



the Scoop

produced by and for OHS volunteers, donors and supporters

summer 2008

Animal Welfare Web Links

(<http://www.>)

oconeehumane.org
 americanhumane.org
 hsus.org and aspc.org
 petfinder.com
 greenvillehumane.org
 oconeepests.com (County site)
 guidestar.org

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OHS is a 501(C)(3) charity organized in the State of South Carolina.

Coming Events

Celebration of Cooperation

1925 Sandifer Blvd
 September 13, 2008

Low Country Boil
 The Retreat (Rt 123)
 October 4, 2008

Skyhoundz
 Gignilliat Field
 November 1, 2008

Fashion Show
 Keowee Key
 November 22, 2008

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Shelter Progress

Seneca, SC, July 2008 - You must know by now that the site is graded, footings are in, the slab has been poured and the building frame erected. Right? If you did not know, go take a look at 1925 Sandifer Boulevard (Route 123) in Seneca next time you're on the west side of town. It may be another few months before the shelter and adoption center show signs of completion, but as you can see here, we are well underway.



In the meanwhile, public interest in the project is beginning to build.

Building donations, fundraising event attendance and volunteer efforts are growing. As one example, since there was no money in the budget for landscaping, two Duke Energy employees stepped up and have applied for a "community improvement grant" to cover landscaping. Zone 7 Nursery has designed and donated a professional landscaping plan that should be implemented some time in the fall of 2008.

Part of the agreement between the County of Oconee and the Oconee Humane Society (OHS) covered the erection of a separate OHS Office and Adoption Center building. When, during budget negotiations

last year, it became apparent that there would not be enough money to cover both the shelter and a separate OHS building, it was decided to incorporate OHS facilities within the animal shelter. For the time being, at least.

While planning for the separate building, OHS has already surveyed a parcel right next to the animal shelter. Another parcel was surveyed on the site to accom-

modate a planned Pet Memorial Garden.

As the animal shelter nears completion, we will be looking for volunteer help with animal adoptions, dog walkers, clerical work, training, fundraising, education and so on. Now would be a good time to let us know if you can help. Please call Jean Stappler at (864) 944 8155 or send an email to: peter.hens@oconeehumane.org.

Protection Racket

How the Endangered Species Act fails animals

The Act, which was passed 35 years ago, has unquestionably saved and protected many creatures. The American alligator was taken off the list in 1987, and the Aleutian Canada goose was de-listed in 2001. The Yellowstone grizzly bear and the western gray wolf were de-listed last year. But the Act has also sparked epic battles, such as the ongoing fight in the Northwest over the northern spotted owl, which pits loggers and lumber companies against old-growth forest conservationists.

No one believes the Act is a cure-all as it has not halted extinctions. There have been failures. For example, the dusky seaside sparrow, a Florida native listed for decades, was declared extinct in 1990, nevertheless. It is illegal for states to enact

less protective laws. Some States have opted to enact more protective laws than the federal government.

The US Department of Interior's Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) is the main administrator of the law, while the National Marine Fisheries Services takes responsibility for corals, fish, whales and other sea-going creatures. Anyone can petition the FWS to have a plant or animal put on the list, but listing is not automatic. In fact, due to resource constraints, the FWS manages the program more like an emergency room in a hospital. It must conclude that the animal or plant is in critical need of protection before a plan is designed to protect it. The moment the plan is implemented, neighbors become foes and fierce legal battles ensue; usually with each side accusing the FWS of ignoring science and playing politics. Nevertheless, "the Act (continued on Page 5)



