



## Introducing Duster

Our 'Wildlife Ambassadors' are an important part of the Education Team. These non-releasable raptors and reptiles capture the imagination of children and adults alike, and present the case for wildlife and habitat preservation with mute dignity. Most of our ambassadors came here with injuries or are otherwise unreleasable, but our most recent addition is an exception.

World Bird Sanctuary in St. Louis primarily breeds birds to be released in the wild, but occasionally, if they feel they have had a large enough population for release, they will place one of the young birds with other environmental/wildlife facilities for educational purposes. Such was the case with our new Barn Owl, Duster.

Duster was hatched on February 10th, one of 9 eggs and the last to hatch. He spent his first 4 months in St. Louis but finally, on June 20<sup>th</sup>, Jeanne Woodford picked him up at the

airport to bring him to his new home.

Duster's name came from his most apparent behavior. He spreads his wings, drops his head, and sweeps his beak back and forth across his feet, 'toe-dusting' as it's called. In this defensive position, from above he resembles nothing as much as a bunch of dried

leaves swaying in a breeze.

He is also very vocal, and with Barn Owls, vocal is something to hear! They scream, literally. They sound like a person screeching at the top of their lungs. Duster will scream if he feels out of control – if he sees another animal outside his enclosure, or when he has to be held for a physical examination.

Barn Owls are the quintessential owl. They can find their prey in total darkness, which accounts for the fact that we see so few of them: they can 'see' us, but we can't see them. They hunt in deep night, not during the half light of dawn and dusk as many other owls do. Their sense of hearing is so acute they can literally hear a mouse move in the snow (see *Against the Odds*, page 4).

Barn Owls tend to be monogamous, returning to the same mate and nest site each year. They lay between 3 and 8 eggs, and the female begins incubating as soon as the first egg is laid. As a consequence, sometimes

there are eggs and young in the nest at the same time. Incubation takes 29 – 34 days on average, and the male feeds his mate during that time. Both parents work to feed the young after the owlets are old enough to be left without additional warmth from mom. They fledge at about 2 months.

Barn Owls, as their name implies, are often found around human dwellings and outbuildings. They are cavity nesters, traditionally using hollow trees and caves as nest sites. They have adapted very well to artificial sites, though, and willingly use barn lofts, steeples, abandoned houses, bridges and nest boxes when they are sited appropriately.

Duster is still a few months from working in public, but is making progress in his training. Along with Squam (our Barred Owl), Clack (a Screech Owl), and Asio (a Short-eared Owl), Duster will be part of a 'Hunters after Dark' program, and he will also serve as a member of our 'Endangered!' program.

Although not classified as an endangered species, Barn Owls are a species of special concern in New Jersey. Because they are seldom seen during daylight hours, or even in twilight, less is known about Barn Owls than some other owl species. In short, we don't have enough data to know if their population is stable or not, but it's always best to err on the side of survival.

# Cedar Run Refuge

## Mission

*Woodford Cedar Run Wildlife Refuge protects the environment through wildlife rehabilitation, environmental education and habitat preservation.*

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## Hibernation: It's Not Just For Bears



The best-known example of hibernation may come from pictures of groggy bears emerging from their dens in springtime, but nature has many examples of this remarkable survival strategy much closer to home. Most reptiles that live in colder climates also spend their winter hibernating.

Reptiles are cold-blooded, so their body temperature depends on the outside temperature. That's why you see snakes sun-bathing along roads and water turtles hauled out on logs in ponds and rivers; it's how they warm up after a cool night. In order to live this far north and survive the cold winter temperatures, the reptile's metabolic rate slows down as their body cools. Snakes, turtles and lizards find protected, insulated places to spend the winter. They burrow in underneath rocks, logs, or even into the ground, and their body temperature stays just above freez-

ing. They don't need to eat because their body is using just a small amount of energy to stay alive. In New Jersey, reptiles will hibernate for four to five months.

At WCRWR we have nine Eastern Box Turtles that are permanent residents. They are kept in an outdoor enclosure which we modify for the winter to provide the proper environment for hibernation. Towards the end of September, the turtles begin the process by slowly reducing their food intake. Any food that is left in their gut will rot if it stays in there all winter, so they stop eating a few weeks before they hibernate. At this time we also start layering in more leaves and pine needles. We add layers gradually so the turtles are still able to come out and get some afternoon sun. By mid to late October, we will have added about 18 inches of leaves. This provides insulation and protects the turtles from extremely cold temperatures. There are also logs and rocks underneath all the leaves, so all the turtles can find their own ideal location. As spring approaches we start removing the leaves. By the time the turtles are active again, about the end of April, their cage is back to normal.

