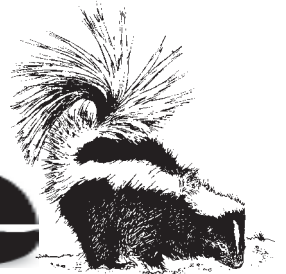




Release



Woodlands Wildlife Refuge, Inc. P.O. Box 5046 Clinton, NJ 08809 (908) 730-8300 www.woodlandswildlife.org

The Newsletter of Woodlands Wildlife Refuge, Inc.

Volume 8 Issue 1 Winter 2006/2007

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.

Photo: Tracy Leaver



Burned raccoon, rehabilitated and released.

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 "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,



Infant gray squirrels.

Photo: Melissa Siegens

Very Special Thank You's

A sincere thank to our Anonymous Donor from Woodlands' Board of Directors, staff, volunteers and every animal we care for. Your incredible and on-going generosity keeps our hopes and dreams fueled and our vision clear as we continue to grow.

A heartfelt thank you to those who responded so generously to our Baby Shower, Holiday Appeal, Pieces and Parts, gave words of praise and kindness, attended Mardi Gras, became sponsors, and donated food and other items from our wish list.

- **Dr. Felecia Niebojeski and Staff** at the Animal Hospital of Clinton-Perryville
- Woodlands Wildlife Refuge's incredibly generous volunteers and Board of Directors for their support and gift of time!
- Kelcey Burguess and the N.J. Fish and Wildlife Bear Team for their help and support with our black bear rehabilitation program.
- Anderson's Cleaning Service for upkeeping our wonderful floors!

Special mention:

Thank you for your kindness and generosity!

Glen Summit Nusery, Country Pet, Wal-Mart, High Bridge Printing and Graphics, everyone at Merrill Creek Reservoir, St. Hubert's, Hunterdon Humane Animal Shelter, Betty and Gary Wysocki and all other Animal Control Officers and shelters who have taken the time to help rescue so many of the orphaned and injured wild animals that come to our facility.

Thank You for Funding

Great thanks go to the following Grantors and corporations for their constant support.

Bernice Barbour Foundation
Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation
Taussig Foundation
New York Life Foundation
The Landsberger Foundation
Wal-Mart
The E. D. Foundation
Waterman Foundation

From the Director

2006 was quite a year for important milestones! We celebrated our 20th Anniversary, released our 25th black bear, completed our Education Center and added another staff member! We finished up large projects, tied up the loose ends of our new facility and finally feel settled in our new home. Now, we can concentrate even more on the work we do as we continue to strive to help our wild neighbors in even better ways.

Woodlands is proud to have recently been honored by Mayor Hoffman, with a Proclamation from Alexandria Township including the following: *"Whereas, the Township of Alexandria is pleased to have Woodlands Wildlife Refuge as an organization in the township...and recognizes their fine work and wishes them continued success in their worthy efforts."*

This year, I was honored as a "Notable Woman" in the 2nd edition of *Notable Women Throughout the History of Hunterdon County*, a publication by the Hunterdon County Cultural and Heritage Commission. I am honored to be recognized for my work as founder and Director of Woodlands Wildlife Refuge. The past 20 years have been both hard and magical as we have found our way in this new field of animal care. I am very happy to say that my vision for Woodlands is no longer my own. It is now shared by our wonderful Board of Directors as well as all of you who have supported our efforts. Woodlands still exists because of a solid history, our vision and your on-going support.

As we move into 2007, we ask not only for your help while we plan for the coming year but for our future as well. We remain dedicated to continued growth and want to ensure that Woodlands will be serving both the wild and human communities far into the future, beyond our time. Our precious wildlife resources deserve this commitment.

Thank you for all you have done and continue to do for Woodlands Wildlife Refuge and our wild neighbors. 🐾

Without you, we could not be,

Tracy Leaver, Executive Director



Nov. 2005 - 35 lbs.
Our 25th bear at the vet.



July 2006 - 130 lbs.
Our 25th bear released!