MEMORIALS

January - June 2008



- Jim Lancaster & Steve Donaldson, in memory of Eugene M. Schacht.
- Yvette Norris, in memory of Bill Barnett.
- Mr. & Mrs. Michael Barnette, in memory of "Katy".
- Mrs. Willie Booth, in memory of "Cricket & Blu".
- Mary Bowman, in memory of Sandy Plowden.
- Mary Bowman, in memory of "Mr. Beebs", beloved pet of the Gilbert family.
- Cele Thomas, in memory of "Doozie", beloved pet of Phil Mayer.
- Jean Stappler, in memory of "Doozie", beloved pet of Phil Mayer.
- Nelle Rochester, in memory of "Murphy Brown", beloved pet of Jack, Pam, & Callie Cantrell.
- Karen & Chuck Sconce, in memory of Billy Griffin.
- Jean Stappler, in memory of Paul Power.
- Peter Warren, in memory of Jim Wolf.
- Mr. & Mrs. Robert Richner, in memory of Paul Power.
- Mr. & Mrs. George Stumpf, in memory of Paul Power.
- Mr. & Mrs. Jack Puleo, in memory of Paul Power.
- Mike Wolf's co-workers & friends, in memory of Jim Wolf.
- Rich Bushey, in memory of Jim Wolf.
- Gloria Lonergan, in memory of Jim Wolf.
- Paula Thompson, Jerry Alexander, & Jerrie Mitchell, in memory of Chris Alexander.
- William Hill, in memory of James Wolf.
- Mr. & Mrs. James May, in memory of James Wolf.
- Mr. & Mrs. Michael Mowery, in memory of Mr. Wolf.
- Mr. & Mrs. Robert Stromberg, in memory of Jim Wolf.
- William Elliott, in memory of Jim Wolf.
- Janice Swearingen, in memory of Francis & Katherine King.
- Tommie Turrell, in memory of "Shaggy", beloved pet of Jean Stappler.
- Tommie Turrell, in memory of "Joshua", beloved pet of Dick Solomon.
- Karen & Chuck Sconce, in memory of "Shaggy", beloved pet of Jean Stappler.
- Peter & Kathy Hens, in memory of "Shaggy", beloved pet of Jean Stappler.
- Jean Stappler, in memory of my best friend "Shaggy".
- Robert Ricketts, in memory of Dot Wade.
- Peggy McQuillan, in memory of "Shaggy", beloved pet of Jean Stappler.
- Elizabeth Duffield, in memory of "Shaggy", beloved pet of Jean Stappler.

Tributes

- Mr. & Mrs. Michael Barnette, in honor of Howard & Ginger Lewis
- Nelle Rochester, in honor of "Maggie Mae", pet of Mr. & Mrs. Jack Cantrell.
- Robin, Rick, Matthew, & Megan Young, in honor of Ann Miller.

Hiding in Plain Sight



TNR is an acronym for Trap, Neuter, and Release. This comprises the modus operandi for cat rescue groups specializing in feral cats. While the practice is not popular with all interests, it does have a significant

impact on the proliferation of feral cats. However, TNR is not embraced by all. Birders and other small animal lovers, point out that feral cats kill wildlife – by some accounts in enormous numbers. The logic these use groups is, as long as you go through the trouble of trapping a cat, why not remove it from nature permanently? The short answer to that question, of course, is OK, then what? Feral cats are notoriously difficult to man-

age in a domestic setting because they are wild animals, so adoption is usually not an option. Move them somewhere else and move the problem to someone else? Kill (OK, euthanize) them? That goes against the credo of almost all rescue groups: protect and defend animals. So what's the answer? TNR is one.

The significant impact TNR has on the proliferation of feral cats is that the "N" puts an end to the high reproduction cycle of cats. We've all heard the statistics; two cats, unprotected, can reproduce hundreds of offspring in just a few years. Experts in the field agree, TNR is the only solution when it comes to managing feral cat numbers (*). How does it work? THR is a full management plan in which stray and feral cats already living outdoors in cities, towns, and rural areas are humanely trapped, then evaluated, vaccinated, and sterilized by veterinarians.

(Continued Page 3)



Cruel to Bears in SC

When we were a largely agricultural society and the practice of husbandry was well spread, a noble relationship endured between beasts of burden, cattle and fowl and the people who tended to them. To a smaller extent that relationship still exists; albeit tempered in massive feed lots and pens geared to serve our appetite for chicken, pork, beef and poultry. The animals were and are a commodity that serves to feed mankind. But cruelty to animals should never have been part of the process; yet it happens and continues in the way we treat some of our wildlife.

As South Carolinians, we should be outraged by the fact that we are the only state in the union that allows a bear training practice called "bear baying". Bear hunters from all over visit us because their states have outlawed the practice. In addition, each year an attempt is made by those who cherish the practice to legitimize it by expanding and redefining language to suit their specific needs or finding some other legal loophole to wiggle through and perpetuate animal cruelty. For years, hunters have engaged in bear baying, in which they chain a captive bear to a stake and allow hunting dogs to bark at it as part of a training exercise. There are dozens of captive bear in South Carolina, mostly in Greenville, Pickens and Oconee Counties,

kept for the sole purpose of serving as victims in bear baying and dog training.