If you come to visit the refuge this winter, make sure you check out the enclosure. Even though you won't see the turtles, you can imagine them all hunkered down under the leaves just waiting for spring to come. All the other snakes, turtles, and lizards in the wild are doing the same thing, maybe even in your backyard!

## Pinelands Plant Sale

The first annual Pinelands Friendly Yard and Garden festival was held under sunny skies on September 20, a perfect fall day. Over 400 people came to gather information and ideas on gardening in a Pinelands-friendly manner. Mike McGrath of 'You Bet Your Garden' attracted quite a crowd for his lecture.

One of the highlights of the event was the release of recently hatched Monarch Butterflies. Cedar Run tagged and released almost 400 this year, and several even hatched at the event, giving people a rare view of a brand-new butterfly.



*Photo by Kevin Sparkman*

Several nurseries were on hand with plant material for sale, including some rare and unusual bog plants and Pinelands specialties.

## Autumn with the Animals



Mark your calendars for family fun on November 1, 2008!! Join us at the Refuge between 12:00 noon and 4:00 p.m. for amusements, live animal shows, live music, food, activities, games, crafts and carriage rides. This popular fall tradition is the perfect way to work off the calories (and excess energy) from all those Halloween treats!

Our hallmark rides and games will again be featured throughout the day. Take a ride in a horse-drawn carriage, or on a trackless train through the Pines. Have a festival

lunch of hot dogs, hamburgers or chili, snack on nachos, and roast marshmallows at our fire pit. By popular demand, we will set up a brand new 'Survivor' course so the kids can test their strength and agility. Carnival-type games and skill contests will be set up for all to enjoy. Various craft activities will be available for children of all ages. And this year, for the first time, any child who comes in their Halloween costume will get a special treat.

Terri Loy and our Education Team will present our always popu-

lar 'Hunters of the Sky' program at 12:45 and 2:45. Dan and Luanne Weekes will be available to talk to you about the lives of butterflies and honeybees (complete with a see-through hive). Docents will be on hand to answer questions about the permanent wild residents in our animal compound, and members of the bird team will stroll the grounds with some of our raptors, and weather permitting, reptiles.

Nancy Longenecker and Medford Station will provide music throughout the day, and the Native American group Mountain Thunder will perform on drums.

Advance-purchase discount admissions are available at the Refuge until October 25<sup>th</sup>. Discount tickets cost \$3.00 per person for the general admission entry fee, or \$12.00 for an all-day pass that includes the entry fee and unlimited access to all the rides, as many times as you wish to ride them! Tickets purchased at the event will be \$5.00 per person (\$4.00 for members) and the all-day pass will cost \$15.00. There is a nominal charge for food and rides at the festival; the admission fee includes the live animal shows and crafts. Call 856-983-3329 x1 for more information or visit our website at [www.cedarrun.org](http://www.cedarrun.org).

## Taste of the Season: Teaberry



Photo by Cliff Jones

What red berry is good to eat and grows on a plant close to the ground in the Pine Barrens? Your first guess was probably a cranberry, and you were right, but are you also familiar with teaberry, the other plant that fills the bill?

You would never mistake the taste of a cranberry for a teaberry. When folks who visit Cedar Run gamble on tasting a raw cranberry found at the edge of the lake, it tends to be a puckering experience. The teaberry, on the other hand, is

delightfully sweet with a mint-like flavor. Both plants bloom in summer and produce their berries in the fall.

Teaberry (*Gaultheria procumbens*) is an evergreen shrub that has leathery green leaves that turn red in the fall. Its bloom is a solitary white bell-shaped flower. Other common names include checkerberry, boxberry, partridge berry, wintergreen and mountain tea. It makes for a wonderful ground cover and is quite appropriate for gardens in our acidic Pine Barrens soil, tolerating both moist and dry conditions. Fortunately, teaberry is beginning to be available at local nurseries where native Pine Barrens plants are sold.

