



NEWS & EVENTS

WOODFORD
Cedar Run Wildlife Refuge

Office: (856) 983-0326

Rehab: (856) 983-3329

Web Site: www.cedarrun.org

Enriching Experiences



Socrates the turkey vulture begins the demolition process on a fresh box in his enclosure. The box provided several hours of enrichment activity for the flightless bird. Photo by Lisa Lawson

The enclosures of Cedar Run's wildlife compound have some unusual additions. Paper bags, phone books and cardboard cartons are in with the animals. No, we're not littering. We're providing objects to enrich the animals' lives.

These simple, everyday items are novel curiosities for our permanent residents. Bags filled with leaves are fun to root through, especially if there's a treat hidden inside. Paper towel tubes filled with surprises become instant

puzzles. Stuffed animals and dog toys make wonderful playthings for wildlife, too.

Toys are not the only enrichment our animals receive. Fresh evergreen boughs to hide under, stumps to sit on and logs to climb are also entertaining, especially if these "furnishings" are moved

around or changed frequently. Rubbing scents like mint or allspice on strategic spots triggers active exploration in many species.

Wildlife Assistant Lisa Lawson has taken on the challenge of providing environmental enrichment for our animals. Lisa, a docent and former seasonal employee at Philadelphia Zoo, draws on her past

experiences plus lots of imagination to come up with new and cost-free ideas.

Environmental enrichment for captive wildlife seems so simple, but it yields big results by encouraging mental and physical activity. Next time you come to the Refuge take time to watch the animals interact with their environment. It's more fun for you, too.



Buddy (once thought to be Rosebud) the groundhog surveys the world from on high. Climbing helps keep him fit. Note the bag of leaves in the left foreground and the scented pinecone on the railing. Buddy loves to dig in the leaves and carry select specimens into his burrow. Photo by Lisa Lawson

Ted Gordon Honored



Ted Gordon receives the 2003 Elizabeth Woodford Conservation Award from Jeanne Woodford during the Mardi Gras party. Event chairwoman and board member Gayle Miner along with board member and sponsor Tom Hurley.

Ted Gordon, noted Pine Barrens botanist, naturalist and historian, was the recipient of the 2003 Elizabeth Woodford Conservation Award. He and his wife Pat were honored guests at the Mardi Gras party where the award was presented.

"It's fitting that we give Ted this award," said Jeanne Woodford. "He was such a good friend to my mother and has done so much for the environ-

ment they both loved. They often went out in the field together to botanize or take photographs."

Ted Gordon is an ardent conservationist, teacher and field trip leader who has explored the natural and human history of the Pine Barrens for many years. He once estimated that he has driven every sand road in

search of lost towns or endangered plants. His collection of slides and photographs documents many sites that have now vanished.

Ted is famed for his encyclopedic plant knowledge and past president of the Philadelphia Botanical Club. He served as a governor's appointee to the New Jersey Pinelands Commission from 1998 to fall 2002.



Eagle Scout candidate Dominic DeJioia of Mount Laurel and his crew constructed a bridge for a new trail through the south end of the Refuge despite chilly weather.

Spring Surprises *By Jeanne Woodford*

Spring arrives for each of us at different times for various reasons. Yes, the calendar says that on March 20 or 21 the vernal equinox occurs, but who would really believe that this year. In mid-March we were still looking at snow and ice on the ground and temperatures in the 20's.

Perhaps there was a January thaw and the squirrels thought there would be an early spring since orphaned babies began to arrive at our animal hospital in early March. Great horned owls are early nesters so the arrival of a couple of owlets didn't surprise us.

Gus, our imprinted Canada goose, began his spring fling while the ground was still frozen. He

followed Ed, wildlife assistant, around the compound slipping and sliding on the remaining icy spots. Gus is very protective of Ed and the Refuge truck and approaching either should be done with caution during the spring. We feel sure that if Gus could fly, he would accompany Ed on rescues and errands away from the Refuge. We need a sign, "Beware of Goose - It's spring."

Plant enthusiasts that visit Cedar Run feel that spring arrives when the trailing arbutus appears and, of course, its heavenly scent detected. Our beautiful mountain laurel is yet to bloom at the end of May.