Photos: Tracy Leaver

Words from the Volunteers

Woodlands is a wonderful place to volunteer. Being at Woodlands gives me an even greater appreciation for wildlife. I have always had a fondness for animals, and while the animals may be cute I understand that I am here to help release them back into the wild to keep them as wildlife and not as pets. Volunteering here makes me realize that I can make a difference no matter how small it may seem. It takes dedication and heart especially during the baby season, but its well worth it; I get to work with wonderful people who I admire and look up to. Although it may seem that we are much different from wildlife such as the squirrels and raccoons, they have personalities all their own. So much development is occurring in New Jersey and it is our responsibility to take care of the wildlife since they are being displaced from their homes. - **Amber Wischner**



Mom skunk and newborn babies.



Mom's babies released!

Photos: Tracy Leaver

This season at Woodlands has been a wonder.... I've seen amazing strength in the smallest of animals. Mr. Gimp, a young bear, came to us last winter, under weight and limping. Then, this spring, he emerged brilliant and strong... and 100 pounds heavier!

So many babies came through that it was hard to keep up at times (experienced volunteers tried to prepare me). I've never seen so many baby rabbits, squirrels, opossums, raccoons, skunks, bats, foxes, turtles, even a mink. Some came in so sick I was sure they wouldn't make it, but with great care they pulled through and it was a happy day to see them released. We had several foxes, one with bad mange but, when he left he was well healed and happy. Talk about beauty and the beast, he was truly both. Other foxes came in very lethargic and sick, but time at the refuge built not only their health but their spirits as well. It was a lot of fun to watch them play.

One of the most memorable animals this year was Mum skunk. She came in blind from head trauma but we did not know she was pregnant... until she had her 7 babies. What a caring and devoted mother she turned out to be. The babies turned out to be beautiful, healthy and happy ... that was another great day to see them released.

Early this summer we had raccoons came in with terrible fire and chemical burns. It was the saddest thing knowing that a human being had done this to innocent animals. They were given great and loving care and healed well... yet another great release. - **Maureen Bockes**

10th Mardi Gras Gala

Save the date! Celebrate!

Join us for a wild time!

Saturday March 3, 2007

at the Hunterdon Hills Playhouse Hampton, NJ

The evening will include:

Professional Live Auction by Brian Jaffe, Silent Auction with more than 200 High Quality Items, Key Club Chance, Fisherman's Auction, Balloon Auction, Dinner, Raffles, Costumes, and much more! Plan a table of friends and family.

Bring your staff or give reservations as a gift. Have a fun night and support a great cause! Your invitations will arrive in January but, in the meantime, see the enclosed Mardi Gras News flier!

This is THE 2007 event to be at!

To donate auction items or purchase ad space in the program please contact us at 908-730 8300 ext. 4 or through our web site at **www.woodlandswildlife.org**, this is also a good way to stay up to date on our Mardi Gras Gala!

Release Site Program

Woodlands continues its search for release sites. The continued loss of habitat makes this more difficult each year. If you are interested in becoming part of our release program, please send us a description of your property. Include acreage (yours), surrounding acreage that is not built up, farmland, meadow, wooded, mixed, tree types, wildlife observed, water sources, is existing undergrowth heavy or sparse. Is there construction planned in the near future? What recreational activities are allowed, such as hunting (for which species), fishing, trapping, dirt bikes, snowmobiles, etc. We would love to consider your land for a possible release site and we will contact you as needed. Thanks to those who already participate and have given wonderful homes to our rehabilitated wild neighbors.

In Memory of

George D. McDonough

- Friends at NJDOT

Marjorie Manner

- Elizabeth Manner
- Randy Newman

Mr. Walter Tiemeyer

- Cindy, Debbie & Josephine Tiemeyer

Lois Ann Lucci

- Kimberly Lucci & Patrick Scaglione

Adele Lippi

- Kimberly Lucci & Patrick Scaglione

Audrey Martinek

- Bob & Chris Colwell,
Dr. & Mrs. William T. Anderson,
Woodlands Wildlife Refuge

Jo Balliet, Mentor and Friend

- Woodlands Wildlife Refuge

Roy Andrew Stamberger, Sr.

Roy Andrew Stamberger, Jr.

- Kimberly A. Scully

In Honor of

Eagle Scout Peter Strand & Boy Scout Troop 288

- Woodlands Wildlife Refuge

Leslie & Joe Manfredonia & Family

- John & Linda Jimenez

Lynn Pizzullo - Woodlands Wildlife Refuge

Pam Bonning - Nancie & John Burke

Patti Kerr - DJ Clark

Mom Cat - All of us at Woodlands Wildlife Refuge

Adrianna Ruggieri's Birthday!