The leaves of the teaberry plant, when crushed, have a wintergreen fragrance. If you remember that smell from Teaberry Gum which was readily available years ago, you are old enough to call yourself a Piney. The whole plant was gathered and sold in bygone times by natives of the Pine Barrens. As with many plants, there is an herbal history for

the teaberry. It was known as an anti-inflammatory, an antiseptic, a digestive tonic, an anti-rheumatic, and for many other remedies.

In modern times it can be found as a liqueur, an essential oil and, of course, the aforementioned gum which is still available in some health food stores and through online sources.

The next time you visit Cedar Run or wander through the Pine Barrens in the fall, see if you can find the shiny green leaves and bright red berries of teaberry. If the crushed leaves smell like wintergreen and you're sure of what you have, you might even want to take a taste!

**DID YOU KNOW?** Owls can't move their eyes within the eye socket. They must move their heads in order to see left, right, up and down!

FICTION: *Owls can turn their heads all the way around.*

## Against the Odds



Survival in the wild isn't easy. Competition is stiff for food, for water, for space to raise young. All manner of survival strategies have evolved to help individual species gain that little edge that can make the difference between success and failure.

Beaks and talons, the basic tools of hunting and feeding, are the primary traits that define raptors, and owls have both the hooked beaks and long, sharp talons that are the basis of that definition. Beyond those basics, owls have done a particularly good job of adapting a physiology that meets their special needs. The world of the owl is usually dark and often

cold, putting them at a competitive disadvantage. On the other hand, many small animals and insects are nocturnal as well, providing protection from hawks, coyotes, and other diurnal predators, so nighttime prey is readily available to those that can see and hear it.

Owls have eyes that are huge in comparison to the head of the bird. If our eyes were as large as an owl's relative to the size of our head, they would be the size of a grapefruit. The large lens takes in all available light, and a high concentration of rods (cells that gather light) make it available to use in defining images. They can see 50 to 100 times better than we can in low light conditions.

Because their eyes are so large, owls' eyes are fixed in the socket; they cannot move from side to side, or up and down. To compensate for this disadvantage in personal defense, though, owls can turn their heads about 270 degrees.

Even though owls see very well indeed, it is their sense of hearing that is the biggest aid in hunting. Most of their prey is located by ear; an owl can readily hear a mouse moving through the grass or leaf litter.

The facial disc (the arrangement of feathers that ring the owl's face) is designed to help capture sound and direct it to the bird's ears. To help them determine where sound is coming from, some have ears that are placed asymmetrically, higher on one side of the head than the other.

Others have differently shaped ears on each side to increase the differential in sound reception. The fractional difference between the time sound is heard in left and right ears is calculated in the owl's brain. This allows them to triangulate the source of the sound, and zero in on it as they fly. As long as the sound is hitting both ears at the same time, the prey is directly ahead.

Even the feathers are designed to help owls hunt in the dark. The feathers on the leading edge of the wing have soft, slightly serrated edges that deflect the air and allow silent flight. This not only helps the owl hear its prey move, it keeps the prey from hearing the approach of the predator.

Together, these small adaptations have created a family of birds that can see and hear better in the dark of night than during the day, and one that thrives against all odds.



### DEADLINE FAST APPROACHING!

**"Winter at the Refuge"  
GREETING CARD ART  
CONTEST**

Kids, help us design our  
**Woodford Cedar Run Wildlife Refuge**  
holiday cards!

Children 5 through 15 can submit original art for judging on November 10th. Winning entries will be printed as holiday greeting cards. Look for guidelines on our website, or call for details.

Time is running out — get started today!

*Events at the  
Refuge don't always  
match our publica-  
tion schedule. Now  
we can notify you of  
upcoming events  
and exciting new  
programs via email.  
Send us an email at  
[info@cedarrun.org](mailto:info@cedarrun.org).  
Just put "e-news"  
in the subject line,  
and we'll keep you  
up to date on  
things that might  
interest you.*



### HONORING OUR LOCAL MILITARY FAMILIES

11:11 AM, 11/11/1918

It was the official end of World War One—the war to end all wars. And, since 1919, November 11th has been a day to take a break from the chaos of our daily lives to recognize all who have served the country, in war and peace, and those that continue to fight for freedom today.

