GEORGIA FORESTWATCH
PRESERVE PROTECT RESTORE GAFW.ORG

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Peak trillium bloom at Sosebee Cove last week

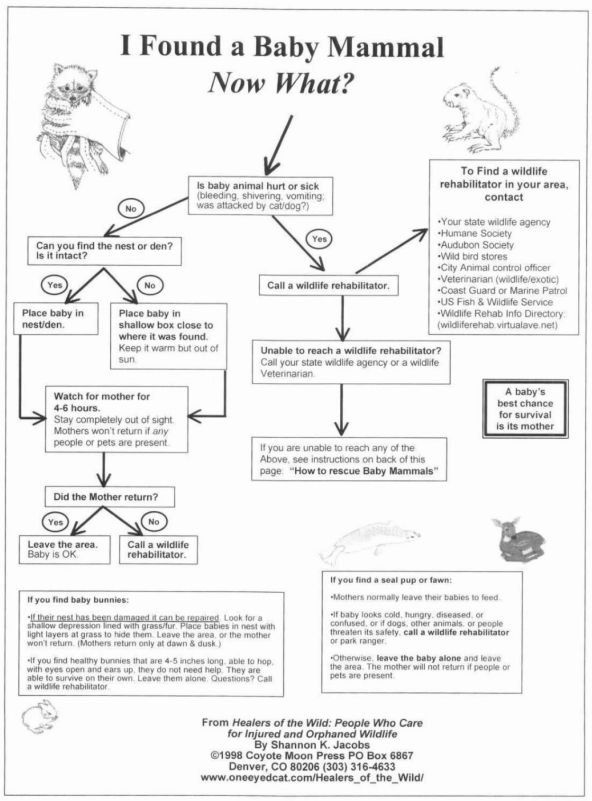
If You Care Leave them There

Don't Take Young Wildlife

It is not unusual to see young wildlife that appears to be alone in the spring. Before you attempt to help – STOP and remember that it is best to leave wildlife where you find them, according to the Georgia Department of Natural Resources Wildlife Resources Division (WRD).

"When you take wildlife out of their environment and bring them into your home, it often takes away that animal's

ability to survive in the wild, where they belong," explains Kaitlin Goode, wildlife biologist, and program manager of the Georgia WRD Urban Wildlife Program. "In most instances, there is an adult animal a short distance away – even though you may not be able to see it. Adult animals, such as deer, spend most of the day away from their young to reduce the risk of a predator finding the young animal."



When they see a young animal, the best thing people can do is to leave it exactly as they found it for at least 24 hours. If the animal is still there after this time, reach out to the local WRD office for guidance.

Young wildlife demands a great deal of care and has specific nutritional requirements. If they are not cared for properly, they will not be releasable or retain the ability to survive independently. Persons not licensed and trained in wildlife rehabilitation should not attempt to care for wildlife. Georgia law prohibits the possession of most wildlife without a permit.

For more information, visit https://georgiawildlife.com/living-with-wildlife.

Are You Bear Aware?

Bears are out and about. Nothing triggers a more visceral response than a bear sighting. Now is the time of year when bears leave their winter dens searching for food, and they are very hungry. Georgia has an estimated 5,100 black bears, primarily, but not exclusively, found in the mountains. Catching a glimpse of a bear in the wild should be exhilarating but not alarming. For more information about bears and encounters with them, see BearWise®, a program developed by black bear biologists and supported by State wildlife agencies. You can trust BearWise to have useful information and smart solutions that help people, neighborhoods, and communities prevent problems and keep bears wild, starting with the "Six At Home BearWise Basics":

- Never feed or approach bears: Feeding bears (intentionally or unintentionally) trains them to approach homes and people for more food. Bears will defend themselves if a person gets too close, so don't risk your safety and theirs.

- Secure food, garbage, and recycling: Food and food odors attract bears, so don't reward them with readily available food or garbage.
- Remove bird feeders while bears are active: Birdseed and other grains have a high-calorie content making them very attractive to bears. The best way to avoid conflicts with bears is to remove feeders.
- Never leave pet food outdoors: Feed outdoor pets single-meal portion sizes and then remove leftover food and the food bowl. Securely store these foods, so nothing is available to bears.
- Clean and store grills: After using an outdoor grill, clean it thoroughly and remove all grease and fat. Store cleaned grills and smokers in a secure area that keeps bears out.
- Alert neighbors to bear activity: Share the news with your friends and neighbors about recent bear activity and how to avoid bear conflicts. Bears have adapted to living near people. Are you willing to adapt to living near bears?