- Woodlands Wildlife Refuge

Staff & Volunteers at Woodlands - Pat Collelo

Laurence A. Potter - Cathy VanDerVeer

Vincent Aprile's Birthday!

- Woodlands Wildlife Refuge

Edward Byrne - Mary Mulvaney

Jackie Cortright - Scott Janelli

Dakota Trout, Jean Pollock

- Mrs. Christine Sinclair

Goober the orphaned duckling and Heckel &

Jeckel the baby squirrels - Betsey Lentz

Spike the squirrel; AKA Rocky - Joe Gambradella

2006 Woodlands Board of Directors

Deb Weyman President

Tom Czirok Vice President

Karen Bowker Treasurer

Joan Ausmann Secretary

David Henley Board Member

Barbara Edwards Board Member

Catherine Chou Board Member

Melissa Stegens Board Member

Susan Bennett Board Member

Al Rylak Attorney

2006 Woodlands Staff

Tracy Leaver Executive Director

Ellen Wexler Volunteer Coordinator

Lila Whitely Wildlife Care Supervisor

We are happy to announce that Lila Whitely has been hired as the Wildlife Care Supervisor. This is a part time position and Lila is our third staff person.

2006 Active Woodlands Volunteers

Annandale

Laurie Bacigalupo

Barbara Herzinger

Dodie Leggio

Asbury

Lynn Pizzullo

Melissa Stegens

Bedminster

Lisa Prosser

Belle Mead

Carly Mauer

Bloomsbury

Jonetta Williams

Califon

Dana Perez

Denville

Elena McComas

Easton, PA

Jackie Cortright

Flemington

Karen Bowker

Chris Leone

Katie Partyka

Amber Wischner

Glen Gardner

Debbie Rein

Hampton

Dan Shea

Jocelyn Songer

Mina Songer

Renee Falzarano

High Bridge

Hugo Rodrigues

Hopatcong

Lynn Woods

Lebanon

Angela Serrani

Milford

Alice Eaton

Christine Murray

Linda Kiesel

Maureen Bockes

Neshanic Station

Lila Whitely

Robbie Regan

Tracie Casey

Philadelphia PA

Cocoa Brown

Keith Brown

Phillipsburg

Laura Dennis

Pittstown

Joan Ausmann

John Doucette

Lynn Lauck

Raritan

Jill Apsley

Sparta

Joanne Watkins

Three Bridges

Ellen Wexler

Warren

Brian Cooke

Washington

Dave Hawke

Heather Freeman

Whitehouse Station

April Anderson

Suzanne Anderson

Interns - Delaware

Valley College

Chris Williams

Matt Levender

Volunteering - We Always Need You!

Are you interested in finding out more about volunteering? It's simple! Just check the "Volunteer Info" box on our Sponsorship Form and send it in, or contact us through the website. We will send you all the information you need about volunteering at Woodlands. We would love to have you join our volunteer staff!

Facility Update



Photo: Susan Bennett

New welcome sign.

We are happy to say that our 4 year renovation/creation of Woodlands' new home is complete! We knew it was finally done when the first program took place in the new Education Center and our new signs went up.



Photo: Tracy Leaver

Completed Education Room.



Photo: Tracy Leaver

Eagle Scout project start.

We are proud that Pete Strand of Boy Scout Troop 288 chose Woodlands for his Eagle Scout project and a much needed food prep and storage shed was created. Congratulations Pete on becoming an Eagle Scout!



Photo: Tracy Leaver

Eagle Scout project finished!

Education Animals

We are happy to introduce you to some of our permanent "guests" earning their keep as education animals (photos to right):

Educational Items Wanted

To help fill our new education room we are looking for the following items:

- Books on NJ wildlife
- Mounts of NJ Wildlife (in good shape please)
- Photos of NJ Wildlife
- Paintings, drawings, etc. of NJ wildlife
- NJ Wildlife Artifacts

Please let us know if you would like to donate any of these items to our education room!

Photo: Chris Williams



Roomba - Sulcata Tortoise.

Photo: Tracy Leaver



Lady Jane - Canadian Lynx.

Photo: Lavinie Shea



Tank - Eastern Box Turtle.

Photo: Melissa Siegens



Mom - Virginia Opossum.

Photo: Patti Watson



Grace - American Black Bear.

Woodlands on the Web!