This year, another legislative attempt was made to expand the bear hunting season from one to eight weeks (it failed) and exempt wildlife from the definition of animals (it also failed). Imagine the self-serving irony, wildlife is not defined as animals and therefore not subject to the State's animal cruelty laws.



Captive SC Bear

Let's not let our guard down. We must remain vigilant, stay abreast of relative news and do everything we can to end it, once and for all. Can we count on your help? Punch up "bear baying" in Google and see what pops up; then write or call your South Carolina legislator and tell them how you feel about this practice. Perhaps we will see an end to this cruelty in our lifetime.

Hiding...

Kittens and tame cats are adopted into good homes. Healthy adult cats not socialized to humans are returned to their familiar habitat under the lifelong care of volunteers. (**)

Animal shelters will benefit by reducing the number of feral cats that are turned in and then euthanized. Feral cats will win because a percentage of any given colony is adopted out and the others will be vaccinated and will no longer spread disease. And, most importantly, the numbers will go down because the reproduction cycle has been stopped. Seems like it is time to have Oconee County benefit from a TNR program, don't you? Find out more by contacting the sources below.

(*) *Best Friends Magazine May/June 2008, p27* (**) *www.alleycat.org*



Boy's bathroom nearing completion at the new animal shelter...

Help Yourself, and the Oconee Humane Society

Many are not aware how much the Bi-Lo Boostersplus fundraising program means to us: a lot. If you participate, besides qualifying for in store discounts, 1% of all your purchases at Bi-Lo will be earmarked for the Oconee Humane Society. All you need is to fill out an enrollment card filled out and the store will take care of the rest. You can get them from us at any of our fund raising events (see page 1), request them by mail or email or stop by at the desk at Bi-Lo and tell them you want to enroll in the Boostersplus program and your favorite charity is the Oconee County Humane Society, #855. You will only need to do this once. Thanks.

Neologism (n.) - a new word or a new meaning for an existing word...

Glibido (v.): all talk and no action.

Caterpallor (n.): the color you turn after finding half a grub in the fruit you're eating.

Balderdash (n.): a rapidly receding hairline

50/50 Raffle

We are usually not shy about asking for help, but rarely can we offer a substantial reward to you. Now we know that satisfaction derived from helping animal welfare causes goes a long way and would be enough. But here is a chance at winning some real cash in the process!

During the Low Country Boil fund raiser at The Retreat on October 4th (see "Events", page 1), we plan to announce the winner of this year's raffle. If you cannot be there in person, don't worry if your number is drawn, we will get the winnings to you if you filled the ticket in correctly. Each ticket costs \$5 and, if we sell all 1,000 tickets, the winner will get \$2,500. And you know, there will only be one winner of the money; but everyone else will win the satisfaction of having helped a good cause. See? A win-win situation.

For tickets or further information, please contact the following OHS volunteers: Lindsey Addis at 864 888 2211, Norman Weber at 864 888 0600, Jean Stappler at 864 944 8155 or peter.hens@oconeehumane.org

Celebration of Cooperation

Over the last thirty odd years, while administering to the needs of animals in Oconee County, the County and Humane Society have worked together. The advent of the building of a new animal shelter in Seneca, has brought the parties together closer than ever. As the shelter nears completion, we want to take some time out to celebrate the



win-win-win situation that has developed as a result of coming together and building this shelter. A celebration ceremony is scheduled at the new shelter at 1925 Sandifer Boulevard for Saturday September 13th 2008 at 11:00 am. Please come and join us if you can.

Fly-In Another Winner

Seneca Regional Airport, May 2008 - They came from all over, once again. Pilots and their antique airplanes from numerous locations throughout the Southeast, sky divers from the Upstate, the Oconee Sheriff's Department, antique cars, airplane rides, cookies, dog biscuits, dog scarves, plants and hot dogs and beverages. And the weather was perfect.



Raffle tickets, plants and biscuits galore



Antique aircraft to explore and a ride taking off

Deck Your Pet Out With the Best "Bling" — An ID Tag

Each year, millions of cherished pets get lost and end up in the care of animal shelters everywhere. But sadly, many are never united with their families. The Oconee Humane Society encourages pet owners to provide pets with an ID tag. Sure you got the leopard print pet bed and collar with rhinestones, but the hottest fashion for your beloved pet is his or her very own ID tag. With many choices of color and shape, there is no reason not to outfit every collar with his or her name and your contact information.