GWC Clean 13 Awards & 20th Anniversary Celebration

The Georgia Water Coalition is 20 years old! It's time to celebrate two decades of successfully protecting Georgia's water resources. The family-friendly event will be held Sunday afternoon, May 22nd, at Fall Line Brewery in Macon. They will recognize the 2021 Clean 13 Water Heroes and present their awards. In addition, you can enjoy will live music, finger foods, beer and wine, and a great time. Delight in the music and fellowship, watch short documentaries about the GWC and the Clean 13 awardees, and cheer on the winners. Tickets - $35/person. Kids 10 years and under – Free. Purchase your tickets here https://www.gawater.org/clean-13

In the Media

Recently, Georgia ForestWatch ecology consultant Jess Riddle presented to the Friends of White's Woods. Learn more about the webinar and natural forest management.

GAFW Partners

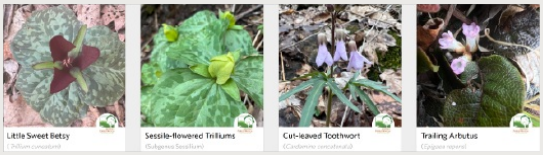
Georgia Audubon Bird Fest 2022 is going on now!

As Georgia's largest bird and nature festival, Georgia Bird Fest features a full
month of activities, including guided field trips to Georgia's best birding hotspots, nature-based workshops, and guest speakers. Events are tailored to
all levels of bird, nature, and outdoor enthusiasts—there's something for everyone at Georgia Bird Fest. Register Here.

GAFW Outings

Photos! Recent Outings

iNaturalist @gaforestwatch
Community Science and species identification!



Upcoming Events

Wednesday, May 4–Georgia Water Coalition General Membership Meeting @ the Alcovy Conservation Center Covington, GA.

Tuesday-Friday, May 24-27, 2022–Southern Blue Ridge Fire Learning Network & Consortium for Appalachian Fire Managers and Scientists, Dillard, GA.

Saturday, June 4–National Trails Day. GAFW participating in GATC led event @ Vogel State Park.

Thursday, June 9–2022 GPFC Meeting for North Georgia @ Chattahoochee Technical College in Jasper, GA.

Saturday, June 11–Wild and Scenic Film Festival, Gainesville, GA.

If this email was forwarded to you, please register here to receive updates from Georgia ForestWatch.

Need a Camp Reservation?

Planning to join us at Lake Winfield Scott for the annual retreat? Send us an email at info@gafw.org if you would like to reserve a camping spot at Lake Winfield Scott or Vogel State Park.

Thank You

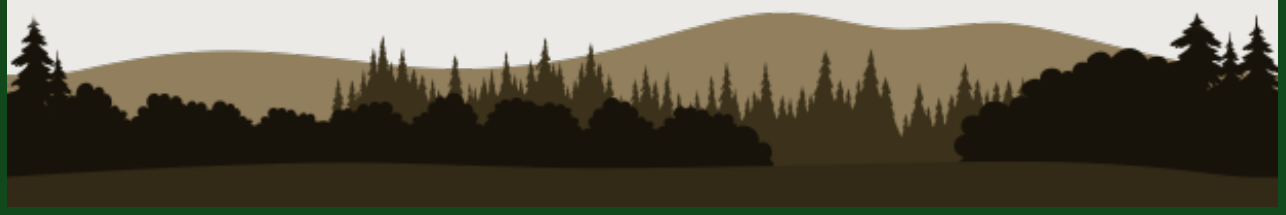
Georgia ForestWatch is the only nonprofit organization with a mission solely dedicated to ensuring the Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forests remain healthy and available for future generations, and we can only pursue our mission with the support of the community.

In 2021 donations from individuals, such as yourself, provided for 72% of our budget, and we are asking again in 2022 for your support.

Please support our mission by ensuring yourmembership is up to date and providing additional support as you are able.

On behalf of our entire national forests in our beautiful state, we thank you for your support.

Connect with us

Our Mission

Our mission is to enhance the health of over 867,000 acres of Georgia's national forest by protecting our forests and streams, advocating for natural processes, and identifying opportunities to improve forest management. Visit Georgia ForestWatch (GAFW) to learn more.