The birders would say spring arrives

when the male phoebe arrives to check out the nesting site for the season. However, his mate arrives two to three weeks later and she is the one we should use as a benchmark since the female is the nest builder in this species. My journal indicates that the first whip-poor-will was heard in early April last year so I was becoming a bit concerned



An orphaned four-week old fox kit arrived at the Refuge in a very hungry state. He is thriving and will be released if all goes well. Fortunately, a second kit arrived so that the babies can socialize together as they grow. Photo by Val Pullen

when I hadn't heard them yet this year. Spring begins officially for me when that wonderful call is heard in the quiet of the night and I know that we have saved a wild place for this species which is affected so by human habitation.

We knew it was spring break last week because we had many more visitors than

during school vacation last year. It makes us happy that more people are finding us. Hopefully, they will become members and continue to visit.

Each night when my head finally reaches the pillow, I marvel at what happens in a day at Cedar Run. Things can get hectic and people are asked to give even more in order to assure the refuge's success. It's hard to ask for more help but we desperately need more volunteers to feed those babies that arrive daily, to greet the new visitors and work on a whole range of refuge projects. I am so grateful for all the caring support we receive both individual and corporate.

Cedar Run Refuge

Missions

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

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Gracias!

- Thanks to Cendant Mortgage for sponsoring Wonderful Wildlife Weekends this spring.
- The wildlife compound is a lot easier to service thanks to an electric golf cart donated by Janet Vogt of Westwood Golf Course. We are grateful for this long-sought gift.
- The office is now graced by a wonderful photocopier donated by Stewart Industries, Inc. Thanks to president Chuck Cahn and salesman Mark Madison.
- We are continually indebted to the veterinarians who provide medical care to our injured animals. They include:

Charles N. Bell, VMD, Evesham Veterinary Clinic
Kenneth D. Dazen, VMD, and David S. Kupersmith, DVM,
Animal and Bird Health Care Center and Hospital
Edwin M. Sleeper, VMD, Mount Laurel Animal Hospital

Mardi Gras Gold

Two-hundred-eighty-five people partied the night away at the Mansion on Main Street to celebrate Cedar Run's fourth annual Mardi Gras Bayou Bash on March 1. An Evening in Chinatown was the theme and the dining room was resplendent in red, gold and black.

Many attendees dressed in Chinese outfits and took part in the costume parade. Chinese lion dancers brought down the house at the after-dinner floorshow and a Chinese paper-cutter provided custom souvenirs with an Asian theme. Dinner was followed by a

live dance band that kept partygoers on their feet until midnight.

A silent auction featured ninety items from fine art to gift certificates. CNBC news anchor Becky Quick was an excellent auctioneer for four premiere items,

including a private airplane trip and a week's stay in a London apartment.

All these items were gathered by hard-working members of the committee who also found sponsors for the event. Committee members were Gayle Miner, chairwoman, Dana Barney, Shruti Biggiani, Joe Cairone, Theresa Costanza, Maryann Dera, Marcy Glantz Dever, Loretta Howarth, Cathy Livingstone, David Mattingly, Andrea Mayer, Debra Manuel, Eellen Ragone, Sonia Sikora, Betsy Schnorr, Ron Rubin and Jeanne Woodford.

The real news is the amount the party raised for the Refuge – more than \$31,000! Thanks to all those who made this evening such a smashing success.



Committee member Theresa Costanza (in costume) awaits dinner with friends Jack and Elli Ramsay. Photo by Ellen Ragone



Best costume winner Emmi McCloskey poses next to Mardi Gras committee member Betsy Schnorr.



Chinese paper-cutter Hou-tien Cheng delighted party-goers with his artistry.

Photo by Ellen Ragone



Authentic Chinese lion dancers wowed the crowd during dessert.



Mardi Gras celebrity auctioneer Becky Quick (center) with (left to right) her parents, Sue and Bob Quink of Medford, husband Peter Shay, and friends Mary Ann and Walt Schwenk of A G Edwards and Sons.



Becky Quick, CNBC news anchor, auctions the guitar displayed by committee member Ron Ruben. The guitar was autographed by all three Dixie Chicks and brought the biggest bid of the evening.

Mardi Gras Sponsors

Event Sponsor Archer & Greiner,
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Sooty Owl *By Jeanne Woodford*

It is chimney cap time or at least time to check and see if yours is on securely. Just ask John Black of Columbus who thought he still had a cap on his chimney. A call to Woodford Cedar Run Wildlife Refuge indicated that an owl was trapped behind Black's fireplace insert. He had pulled the insert out far enough to see the bird, but wasn't sure what kind of owl was peering back at him.