Come visit us at:
www.woodlandswildlife.org



Planned Giving

You can make a significant gift to Woodlands Wildlife Refuge while meeting your current and future financial obligations. Your carefully planned gift can enhance financial security for yourself and your family while it strengthens Woodlands.

Wise investors look for ways to maximize their return on investment. Similarly, a wise donor will take advantage of federal tax incentives specifically intended to encourage charitable contributions.

Planned giving offers you an opportunity to make a difference and leave an enduring legacy by sharing the vision of an organization whose mission you support and by helping to secure its future. Our Gift Planning brochure can be found on our website, www.woodlandswildlife.org

Ways to Support Us

- Individual donations *of any amount*. Every penny helps. While we receive some financial help from grants, the majority of our support comes from individual giving! Our website allows donations with a credit card if you wish.
- Sponsorships - See last page.
- Respond to our "Baby Shower" (a favorite!), Holiday appeal and Pieces and Parts.
- Join us at our Mardi Gras Gala!
- United Way. Our Agency # is 065328.
- Our FID is 223053310.
- Employer matching gifts.
- Shop online through iGive at www.igive.com and Select Woodlands as your charity.
- Memorials or Honors (see last page).
- Monthly or other regular giving.
- Grants
- Endowment and bequests.
- Donations of goods - See our wish list on our website: www.woodlandswildlife.org
- Donations of services.

As always your donations are tax-deductible.

Word from the Volunteers - Continued

A Complete Circle

I began volunteering at Woodlands so I would know what to do when I came upon a wild creature in need of help. That was 10 years ago, and I have been involved in the rehabilitation of hundreds of animals, but never have I rescued one and brought it to the Refuge myself...until this summer. I left the Refuge late one night, and no more than 2 miles down the road, saw a mother opossum in the middle of the road. In the moonlight, I saw 8 very small, pale shapes, moving slightly. I stopped traffic and began to assess the situation. Unfortunately, Mom was gone; however, her babies were trying desperately to move out of the way. I quickly retrieved all of them and moved Mom to her final resting place. Then I brought the babies back to the Refuge, examined them, gave them their first Woodlands meal and tucked them into an incubator. They remained in our care, growing strong and healthy and were released a few months later. The circle was complete. - **Ellen Wexler**

The volunteers at Woodlands all have the chance to have special encounters with wild animals that one would never have without the refuge. We have to listen carefully to the individual needs of each animal and respect those needs. Some need time to recover from broken bones, burns, concussions or diseases. Some need food and shelter as they were orphaned too young to survive on their own. Animals often arrive at our doorstep in dire condition. This fall, we received a thin, weak and hungry woodchuck. Her front teeth were out of alignment and she was unable to eat properly. I quickly mixed up a thick liquid we have given to other injured woodchucks that were unable to eat solids. Would she want it or be brave enough to trust me to come close to her with the mix? Was it too late to help her recover? After letting her get used to my presence, I opened the cage and let her sniff at the mix on a spoon. She lifted her head and took a small lick. She perked up a bit and took a few more licks. I started to move the spoon away to put more mix on it and she grabbed the spoon, moved it closer to her mouth and licked it clean. She then let me refill the spoon and pulled it close to her face again. After all of the mix was gone, she curled up for a long nap. There are very few other places where one gets the chance to make such a clear difference in the life of a wild animal.

- **Barbara Herzinger**

That all of the animals that have wandered into Woodlands, lives were not lost but found and given a second chance. Being a part of giving them a second chance has been a fulfilling and humbling experience. We hope to continue with Woodlands and watch them grow with each season.

- **Mina Songer and Renee**

"Not all who wander are lost." - J.R.R. Tolkien

Sponsorship and Giving Information

Take part! Act now! Become an active sponsor of Woodlands Wildlife Refuge, or give a Gift of Wildlife sponsorship, now! All Sponsorships include Sponsorship cards and newsletters. Some Sponsorships may include additional benefit items.

- Child(under 14)** \$15 Age _____
- Senior** \$20
- Individual** \$40
- Family** \$50 Children's Ages _____
- Patron** \$100
- Sustaining** \$500
- Lifetime** \$2000

Please do not send benefit items.



Honor or Remember a person or pet

- In Memory of In Honor of - Person Pet:

\$_____ (\$25 or more will be listed in next newsletter.)

- General Donations** are always welcome!

\$_____ Donations are tax-deductible.

