

LUCKY DUCK

Hancock
resident rescues
waterfowl from
Yellow Creek

BY MICHELE RUXER
MESSENGER-INQUIRER

Concerned citizens in the area began posting in local Facebook groups in December about a duck at Yellow Creek Park that seemed to be injured with a fish hook stuck in its bill.

According to the posters, they had contacted area organizations but were told that nothing could be done to help the injured waterfowl.

Felicia Fullerton, who currently lives in Hancock County, was tagged in the posts by a mutual friend.

“The friend knew that I had experience helping and rehabilitating ducks, so they tagged me in the post,” Fullerton said.

She said that she decided to head out to the park to see if she could help the injured duck.

“The first night I spent a couple of hours at the park, but realized that, since it was dark, the ducks weren’t coming in from the water. So, I left that night, but decided to return the next day,” Fullerton said.

The next day, she and her husband Daniel Fullerton, returned to the park with kayaks to see if they could catch the duck in order to remove the fish hook.

“With the kayaks, we were able to actually get into the water and get closer to all of the ducks,” she explained. “We hoped that would make it easier to catch her.”

Fullerton said that she spent around four hours trying to catch the duck without success.

“I was started to get discouraged, so I decided to just follow her around specifically to see if I could wear her out enough that she would be easier to catch,” she said. “I knew she was weak because she hadn’t been able to eat very well because of the fish hook, so I thought this might be the best chance we had.”

Fullerton, encouraged by other people who had gathered on the shore to help assist the effort, she was able to finally get close to the injured bird.

“I was finally able to get close enough to reach out and she ducked under the water to get away, but I was able to grab her,” Fullerton said.

Once she arrived on shore with the duck, Fullerton said other people watching the rescue were able to use wire cutters to remove the hook from the duck’s injured beak.

“The hook was going up through her beak and tongue and then she had another spot on her neck that was injured by another hook,” she explained.

Fullerton decided to bring the duck home with her to make sure that the bird could gain its strength back and make sure it didn’t need further medical attention. She also named the duck Daisy.

“I set up a spot for her to sleep next to our bed on a table,” she said.



Photo by Greg Eans, Messenger-Inquirer | geans@messenger-inquirer.com

Felicia Fullerton interacts Friday with “Daisy,” a duck she rescued at Yellow Creek Park in December that had a hook stuck in its beak. Fullerton has been rescuing and rehabilitating ducks for about 4-5 years.

“But I woke up during the night to Daisy getting into bed with me to snuggle. I realized then that she was probably dumped at the park and was familiar with humans.”

This isn’t the first time that Fullerton has rescued injured waterfowl.

She said that she rescued three ducks, which she named Olaf, Elsa and Ana, from Carpenter’s Lake several years ago when they ran into problems during the winter.

“They were struggling with the frozen lake,” she explained. “One of them had even frozen to the lake and was being attacked by larger birds, so I knew that I had to help them.”

She used a paddle boat and an inflatable mattress to access the injured duck and bring it to safety.

“Ducks regulate their temperatures with their feet, so they will have problems walking on ice. The ice makes them cold, so they’ll nest down to try to warm up and that caused this duck on the lake to get stuck to the ice,” she explained.

Fullerton said that Daisy has now become a “house duck” at the home she shares with Daniel, some chickens and their dog, Jolene.

“Daisy gets along with Jolene and they’ve become buddies,” she said. “She’s just become a happy, spoiled girl and I’m happy to be able to have her join the family.”

Fullerton estimates that Daisy is still young, maybe a couple of years old at most, because of her size.

“And she’s pretty healthy now that the fish hook has been removed,” she said. “She gets corn in the morning and she loves blueberries and other treats.”

Fullerton even brings Daisy out-and-about running

errands with the family.

“It seems like the entire community has seen and followed along with Daisy’s story,” she said. “So, we’ll go out to somewhere like Rural King or Menards and get stopped by people asking if she’s ‘the duck’ and if I’m ‘that girl with the duck’. We were in Rural King recently and it took us two hours to get around because I think someone asked about her every 20 feet. But it’s great that the community has been so supportive.”

Fullerton and other concerned community members began a fundraising campaign through GoFundMe with the intention of placing wooden shelters at the parks to help house the ducks during winter, but, she said, that authorities are against the idea because of the recent uptick in bird flu cases.

“They said they are afraid of the shelters attracting other bird species besides the park’s ducks,” she said. “So, we’ve built a shelter for our own property to act as an experiment to show the authorities that the shelter will only house the ducks, so that maybe they will consider adding the shelters to the parks.”

The funds raised from the GoFundMe, Fullerton said, are being used to provide food for the ducks during the winter.

“I posted that we were unable to provide the shelters as we originally thought and offered to give refunds to people, but everyone is being very generous and just wants to make sure the ducks have what they need to make it through the cold,” she said.

Fullerton also wanted to extend a warning to people considering helping ducks that might be in compromising positions due to the cold weather.

“I want people to know to please exercise

extreme caution when dealing with frozen lakes,” she said. “I know that you just want to help, but if you’re not prepared or experienced in dealing with frozen lakes, please find someone who has the experience and means for a rescue. I don’t want to see anyone

getting themselves into a horrible situation and needing to be rescued themselves.”

Fullerton has started a Facebook page for members of the community to follow along with Daisy’s adventures. The page is called Daisy’s Den. “I really appreciate

everyone who has followed along and supported us,” she said. “And I’m thankful to welcome this sweet girl into my home. She’s already so spoiled and loved. And we’re hoping to add some duck friends on our own lake in the future.”

ANNOUNCEMENT

Pursuant to KRS 241.066, KRS 241.067 and KRS 241.068, the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control gives notice of the following vacancies in the City of Livermore:

a.) Two (2) Quota Retail Package Liquor Licenses

Applications for these quota vacancies will be accepted by the Department for a period of thirty (30) days following this announcement.

Allyson Taylor, Commissioner
Maggie Woods, Distilled Spirits Administrator
Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control
500 Mero Street, 2NE33
Frankfort KY 40601

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Public Notice

Notice is hereby given that Tim Jewell at 150 Carl Jewell Lane has filed an application with the Energy and Environment Cabinet to put 30 X 70 modular home on property located 150 Carl Jewell Lane, Calhoun, KY 42327 Any comments or objections can be submitted via email to: DOWFloodplain@ky.gov Kentucky Division of Water, Floodplain Management Section, 300 Sower Blvd. Frankfort, KY 40601. Call 502-564-3410 with questions.



LEGAL NOTICE

McLEAN COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS KINDERGARTEN PRE-REGISTRATION

The McLean County School system will hold pre-registration for the first year primary school (Kindergarten) students during the week of **February 3rd-7th**. Per KRS 158.030, children entering kindergarten must be five years old on or before August 1.

Pre-registration will be held during the hours of 8:30 am – 2:30 pm. Please register your child at the school he/she will attend.

Parents are asked to bring their child’s birth certificate and social security card, if possible. Before a child can enter school in the fall, parents are required to show the child’s social security card, birth certificate, up-to-date Kentucky immunization certificate and records of physical exam within six months prior to the beginning of school. An eye examination by an optometrist or ophthalmologist and a dental examination by a dentist is required no later than January 1 of the school year.

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