



Woodlands Wildlife Refuge
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NEWS

Comings and Goings - 2006

This year, more than 550 of New Jersey's wild animals arrived at Woodlands Wildlife Refuge for a second chance. According to the dictionary, chance means: "opportunity or opportune time for something" and refuge means: "shelter or protection". We are proud to have had the opportunity to offer a second chance and shelter to so many of our wild neighbors.

Our "baby season" began mid-March with the arrival of newborn gray squirrels. The rest of the season was busy with a constant influx of just about every wild animal you can imagine including a mink and a musk turtle for variety. The bulk of our wild patients are raccoons, rabbits, skunks, squirrels, foxes, woodchucks and box turtles, with as many as 70-80 in our care at any given time. Some arrived with severe injuries, some orphaned and others sick. The hardest on us are those animals injured by un-caring humans. On the other hand, our very caring staff and volunteers gave thousands of hours of work that was hard, bittersweet, sometimes miraculous and always rewarding. Their generous gifts of time made sure each and every animal got the best care possible. They cared for broken and burned, lost or orphaned, dehydrated and emaciated as well as mangy and cranky patients. It is because of the staff and volunteers that so many of the animals survived and were released. This work is truly done with blood, sweat, tears and plenty of heart. The reward is releasing these wild spirits.

With all possible releases accomplished, the quieter part of our year is upon us. Our winter guests include a very small black bear that arrived in October weighing only 38 pounds, a woodchuck with its top teeth knocked out, a young raccoon recovering from being hit by a car and two other raccoons too young for release this year. We also have our education animals: Lady Jane the lynx, Mom opossum, Grace the bear, Grandpa skunk, Tank the turtle and Roomba the tortoise. These animals will keep working for their room and board. We will use the winter months to fine tune our fundraising and plan our 10th Mardi Gras Gala and perhaps catch up on some missing hours of sleep. We will rest easy knowing that we did the best we could for so many of our wild friends.

Thank you for taking the time to care about your wild neighbors and we wish you all happy holidays and a great New Year!

Our 9th Annual Mardi Gras FUNdraiser was another great success as we kicked off our 20th Anniversary! **The 10th Annual Mardi Gras will be held on Saturday March 3, 2007** at the Hunterdon Hills Playhouse. Mark your calendars! Many thanks to all who sponsored, donated auction items and/or attended. If you are interested in helping with this event please contact us. We are always looking for donations and sponsors and great ideas!

Our new education room is complete and several groups have already enjoyed programs there. Thanks to everyone who supported this effort. We are very proud of this room! Check out these before and after photos!



Click on each image for a larger photo.

Peter Strand, pictured below, of Boy Scout Troop 288 completed his Eagle Scout Project by building a **new shed** for Woodlands. Peter was inducted on August 19, 2006. Thank you Pete and to all the boy scouts!



Click on image for a larger photo!

We have already cared for over **500 animals this year** and still counting! Raccoons, squirrels, bats, foxes, skunks, skunks and more skunks, opossums, mink, woodchucks, many different turtle species including a **wood turtle** (pictured below), rabbits and snakes just to name a few!



Click on image for a larger photo!

We recently released our **25th black bear** back into the wild. "Mr. Gimp" arrived in December of 2005 weighing only 32 pounds with a bad leg injury. With the help of our vet, Dr. Felecia Niebojeski (pictured below), his wounds were treated and over the winter and spring he beautifully gained 98 pounds and was successfully released.



Click on the last photo to see the release video!

We recently cared for and released a **mink**! And yes, they live in the state of New Jersey.



Click on image for a larger photo!

Woodlands is happy to announce its **2nd part time employee, Lila Whitely** to its ranks as Wildlife Care Supervisor! As we continue to grow so will our staff.

Our Volunteer Coordinator Ellen Wexler has been doing a great job in recruiting volunteers this year. We have a great group of people providing all aspects of animal care. **If you are interested in volunteering please contact Ellen at elwexler@eclipse.net**. We are very interested in a volunteer(s) to do regular maintenance for us, both inside and outside.

We are proud to announce that, due to her work with Woodlands, our **Executive Director Tracy Leaver has been named one of the "Notable Women Throughout the History of Hunterdon County"**. This is a publication by Hunterdon County Cultural and Heritage Commission.

AN IMPORTANT UPDATE:

The Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation will no longer be supporting animal care organizations through its Animal Welfare Act. We try not to depend on grants however; the Dodge Foundation has donated \$10,000 to us annually for the past 5 years. We will greatly miss their support of New Jersey's wildlife.

Woodlands is looking to secure new contacts to help us develop financially so we can continue our commitment to growing to meet the needs of our human and wild communities. Please contact wildlife_rehab@yahoo.com and/or call (908) 730-8300 ext. 4 if you are interested in becoming more involved in this aspect.