Make sure your pet wears a collar with an ID tag all the time, because you never know how or when he or she might slip away from your control. The collar should have a rabies vaccination tag and city license. The ID tag should include contact name, address, and daytime and night time phone numbers. Consider providing a phone number for an alternate contact like a neighbor or family member, in case you cannot be reached. And don't forget to update your pet's tags when you move. Also consider micro-chipping your pet to increase the likelihood that he or she will have a better chance at being reunited if your pet is ever lost. When the new animal shelter opens early next year, micro-chipping will be available. In the meanwhile, contact your veterinarian.



More Fly-In Pictures



Pilots and their toys



Ellie the drug sniffing bloodhound



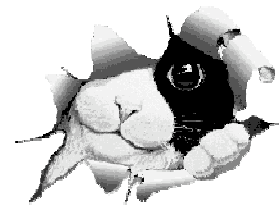
The Sheriff's Emergency Command

OHS Cyber Update

You do know we have a website, right? www.oconeehumane.org has been our home for some time now and contains some basic operational information. It also has a "News" section you might visit on a regular basis as we update the latest information there. There you will also find back issues of The Scoop for easy download in a pdf format. And, of course, if you'd like to make a donation you can do it there or send your check to P.O. Box 966 in West Union SC 29696.

In the future, as we link our computers with the County, you will also find information on adoptions, dog obedience training, Red Cross pet first aid training, lost and found, fundraising events, and links to animal protection, fostering and rescue services throughout our area. Please add us to your 'favorites'.

SPECIAL THANKS TO



Randy Van Surdam

For your tireless advocacy of animal welfare issues and promoting Oconee Humane Society fund raising efforts.

Protection...

is one of the most forward-thinking and strongest laws on our books today", says Jamie Rappaport Clark, FWS Director from 1997 until 2001. "However, it is not a magic bullet. We rely on action by society and individual States to not let a species in peril get to the critical (Emergency Room) stage", she added.

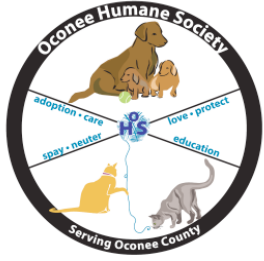
Florida's manatee population, around 3,000, is no longer in danger of extinction, say home builders, marina operators and developers. Not so fast say conservationists. "We track and identify individual manatees by the pattern of boat propeller cuts on their backs and tails", says long time manatee advocate Linda Green; "if we remove them from the list, it opens the door to boating and shoreline development that will undoubtedly put them back on the list again in short order". As it is, they are fighting a losing battle as manatee collisions are on the increase. Governor Charlie Crist intervened and postponed the decision.

Even the FWS fails the animals sometimes. An explosive investigation last year helped overturn a group of FWS decisions, sparked a US House investigation and resulted in the resignation of political appointee deputy assistant secretary Julie McDonald. Under her guidance, the decision was made to reduce the habitat of an endangered list resident, the arroyo toad, from 182,360 to 11,695 acres. A reduction of more than 90% of the toad's habitat. Numerous FWS scientists had filed anonymous complaints.

Usually, political interference in environmental matters is minimal, but it has become rampant under recent administrations, according to Jeff Ruch of Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility. His group supports whistle blowers within vari-

ous government departments. He added: "willingness to rewrite scientific and technical findings to serve political aims has continued unabated and, by some measures, has accelerated." More than half of the reviewed cases uncovered political pressure to back off on decisions that may have harmed commercial interests. Getting onto the list is getting more difficult. Under the last three consecutive administrations, the new endangered species listed counts were 250, 500 plus and 102. We need to get back on track.





Oconee Humane Society - 2008 Membership Application

P.O. Box 966 - West Union, SC 29696 - Tel. 864 944 8155

Name: _____

Street Address / PO Box: _____

Membership Categories
(check any number)

- \$10 Youth
- \$25 Family
- \$50 Sustaining
- \$150 Benefactor

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

(optional)

(optional)

Additional donation to:

- \$ _____ Spay/Neuter
- \$ _____ Building Fund
- \$ _____ General Fund

May we contact you regarding volunteer work? Yes ___ No ___

Comments or suggestions:

Total amount enclosed:
\$ _____

Please fill out this form, cut it on the line below, tear along the side and mail it with your check.



www.oconeehumane.org



<p>Bulk Mailing Permit 3</p> <p>West Union, SC 29696</p>
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Oconee Humane Society
P.O. Box 966
West Union, SC 29696