- Pieces and Parts** (See information to right →)

\$_____

- Please send volunteer information**

Volunteers are always needed!

YES! I want to support **Woodlands Wildlife Refuge** as I have checked above:

Name _____

Gift From: _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ - _____

Email _____

For credit cards, please visit our website at www.woodlandwildlife.org or send this form along with check or money order to:

Woodlands Wildlife Refuge, Inc. P.O. Box 5046 Clinton, NJ 08809

Our Lifetime Sponsors:

- Mrs. Joyce Georges
- Mr. and Mrs. Keun-Sam Lee
- Kimberly Lucci & Patrick Scaglione
- Joan and Paul Ausmann



Mink.

Photo: Chris Williams

Pieces and Parts

Each sponsor will be honored by a plaque on display at the appropriate pieces or parts area sponsored. We hope you enjoy this innovative way to continue your generous giving for yourself or in honor of someone else!

- ___ Education Room \$1000
- ___ Black Bear Enclosure \$600
- ___ Fox/Coyote Enclosure \$500
- ___ Raccoon Enclosures \$400
- ___ Small Mammal Enclosures \$300
- ___ Medical Room/Supplies \$300
- ___ Isolation Room/Supplies \$300
- ___ Infant Care Room/Supplies \$300
- ___ Laundry Room \$300
- ___ Indoor Caging \$300
- ___ Intake - Office Area/Supplies \$200
- ___ Education Animals \$100
- ___ Food \$100
- ___ Handling Equipment/General items \$100

Great Gift Ideas

- A Sponsorship in someone's name
- A Donation in honor of someone
- Pieces and Parts in honor of someone.
- Bring or send someone to our Mardi Gras Gala to celebrate a special day!

Species Count 2006

8	Bat - Big Brown	1	Snake - Eastern Milk
1	Bat - Little Brown	1	Snake - Garter
1	Black Bear	108	Squirrel - Gray
9	Chipmunk	4	Squirrel - Flying
3	Deer	1	Toad
7	Fox - Red	12	Turtle - Box
1	Mink	5	Turtle - Painted
7	Mouse	1	Turtle - Red Eared Slider
58	Opossum	4	Turtle - Snapping
197	Rabbit	2	Turtle - Wood
74	Raccoon	4	Vole
30	Skunk	11	Woodchuck

550 Total

10th Annual Mardi
Gras Gala
March 3rd 2007
Save the date!



Woodlands Wildlife Refuge, Inc.
P.O. Box 5046 Clinton, N.J. 08809 (908) 730-8300



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Woodlands Wildlife Refuge, Inc.

About Us

Woodlands Wildlife Refuge began in the mid 1980's, with the care of two orphaned raccoons. Now Woodlands cares for more than 500 animals annually. Woodlands is a nonprofit charitable 501(C)(3) corporation, and receives no state or federal funds.

Woodlands was founded, and is directed by Tracy Leaver, a New Jersey state licensed wildlife rehabilitator. Woodlands cares for raccoons, skunks, opossums, rabbits, woodchucks, foxes, squirrels, coyotes, fawns, bats, otters, porcupines, bears, beavers, turtles, snakes and even bobcats.

Woodlands has trained staff and volunteers who care for the animals until their release. The doctors and staff at the Animal Hospital of Clinton-Perryville graciously treat animals needing more extensive care. The length of time an animal remains in our care depends on the condition of the animal. All animals are maintained until they are healthy enough to survive in the wild.

Our Mission

- 👤 To receive, rehabilitate, and release injured and orphaned native wildlife.
- 👤 To educate people about wild animal habits and habitats.
- 👤 To protect and create natural environments where people and animals exist in harmony.

Photo: Melissa Stegens



Infant raccoon injured during tree cutting.

What to do if:

You find an "orphaned" wild animal:

Don't rush! - It may not be orphaned at all. Wild young must go out and about with Mom in order to learn how to make it on their own. Mom may not be in sight when you come along.

Observe and think! - Gather as much information as possible about the animal. What kind is it? What size is it? Is there blood or flies? Is it moving? Are the eyes open? Is it making noises? Is it plump and round or scrawny and thin?

Leave the area... - If there are no apparent injuries leave the area for a while. This will give you a chance to call for advice and it will give the wild Mom a chance to retrieve her young.

Return. - With the advice you have been given, you can now safely do what is best for both the animal and yourself.