



W O O D F O R D

Cedar Run Refuge

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Woodford Cedar Run Wildlife Refuge, Inc.

Spring 2002

4 Sawmill Road, Medford, NJ 08055

Rehab 856-983-3329

Office 856-983-0326

www.cedarrun.org

Barred Owl Saga *By Jeanne Woodford*



Jeanne Woodford readies the beautiful barred owl for release.

Jane and Kevin Horner were traveling on a back road between Browns Mills and Cookstown on December 14, 2001 when they thought they saw an animal in the middle of the road. This animal didn't look flattened – yet. So they turned the car around and put on their blinkers ready to rescue what now looked like an owl.

A driver coming from the other direction did not see the owl and hit it, tossing it quite a few feet into the air. Jane was sure it would not survive but retrieved it and brought it to Cedar Run. Amazingly, the barred owl was in better shape than anyone could imagine, considering its collision. There was obvious head trauma and an eye filled with blood, but no broken bones or lacerations. We did the usual check-in, assuring Jane that we would do everything possible, hoping to release him at some future date.

A visit to Dr. Clinton, the veterinary eye specialist in Medford,

revealed that there was a great deal of trauma to the eye, but that it should recover in two to three weeks. The next problem was that the owl wouldn't eat on his own and needed forced feeding. His weight was good so fluids or tube feedings weren't necessary. He had been hunting in the wild and just happened to land in the middle of a back road at the wrong time.

My mother and I had cared for another barred owl about 15 years ago, and the experience left an

indelible mark on me. When we set that barred owl free, there was a feeling of great joy in knowing that we had been responsible for its recovery and return to the wild. There was also an accompanying sadness in knowing that we could not assure its future.

The barred owl is a threatened species in New Jersey due to habitat loss. With dark brown eyes and a facial ruff with no ear tufts, the barred is quite different from the horned owls are so commonly brought to us. They are also much more docile to work with; no need to fear being grabbed by sharp talons! The call of the barred owl is clearly recognizable, "Who cooks for you? Who cooks for you all?" As many times as I mimicked that to him, he was not about to return the call. It probably didn't even sound like another barred owl.

Due to vacation schedules of Refuge staff over the holiday, I

(continued on page 2)

Herald of Spring

One of the Pine Barrens most memorable spring flowers is the trailing arbutus. Its unforgettable perfume is heady enough to reach your nose as you walk a wooded path. Follow the sweet scent to where it usually hides under dry leaves.



Trailing Arbutus

The pink buds of arbutus gradually turn into full-blown white star-shaped flowers. The plant flourishes in seasons of abundant rainfall, so the drought we've experienced will have taken its toll. During dry years, large patches of this evergreen plant can shrink to a third of their size.

All the more reason to enjoy this gem in early spring. By midsummer the leaves may become brittle and brown and easily overlooked. If you come to the Refuge, we'll tell you where our arbutus is; that is if your nose doesn't find it on your own!

Group Programs

The Refuge education team offers outstanding programs at Cedar Run or takes Refuge on Wheels presentations to schools, scout groups and the like. Check our website at www.cedarrun.org for details and call Terri Loy at (856) 983-0326 to make a reservation.

BarredOwl Saga (continued from front page)

decided to take the barred owl to Maine with us on a family visit. He traveled quite well but needed more room than a large carrier. Therefore, we sectioned off a portion of our basement with a perch and some log landings for short flights. Forced feedings continued, giving us quality time together. I don't want to sound anthropomorphic, but I could swear we were bonding.

A return to New Jersey in January and a move into larger quarters for the owl, revealed that his depth perception was not normal. The eye still hadn't healed. (Could we be talking about a permanent resident?) Fortunately, he began eating without being forced and simply took pieces of dead mice from the tweezers. It took another three to four weeks for his flight to improve and soon after he began eating on his own. As difficult as it was, I began to accept

that he would be well enough to go free and face life in the wild on his own.

And so it came to pass after nearly three months of recovery, we released the barred owl in the same general area where he was found. With a "One - two - three - lots of luck," we bid him farewell, with instructions to stay off the road in the future.

Volunteer Orientations

Sun., May 5, 11 am or

Sun., May 19, 2 pm

Cost: Free

Site: Woodford Education Center

Interested in volunteering to care for our animals? Join rehab manager Toni Moore to learn what's involved.

Please call (856) 983-3329 to sign up.