We would like to offer a small tribute to those who serve. From November 8th through the 11th, we are offering free admission to the Refuge for veterans, current military members and their families. It's not much but it's the best way we can think of to say, "We notice, we care, and we thank you."

## Acknowledging Kindness

We truly do depend on the kindness of strangers and friends, always friends. Over the years many people have given us cash and in-kind support that make our lives, and those of the animals we serve, better in so many ways. From time to time we like to take a minute to acknowledge a few of them.



**Special thanks go to Russell and Muriel Hullings of Discount Carpet in Delran, NJ. Each time our raptors step up on their perches with assurance and strong, healthy feet we thank you for your gift of artificial turf. The turf that covers the perches and roosting spots helps prevent contact sores.**

**Your donation of carpeting has also been a boon, improving the first impression of our Education Center and helping to keep the noise level down when 40 or 50 little feet thunder through.**



**Aandeg, our precocious American Crow, was in need of a new enclosure to give her more light and better air circulation. As his Eagle Scout project, Max Taylor (crutches and all) and a volunteer crew built a cage that gives her everything she needs and more room, too.**

**Nuss Construction went over the top in early October, and put a new roof on the Woodford Cedar Run Wildlife Refuge employee/intern house. Thanks to owner Bob Carp and the whole crew for taking care of our staff so they can take care of the animals.**



**Janet Johnson and Theresa Schmehl release a rehabilitated Red-tailed Hawk at the Pineland Discovery Festival at White's Bog following a brief ceremony in memory of Janet's son, Carl Johnson.**

*Photo by Celeste Edmonds*

## 2008 RELEASES

(July through September)

**YOUR** donations made the release of the following animals possible:

3 Red-tailed Hawk	1 Clapper Rail
3 Cooper's Hawks	2 Killdeer
1 Great-horned Owl	17 Mourning Doves
1 Eastern Screech Owl	39 American Robins
1 Merlin	6 Mockingbirds
1 Kestrel	2 Carolina Wrens
24 Gray Squirrels	4 Blue Jays
78 Eastern Cottontails	2 Rock Pigeons
16 Opossums	6 House Finches
5 Groundhogs	24 House Sparrows
2 Red Fox	7 Purple Martins
10 White-tailed Deer	4 Cedar Waxwings
10 Skunks	3 Eastern Phoebes
2 Field Mice	1 Thrush
97 Mallards	1 Barn Swallow
1 Herring Gull	1 Baltimore Oriole
4 Laughing Gulls	1 Bluebird
7 Canada Geese	1 Horned Lark
7 Wood Ducks	1 Carolina Chickadee
1 Great Blue Heron	5 Catbirds
1 Least Sandpiper	2 Black Rat Snakes
1 Cormorant	1 Painted Turtle
1 Surf Scoter	1 Eastern Box Turtle

**FACT:** Owls have 14 neck vertebrae which allow them to turn their heads 270 degrees.

## GIFT SHOP NEWS!

Having some trouble figuring out what to give Great Auntie Esther? Need something special for little Jared's teacher? Stuck for an idea for a Secret Santa exchange at work? We just might have the solution here at the Refuge! We have interesting and unusual items in our Pine Paws Gift Shop for almost any occasion.



## WHAT A GREAT IDEA FOR HOLIDAY SHOPPING!

Artwork  
Photographs  
Books  
Jewelry  
Adoptions  
Cards  
Calendars  
Crafts  
Toys  
Puzzles  
Sweatshirts and T's

EVERY PURCHASE YOU MAKE SUPPORTS ANIMAL CARE AND EDUCATION PROGRAMS.

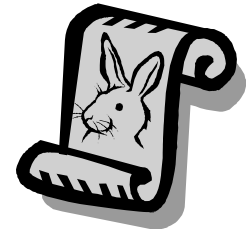
## Join in the Great Monarch Butterfly Race for the Border!

Every fall the last of the year's 4 or 5 generations of Monarchs head for their winter home in a small area in Mexico's inland mountains. This year, Cedar Run tagged and recorded nearly 400 Monarch Butterflies on their way to Mexico as part of a national 'Monarch Watch' program. For just \$10.00 you can sponsor one of these valiant travelers: for your donation you will get a decorative certificate, information on 'your' butterfly, and the tag number and date of its release. If we get information through Monarch Watch on your butterfly, you will be notified.

