations in the Cypress Amphitheater, animal encounters along the trails, and educational talks at various wildlife exhibits throughout the Sanctuary.



To complement these activities, the Sanctuary now offers evening lectures, night walks, and unique special events. These have become a favorite for family get-togethers and offer an opportunity to see the Sanctuary from a different point of view. Private behind the scenes tours can be arranged for an up-close encounter with animals such as deer, bears, and panthers. These tours are guaranteed to leave a lasting impression and appreciation for Florida's unique wild animals. Birthday parties are also very popular where the birthday boy or girl takes center stage as the animal handler.

The Sanctuary has become a desired venue for weddings, private parties, baby showers, dinner parties, and life celebrations. The peaceful old Florida setting of the Sanctuary makes for the perfect backdrop for almost any event or activity. Our new wetland observation area offers a fantastic place to view a variety of wildlife species, everything from bald eagles to alligators, turtles, wood storks, roseate spoonbills, otters and much more.

With the addition of yoga classes, photo safaris, tours, and guest speakers, we hope to offer our regulars reason to visit more frequently, as well as draw a broader audience to come and enjoy all that the Sanctuary has to offer. For more information on upcoming events, visit our website at www.buschwildlife.org or "Like" us on Facebook.

The Real Dorothy, A True Sanctuary Friend

In November of 1997, the Busch Wildlife Sanctuary had its official preview open house to the public. There was a very special woman in attendance that day, her name was Dottie Campbell. She became one of the Sanctuary's greatest friends and biggest supporters. Dottie was quite an accomplished individual and just a few minutes with her would leave you in total awe.

Dottie had a passion for animals, and the Sanctuary gave her an outlet to get her fix of wildlife adventures. On her first visit, she fell in love with Freddy and Splash (an American Alligator and Crocodile). Dottie wanted to spruce up their home and offered to donate some trees for their enclosure. Today, the oaks tower over the boardwalk and are a monument to Dottie's generosity and love of nature.

Over the years, Dottie was always so thoughtful. She would send gifts to the Sanctuary's animals and staff; never a Christmas went by without a gigantic box of cookies. Dottie often delivered interesting clippings of articles she had found on animals and nature. She would frequently bring her family and friends to the Sanctuary for up-close animal encounters, and Dottie would have the biggest smile on her face the entire time.

She would make contributions whenever she could. Her donations came in all spaces and sizes, from a box of goodies and supplies for the animals, to a check she received for manning the election polls and had just endorsed it over to the Sanctuary. Other times, she would call and ask if we could charge a donation to her credit card, Dottie was never one to miss out on some frequent flyer miles. Her love and generosity was always from the heart, she never sugar coated anything.

Dottie passed away on October 1st, just 128 days after being diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. She hated funerals, so living life her way, she had a party for her closest friends to celebrate her life while she was here to enjoy it. Dottie (aka "the real Dorothy") loved the Wizard of Oz, and there is no doubt she is somewhere over the rainbow now. Thank you, Dottie, for your love, friendship, and support! *Pictured above is Dottie and her Sanctuary friend, that she named Wizard.*



What To Do When You Find Injured Wildlife

- ✓ Use common sense and think of your safety first
 - ✓ Try to contain the animal
 - ✓ Keep the animal warm & quiet
 - ✓ Do not pet or handle the animal
- ✓ Do not try to feed or give water to the animal

When rescuing a wild animal, your first thought may be to comfort the creature and provide it with food, but handling the animal can cause stress, and feeding can cause harm, since the diets of wild animals are very complex. It is better to do as little as possible until you can get the animal to a wildlife rehabilitation facility.

Call Busch Wildlife Sanctuary for help at: (561)-575-3399

Baby Turtles and Alligator Recovered After Theft

It all started on a quiet Friday morning. The weather was beautiful and visitors were starting to trickle into the Sanctuary. There was a man who was spending a great deal of time walking between the baby turtle and baby alligator enclosures. His behavior seemed a little odd and caught the eye of the Sanctuary staff. He was seen stepping off the path and going behind the turtle enclosure. A staff member politely asked him to stay on the path and inquired if he needed any assistance. He replied, that he just liked turtles and wanted to get some pictures of the baby alligators. It all seemed harmless enough.

A few moments later another staff member noticed a pair of wire cutters laying on the ground next to the turtle enclosure. Low and behold there was a small hole cut through the wire mesh. Immediately, the search was on to find the individual that had been spending so much time at the baby turtle enclosure. Everyone scoured high and low throughout the Sanctuary, but not a trace. The staff member who had the most contact with the man jumped into her car and drove down the road to see if she could spot him. She caught up with him just a few blocks from the Sanctuary and motioned for him to pull over. She asked if he had taken turtles from the Sanctuary. He denied knowing what she was talking about, but when she looked in the back seat of his SUV there was a box of turtles, so without blinking an eye she rescued the kidnapped reptiles.

You would have figured that would have been then end of his animal stealing days, or at least attempting to do so at Busch Wildlife Sanctuary, but no such luck. Only four days later the would-be thief was at it again. This time he cut into the baby alligator enclosure and ran off with a little hatchling gator. Surveillance cameras showed our turtle snatcher arriving at the Sanctuary and after only fifteen minutes jumping back into his car and speeding off.

Both the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office jumped into action to track down and question the animal abductor. Once found, he quickly admitted to both incidents and made a full confession after being read his Miranda rights. The individual faces multiple charges of criminal mischief, theft, and possession of protected species. The fast and brave action of a Sanctuary staff member led to a quick recovery of the baby turtles and wildlife officers were able to nab the perpetrator and safely return the stolen baby alligator. A very happy ending, great job everyone!!!