Conservation Award Initiated

Jeanne Woodford, president of Woodford Cedar Run Wildlife Refuge, presented the first Elizabeth Woodford Conservation Award to Barbara Rich of Moorestown. The award was presented at Cedar Run's annual Mardi Gras fundraising party.

"It is so meaningful for me to be able to present this first Elizabeth

Woodford Conservation Award," said Jeanne. "Land preservation and conservation issues were dear to my mother's heart—so much so that when asked what she wanted to do with her land she said 'nothing!' Barbara Rich exemplifies that same philosophy."

Barbara Rich received the Woodford award for lifelong achievement in land and water conservation. She is currently president of the Rancocas Conservancy, a land preservation organization based in Burlington County. Barbara was named vice president when the Conservancy was founded in 1991 and assumed the presidency last year. The Conservancy has acquired a total of 386 acres along the Rancocas Creek and manages another 465 at Bear Swamp in Southampton. Cedar Run provides the Rancocas Conservancy with an office in the Education Center.

John Nardone, immediate past president and treasurer of the Rancocas Conservancy, accepted the award on Barbara's behalf. She was in Florida taking a well-earned vacation.

Photo by Ellen Ragone

John Nardone accepts the first Elizabeth Woodford Conservation Award from Refuge President Jeanne Woodford. Award recipient Barbara Rich was away in Florida.

Cedar Run Refuge

Missions

- ◆ To Rehabilitate Native Wildlife
- ◆ To Educate about the Environment
- ◆ To Preserve Pine Barrens Habitats

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Field Trip Leader

TARA SIMMONS

Weekend Coordinator

Wildlife Rehab Seminar

Environmental Enrichment was the focus as wildlife rehabilitators from throughout New Jersey gathered at Woodford Cedar Run Wildlife Refuge in Medford, New Jersey on December 11. The 25 rehabbers were at Cedar Run for a special seminar sponsored by the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation. Presenters from Willowbrook Wildlife Center in Illinois and from Philadelphia Zoo shared their expertise about keeping captive wildlife mentally and physically occupied to ensure a better quality of life.

By providing wildlife with toys, food puzzles, climbing and digging elements rehabbers can better prepare their pre-release animals for survival in the wild. Permanent residents that can't return to the woods and fields because of injuries

can lead much more active and interesting lives.

Scattering food under leaves, in the cracks of bark or under logs is one of the simplest and most effective enrichments, according to Sandy Woltman, wildlife specialist at Willowbrook Center. A food puzzle created from a length of PVC pipe drilled with holes is another inexpensive enrichment device that can keep a critter busy for many minutes. Such food puzzles can be hung to encourage climbing animals to use the vertical space in their enclosures. Even a ball of crumpled newspaper can be a diversion, especially if food is placed inside. Scents such as allspice, garlic, vanilla and peppermint are also of great interest to some animals, especially predators.

Heidi Hellmuth, assistant curator

of mammals at Philadelphia Zoo, suggested the use of browse (fresh-cut branches) for every species. Some animals like to hide in it, others drag it around, while still others nibble on it. Climbing and clawing logs, piles of dirt for digging and rooting and kiddie pools for water play are other readily-available materials that can stimulate wild animals' natural behaviors.

Verna Gengler, New Jersey Division of Fish, Game and Wildlife's rehabilitation permit supervisor, said that the environmental enrichment seminar was one of the most informative and useful education sessions she had ever attended. President Jeanne Woodford added that Cedar Run is working to add enrichment to the Refuge's animal-care program.

Weekend Programs for Families

Going Squirrely

Sun., Apr. 7, 1:30 pm

Cost: \$3, under 3 free

Come see how perfectly suited gray, red and flying squirrels are to life in the trees.

Insect Camp 101

Sat., Apr. 13, 1:30 pm

Cost: \$3, under 3 free

Discover the intriguing world of insects with entomologist Joe Argentine.

The Original Mobile Home

Sun., April 21, 1:30 pm

Cost \$3, under 3 free

Turtles carry their homes on their backs, but they also have lots of other interesting features.

Oh, Deer!

Sat., Apr. 27, 1:30 pm

Cost: \$3, under 3 free

Come explore the daily lives of deer and learn how to keep them out of your garden and shrubs.

Blue's Nature Clues

Sun., May 5, 1:30 pm

Cost: \$3, under 3 free

Can you find our mystery animals? Follow the clues around the trail to unravel their identity.

Skull Session

Sat., May 11, 1:30 pm

Cost: \$3, under 3 free

Naturalist Chris McCabe brings his collection of animal skulls to Cedar Run.