What a great holiday gift for naturalists, teachers, lepidopterists and people who 'don't need anything.'

## The GIFT that keeps on LIVING!

*A beautiful gift that is both thoughtful and lasting can be purchased with a simple phone call.*



Animal "adoptions" are a wonderful gift idea for people who want to present a special gift and contribute to the Refuge at the same time. Adopting an animal is simple. Choose a price range, the type of animal, and a message you would like to be included with your gift. We'll do all the work! A package will be sent which includes information about the "adopted" animal, a beautiful photo, a certificate of adoption, and of course, a card including your name as the gift giver.

\$ 25.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Box Turtle	<input type="checkbox"/> Cottontail Rabbit	<input type="checkbox"/> Songbird	
\$ 35.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Corn Snake	<input type="checkbox"/> Flying Squirrel	<input type="checkbox"/> Opossum	<input type="checkbox"/> Pine Snake
\$ 50.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Skunk	<input type="checkbox"/> Canada Goose	<input type="checkbox"/> Screech Owl	<input type="checkbox"/> Crow
\$ 75.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Swan	<input type="checkbox"/> Raccoon	<input type="checkbox"/> Fox	<input type="checkbox"/> Barn Owl
\$100.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Red-tailed Hawk	<input type="checkbox"/> Great Horned Owl	<input type="checkbox"/> White Tailed Deer	
\$150.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Bald Eagle	<input type="checkbox"/> Peregrine Falcon	<input type="checkbox"/> Barred Owl	

## FAMILY PROGRAMS

### NIGHT HIKES

*Second Saturday of each month; pre-registration required*

*Cost: \$10.00/adult; \$5.00/child 17 or under*

#### **October 11 (6:00-8:00) Tricksters of the Night**

October is the month for trick-or-treaters, and even animals like to play tricks. Some are sneaky, while others are good at hide-and-seek. With the help of our Naturalist, see what tricksters you can find in the night.

#### **November 8 (6:00 – 8:00)**

##### **Night Navigation**

Ever wonder how animals adapt to traveling at night? Want to find ways to improve your night vision? Join our Naturalist and put your night navigation skills to the test.

#### **December 13 (6:00 – 8:00)**

##### **Winter Skies**

The cold, crisp air allows many things to become visible. Calling owls can be heard clearly. The stars are brighter. The fallen leaves allow better visibility in the trees. Join our Naturalist to explore the winter skies of the Refuge.

### WALK ON THE WILD SIDE

*The third Sunday of each month, join our Naturalist in search of the wild at Woodford Cedar Run. Meet at the Education Center at 1:30 p.m. for a guided hike. Cost: included with admission.*

#### **October 19**

##### **Fall Frolic**

In the fall, plants and animals get ready for the coming winter. Leaves change color, and animals lose their summer coats. Join our Naturalist on a hike to examine the changes taking place on the Refuge.

#### **November 16**

##### **Tracks and Trails**

With the weather getting colder and leaves on the ground, it becomes easier to see evidence left by residents of the Pines. Our Naturalist will lead you on a walk to search for signs of life.

#### **December 21**

##### **Winter Solstice Hike**

The 21st marks the official start of winter. Though it seems sometimes that all of Nature stops in winter, there is still plenty of activity around the Refuge. Wander the trails with our Naturalist, and seek out signs of those creatures that remain active throughout the winter season.

#### **January 18**

##### **Go Green in the New Year!**

Interested in 'going green' for the New Year? Want to discover new ways to use old stuff? Interested in learning how to conserve energy? Join our Naturalist to learn about ways you can increase the

green in your life.

### KNEE HIGH NATURALISTS

*Second Wednesday of each month from September to December from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. Discover nature with your 3 – 5 year old child through age-appropriate games, stories, crafts, skits, songs and hikes. Sign up for one session or the whole series by calling (856)983-3329 ext. 1. Cost: \$8.00/child w/adult; preregistration required.*

#### **October 8 Let's Go Batty**

Discover some of the secrets of bats – where they live, what they eat, and how they are different from other mammals.

#### **November 12 Give A Hoot for Owls**

Find out where owls live, what they eat, how they see, and which ones live around here.

#### **December 10 Where Do the Animals Go?**

Explore what animals do in winter: hibernate? migrate south? grow heavy new coats? stay active?