It is nesting season and apparently this not so wise owl thought Black's chimney was a nesting cavity in a tree. The terra cotta linings of many chimneys are too smooth for any animal to regain access to the outdoors. Unfortunately, the chimney width doesn't allow room for flight either.

By the time we at Cedar Run talked with Black, a couple of days had elapsed. At first we suggested

putting a rope or branch down the chimney because some trapped critters will take advantage of such an escape. However, with the passing of another 24 hours, we decided it was time to attempt a rescue through the fireplace. No easy task with a weighty insert to move.

So first we tried some twisting of nets, arms, bodies and even a chimney brush cleaner from the rooftop to capture this now sooty appearing screech owl. All to no avail so Black moved the insert out farther and sure enough we were able to snatch "Sooty" from his perch on the damper.

Feeling a little light from a few days without food, the owl was taken to the Refuge for a checkup and some free food. A week after his ordeal he was deemed worthy for release with a warning to stay

away from houses – especially those without chimney caps.



Screech owls are common in suburban as well as rural regions, despite the fact that people seldom see them. Photo by Val Pullen

Teachers Build Bridges

Ten teachers experienced *Bridges to the Natural World* at the Refuge on April 8. *Bridges* is an environmental education curriculum created by the New Jersey Audubon Society that focuses on specific habitats within our state. Dale Rosselet, New Jersey Audubon's Vice President for Education and one of the authors of the handbook led the six-hour workshop. Of course, the group explored our nature trail and observed our wildlife as part of the program.

"This workshop was so useful in not only identifying nature but also understanding the interaction within nature," said one participant. "What a wonderful day!" exclaimed another. All

evaluations ranked the session as a top-notch learning experience.

The Subaru of America Foundation sponsored the *Bridges to the Natural World* continuing education

program as well as four other workshops for teachers held this school year. Our thanks to Subaru and to Dale. We look forward to additional teachers' programs next year.



Prickly Surprise *By Georgia Wurster*

Every spring, I am once again amazed as I watch plants merge from under winter's leaf cover. The most amazing one to me is the patch of Prickly Pear, *Opuntia humafusa*, that lives at the edge of the drive in front of the Education Center. I know I didn't plant it there. I suspect Elizabeth Woodford (my mother-in-law) put it there when our house was being built in 1975.

Prickly pear is the only eastern member of the cactus family. It is quite widespread throughout the dry, open sandy areas of the Pine

Barrens. What may be mistaken for leaves are actually large fleshy joints that grow upright or flat on the ground, spreading to form fair-sized mats. The plant is usually covered with small barbed bristles, which may embed themselves in you if touched. (Ouch!)

Showy yellow flowers start blooming in June. Each flower only lasts a day, then turns into a pulpy, sweet reddish-purple fruit that is edible. I was never tempted to eat one, however. Maybe I was afraid I might not be good at first removing all the bristles.



Education coordinator Terri Loy presents Okey the barn owl to participants at a recent Hunters of the Sky work-shop for teachers. Terri designed the all-day session, which used birds of prey to teach science concepts.

Prickly pears make a good ground cover in sunny sandy areas. You may be able to find them at the native plant nurseries listed below.

Master Gardeners' Program, Rutgers Cooperative Extension Service, Medford, NJ, (609) 654-5056
Arrowwood Native Plant Nursery, 961 Clark Ave., Franklinville, NJ (856) 697-6045
Hartford Gardens, 272 Hartford Road, Medford, NJ (609) 654-9395
Laurel Oak Garden Center, 199 Tomlinson Mill Road, Marlton, NJ (856) 596-7779
Pinelands Nursery, 323 Island Road, Columbus, NJ (609) 291-9486
Pleasant Run Nursery, 93 Ellisdale Road, Allentown, NJ (609) 259-8585
Wild Earth Native Plant Nursery, 1005 Farmingdale Road, Jackson, NJ (723) 308-9777

Birding Hobby Leads to Business *By Lou Bradley*

When Christina and George Fore, proprietors of Wild Birds Unlimited, found the uninvited guest curled up by the back door they hastily tip-toed round to the front. A skunk had spent the night in the shop. "To get rid of him, we turned the radio up loud, and spread a few moth balls," said George. "It took him a week to leave. We were worried the entire family would move in; we could see them lingering in the brush. We have had a hummingbird fly in, and mallards come by looking for feed corn."