Help a Wild Friend!

Each year the Sanctuary's wildlife hospital treats over 5,000 sick, injured, and orphaned wild animal patients. The Sanctuary's primary goal is to return rehabilitated and recovered animals to their natural habitats. Nearly 90% of the patients admitted to the Sanctuary's wildlife hospital have suffered some type of human related injury, which includes: 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 over \$130,000.00. The Busch Wildlife Sanctuary is a non-profit organization; and although it does not charge for its services, the Sanctuary is not a government funded agency. Busch Wildlife Sanctuary is funded entirely by donations from caring people just like you!

You can help save a life by sponsoring an animal or becoming a member today! Your donation will help provide the necessary food, shelter, and medicine for the animals in the Sanctuary's care. Simply fill out the sponsorship application below and return it to the Sanctuary 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

Type of Animal	Month	Year
Reptiles	\$15	\$180
Water Birds	\$25	\$300
Skunks, Raccoons & Opossums	\$35	\$420
Hawks, Owls & Falcons	\$50	\$600
White-tailed Deer	\$65	\$780
Crocodiles & Alligators	\$75	\$900
Bobcats, Foxes, & Otters	\$100	\$1,200
Eagles	\$150	\$1,800
Bears & Panthers	\$200	\$2,400

Scooter: (*River Otter*) - taken out of the wild illegally and raised as a pet.

Spike: (*Red Shouldered Hawk*) - hit by a car and suffered a fractured wing.

Wizard: (*Florida Panther*) - was lactose intolerant & had other medical issues.

Cypress: (*White-tailed Deer*) - raised illegally as a pet after mother was killed.

Luna: (*Opossum*) - orphaned when mother was hit by a car.

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



Scooter



Spike



Wizard



Cypress



Luna



Sparky

Sponsorship / Membership Application

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone(s): _____ Sponsored Animal: _____

E-mail Address: _____

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

Monthly Annually \$ Amount _____
 Friend \$25 Family \$50 Parent \$100 Guardian \$250
 Corporate \$500 Lifetime \$2,500 Other _____



Weekly Activities at the Sanctuary

Monday:

- 3:00pm Wildlife Encounter Program
(Cypress Amphitheater)
4:00pm Alligator & Crocodile Feeding
(Alligator & Crocodile Exhibit)

Tuesday:

- 3:00pm Wildlife Encounter Program
(Cypress Amphitheater)

Wednesday:

- 9:30am Story Time for Toddlers
(Cypress Amphitheater)
3:00pm Wildlife Encounter Program
(Cypress Amphitheater)

Thursday:

- 12:30pm Hunters of the Sky
(Owl Alcove)
3:00pm Wildlife Encounter Program
(Cypress Amphitheater)

Friday:

- 2:00pm Snakes Alive!
(Serpentarium)
3:00pm Wildlife Encounter Program
(Cypress Amphitheater)

Saturday:

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

Night Walks at the Sanctuary

November through March

6pm - 8pm on select Friday Nights

**Call to make your reservations!
(561)-575-3399**

Shop and Help Save a Life!

The Sanctuary's gift shop offers a wide variety of educational books and toys, jewelry, home décor, and many other unique items.

It is 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 go to support the Sanctuary and its animals.

Visit

Busch Wildlife Sanctuary

At Loxahatchee River District



2500 Jupiter Park Drive
Jupiter, Florida 33458
(561)-575-3399



Visitor Hours:

Monday through Saturday 10:00am to 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's education office for more information, pricing and availability.

Visit the Sanctuary's website at

www.buschwildlife.org

Or call (561)-575-3399 for more information.

"Like" us on Facebook 

Wish List

Refurbish Eagle Flight Rehabilitation Enclosure.....	\$25,000
Refurbish Hawk & Owl Flight Rehabilitation Enclosure.....	\$25,000
Refurbish Water Bird Rehabilitation Enclosure.....	\$35,000
New Gray and Red Fox Habitat.....	\$75,000
Annual Funding for Animal Care Supplies and Food....	\$105,000
Annual Funding for Medication and Medical Supplies....	\$25,000
Air Conditioning Unit for Animal Kitchen/Commissary...	\$5,000
Audio / Video System for Sanctuary Amphitheater.....	\$5,000
New Outdoor Rehabilitation & Recovery Enclosures....	\$15,000
Picnic Tables (recycled plastic @ \$1,000 each)	\$15,000
New Multi-function Copy Machine.....	\$5,000
Pathway to New Wildlife Hospital.....	\$12,000
New Snack Shop (Nature Café & Watering Hole).....	\$15,000
New Interpretive Signage for Exhibits.....	\$10,000
Supplies and Materials for Nature Classroom.....	\$3,500
New Coyote Habitat.....	\$30,000
New Wild Boar Habitat.....	\$15,000
New Alligator and Crocodile Habitats.....	\$15,000
Pineland Nature Trail Restrooms.....	\$25,000
Hurricane Shutters.....	\$5,000
Traveling Busch Wildlife Sanctuary Education Exhibit....	\$7,500
Animal Care Equipment Storage Unit with Work Area...	\$15,000
Golf Carts and/or All Terrain Utility Vehicle.....	\$12,000
Salary for Hospital Attendant.....	\$20,800
Salary for Wildlife Rescue Field Staff.....	\$26,000
Salary for Volunteer Coordinator (part time).....	\$17,000
Money.....	all shapes and sizes!
Volunteers.....	willing to have fun and get dirty!