### ECO CLUB

*Second Saturday of each month from 10:00 a.m. to 12 noon.*

Eco Club meetings combine hiking the Refuge, learning about native plants and animals, and collecting data for a biological inventory of the Refuge. Dues can be paid either on a monthly or annual basis (\$5.00/month or \$45.00/year). Membership includes access to the growing biological database, nature activities and/or crafts, an Eco-Club T-shirt, and an e-newsletter.

### IN SERVICE OF NATURE

We always have a list of service projects for children from 11 – 16 who need or want to volunteer their time 'In Service of Nature.' Projects average 4 – 10 hours each, and can be done over several days, or in some cases, several months, depending on the project. Some will be independent study; others will involve a group of participants.

To register for either EcoClub or In Service of Nature, call 856-983-9702 or email us at [info@cedarrun.org](mailto:info@cedarrun.org).

## SPECIAL EVENT

### Owl Prowl

Come see our owls at work at Palmyra Cove's winter Owl Prowl on January 15 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. We will do a presentation on owls with our live owls in attendance, followed by a hike on Palmyra's trails to see (and hear) what's out there. In past year's we have found Great Horned Owls, Saw Whet Owls and Long-eared Owls.

### Green Trading Post

Visit Woodford Cedar Run on Sunday, December 7th at the Green Trading Post held at the Bishop Farmstead (Pinelands Preservation Alliance headquarters) in Vincentown. An unofficial consortium of local environmental organizations will be there from noon to 4:00 p.m. You can solve some of your holiday gift challenges with things ranging from memberships and Pinelands-centered books to branded paraphernalia and unique artwork. From Cedar Run you can purchase a membership, adopt-a-wild one, or sponsor a butterfly, and buy T-shirts and other unique, interesting gifts. What better way to go green than to give green?

### Flower Power

Every time you send flowers by phone through Floral Alliance, the company makes a contribution to the Refuge. Help our cause by ordering your bouquets from **Floral Alliance at (800) 423-5803**. Don't forget to mention our code number: NP-1011.

*Please remember we do not receive funds from Local, State or Federal governments.*

*We rely on YOUR donations to provide animal care and education programs for your community.*

**CONSIDER BECOMING A MEMBER!**

**Don't Forget!**  
**November 1st**  
**Autumn with the Animals**  
**12:00 noon – 4:00 p.m.**

**SPECIAL HOLIDAY HOURS**

Thursday, November 27	CLOSED
Wednesday, December 24	CLOSED
Thursday, December 25	CLOSED
Friday, December 26	OPEN 11:00 - 4:00
Saturday, December 27	OPEN 11:00 - 4:00
Sunday, December 28	OPEN 1:00 - 4:00
Wednesday, December 31	CLOSED
Thursday, January 1	CLOSED
Regular Winter Hours resume Friday, January 2nd.	

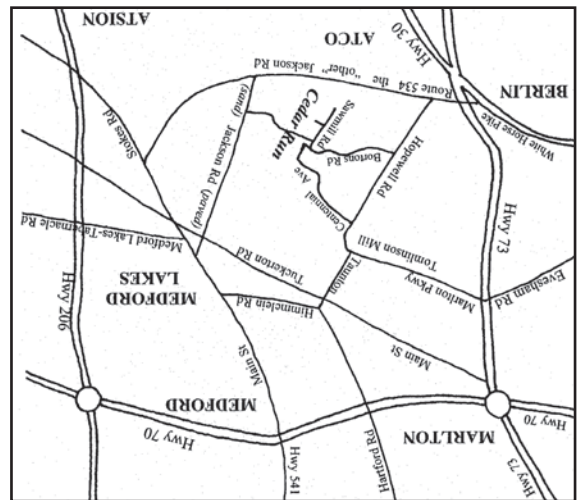


Photo by Luanne Weekes

**Coming Soon!**

Keep an eye out for our new line of local honey products – soap, bees wax candles, and, of course, honey.

Lost? Call (856) 983-3329 for directions.



Address Service Requested

Cedar Run Wildlife Refuge  
 4 Sawmill Road  
 Medford, NJ 08055



**REFUGE VISITING HOURS**  
 Mon. – Sat.: 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.  
 Sun.: 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.  
**WILDLIFE HOSPITAL INTAKE**  
 Summer: 9:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m.  
 Winter: 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.  
 Seven days per week

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