

## HELPING WILD CREATURES AND THEIR CAREGIVERS

*Earth Day* is observed each year on April 22nd, so it's also a perfect time to highlight our commitment to Louisiana's often overlooked wild creatures. Through our *Wildlife 911* program, volunteers rescue and/or relocate hit, injured and orphaned wild creatures, transporting the animals to licensed wildlife rehabbers. Helping wild animals in trouble - even just relocating them from point A to point B - can sometimes require a lot of time, skill, equipment and resources. Without this service, there would be no hope for most of these animals. HSLA is also committed to supporting wildlife rehabbers - the unsung heroes of Louisiana's wild animals. While these volunteers are licensed by the state, solo rehabbers subsidize the feeding and care of wildlife out of their own pockets, with little to no community support. We want to support their lifesaving efforts. To help in a small way, we've been sponsoring wildlife photo caption contests, in which rehabbers submit their creatively captioned animal photos to win prizes. The photos are used to promote wildlife protection and earn funds for the rehabbers. Soon, we will also be announcing our inaugural *Wildlife Rehabbers Appreciation Week* to solicit more support for these compassionate and hardworking folks.



Prize winning photo by Louisiana wildlife rehabber Lynette Baradell, captioned **"No More Kisses!"**



Wildlife rescue volunteer, Mandy Rice, recently transported this injured baby turtle to our friends at Clearwater Wildlife Sanctuary.



Opossum rehabber Jody Smith won our spring contest with the captioned photo **"Nothing is Impossurable!"**



HSLA Board member, Evie Burguieres, (also President of Nola Wildlife Center) rescues an opossum in distress.



This injured owl is one of the beautiful birds we were recently called upon to help.



### PEANUT GOES HOME

A Bunkie resident (Avoyelles parish) contacted us when a sweet, older dog wandered up to her home, looking lost and hungry. The good Samaritan made the dog comfortable, giving him food, water and TLC. She asked if we could help pay for an eye exam, as the dog appeared to have a medical issue. We agreed to have a local vet perform a wellness check, and the pup was sent home with needed eye meds. Not long afterwards, we were excitedly contacted by a family who had seen the dog on our Facebook page and believed him to be their beloved missing pet. They said that the dog had been on medication for an ulcer in his right eye, and that the family missed him terribly. In the end, it was a match! We are happy to report that Peanut (temporarily known as Sonny) is now happily back at home, after a long ordeal.