The Eyes Have It

Sun., May 19, 1:30 pm

Cost: \$3, under 3 free

Animals' eyes come in many colors. Explore this vital sense with some of our native species.

Tiny Terrariums

Sat., May 18, 1:30 pm

Cost: \$3, under 3 free

Create a landscape in a jar as you build a terrarium to take home.

Summer Camps

The Refuge will offer the following day camps this summer. Call (856) 983-0326 for a brochure or check the website at www.cedarrun.org.

Animal Adventures: Ages 5-6; June 24-28, 10 am-noon. Cost: \$95

Pine Barrens FUN-damentals: Ages 7-8; July 8-12, 9 am-noon. Cost: \$105

Eco-Maniacs: Ages 9-10; July 15-19, 9 am-3 pm. Cost: \$195

Watershed Explorers: Ages 11-13; July 22-26, 9 am-3pm. Cost \$195

Birds 'N Breakfast

Sat., May 25, 8:00 am

Preregistration required

Cost: \$5; ages 10-up only

Join the Wild Bird Center's Cliff Jones on a leisurely birding hike around the Refuge and finish up at the education center with a well-earned continental breakfast. Please call (856) 983-0326 to register in advance.

Eagle Aviary Dedicated

Members of a Native American Family and Refuge supporters joined together in a dedication ceremony for the long-awaited bald eagle aviary last December 9th. The dedica-

tion took place during the members-only Christmas with the Animals event.

Grayce Williams, an elder of the Medicine Bear Lodge, performed the Blessing of the Four Directions. Cedar Run education coordinator Terri Loy and other members of the Lodge took part in the blessing and Refuge members assisted by attaching prayer ribbons to the structure.

President Jeanne Woodford thanked those who created the spacious enclosure. The aviary was designed by architect and Refuge board member Joe Costanza and constructed by maintenance supervisor Fred Schwink and carpenter Jim Ferguson. Lockheed Martin Technology Services and the Bernice Barbour Foundation supported the project.

Oh, yes. Orion seems very happy in his new home.

Orion gets comfortable in his spacious new aviary.



Terri Loy, who is of Chippewa heritage, shows Beau the Cooper's hawk at the eagle aviary dedication.



Website Update

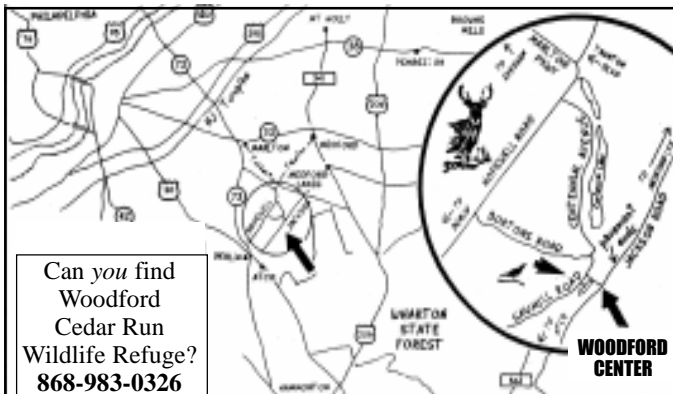
By Lisa Turowsky

Thanks to some creative and dedicated volunteers, a visit to www.cedarrun.org will give you a bird's eye view of the history, mission, and activities of Cedar Run Refuge. The site also provides important information about rescuing injured wild ones. Volunteer Jeff Stone designed the original site. Board member Jim Sweet took over as webmaster, did some redesign and set up the navigation between pages. In 2001 professional website maven Sharon Cooper volunteered to assist Jim by upgrading and maintaining our web pages.

Sharon offered her talents in web design last summer when she brought an injured baby bird to our wildlife rehabilitation center. After working in the corporate world as a computer programmer for many years, she started her own company, Web Sites 1-2-3, as a way of contributing to the missions of non-profits.

For Cedar Run's web site Sharon added some new graphics and information like the group activities and calendar pages. She has just completed the on-line membership, donations and adoption pages, making it easier for new members to join and support the work of the Refuge.

Visit the web site often for the most up-to-date information on our many activities and special events. And if you need a web site of your own, email Sharon at www.websites1-2-3.com or call her at (856) 354-2118.



REFUGE HOURS

Mon. - Sat.: 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Sun.: 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

**4 Sawmill Road or 388 Jackson Road
Medford, NJ 08055
Phone (856) 983-0326**