What started as a backyard hobby for the Fore's became a full-time job when they opened their first birding store in 1994 in Westmont. They moved to Marlton a few years ago and have since

opened another store in Cherry Hill. Christina is the retailing expert: she does the merchandising and sees that the customers are looked after. George does the marketing.

"We publish a newsletter five times a year, and hold in-store events," he said. "We got involved with Cedar Run when we asked them to do a program on wildlife rehab in our store. It was a hit, over one hundred people attended."

"We teach the simple rules of birding. This past February we held 'A Night at the Optics' - a talk about binoculars. We hold lectures at local libraries and are featured speakers at the Philadelphia Flower Show where we demonstrate the types of birdhouses that lure colorful song-

birds. In May we will hold a bird-feeder wash at the stores. For a \$300 donation, we scrub the feeders, make minor repairs, and replace missing parts. The donations are split between Cedar Run and the Audubon Wildlife Society."

"We have had a wonderful working relationship with the Refuge. We take no payment for our lectures; we turn over all monies collected to them, and we donate birdseed weekly. We keep a canister can at the cash registers for anyone who wishes to offer change."

"Backyard birding is a wonderful family hobby. We want our clients to enjoy the same relaxation with their hobby as we do. Cedar Run has helped us do that."

My Pet Peeve. . . Literally *By Linda Matarazzo Cherkassky*

Spring has arrived. The weather is warmer, darkness is decreasing and the urge to be outside beckons us. Concurrently, this is the time of year cats are let outdoors. Despite the fact that veterinarians tend to agree that cats do not need to be outside for their well-being, many owners allow their cats to roam. Unfortunately, the effects of this decision are often hazardous to cats and devastating to wildlife.

No one knows just how much wildlife domestic cats kill each year. Available scientific data indicate that cats kill hundreds of millions of birds and small mammals each year nationwide.

Contrary to popular belief, well-fed cats are a danger to wildlife. They kill even if they are not hungry because the hunting instinct is separate from the urge to eat. Putting a bell on a cat is not an effective way to deter predation. Wildlife may not associate the sound of a bell with danger. These cats can learn to silently stalk their prey. Bells offer no protection for helpless nestlings and fledglings.

Cedar Run and other wildlife rehabilitation centers report that a significant percentage of animals

treated is the result of cat attacks. Interrupting an attack by a cat usually does not allow the prey to escape and live. Rehabs report that most small animals injured by cats die, regardless of administered treatment. Cats carry several types of bacteria in their mouths. A victim that appears healthy may die from internal hemorrhaging or injury to vital organs. Furthermore, an attack on an adult often results in orphaned offspring that may not survive.

These losses are preventable. Unlike other predators, such as hawks and owls, pet cats do not need the critters they kill for survival. These cats compete with native predators and impact the food supply for those who depend on it. The gravity of this increases if

unaltered cats wander and breed.

This situation can be especially frustrating for those in the field of wildlife rehabilitation. Animals caught by cats do not get away unscathed and only a small percentage of the patients survive the ordeal. In 2002, only 8.3% of our patients caught by cats survived. Unless cats are monitored at close range, disaster may occur, for wild ones or for the cats.

Having pets can be a wonderful experience, but allowing them to roam poses risks to them and substantially hurts wildlife. Now that spring is here, refrain from letting cats outdoors and be assured that this decision will help protect our feathered, furry and feline friends.

Cherkassky is a volunteer at Cedar Run's Wildlife Hospital.

Wild Summer Camps

Don't miss summer fun at Cedar Run!

- Animal Adventures for ages 5-6, June 24-28
- Pine Barrens Fundamentals, ages 7-8, June 8-12
- Eco-Maniacs, ages 9-10, July 15-19, and
- Watershed Explorers, ages 11-13, July 22-26

Call (856) 983-0326 for a brochure.

Goose Wars

Lakeside communities in our region are beset by Canada geese. The wily birds flock to lawns and parks, leaving piles of icky green droppings behind, polluting water and gobbling up greenery.

Keeping the geese off lakes is tough, but a few landscape changes can discourage them from populating your yard. If they can't come ashore to eat, the flocks are likely to seek more hospitable neighborhoods.

Although various visual and auditory scare tactics can work, solutions such as these are short lived. The intelligent birds quickly figure out that clanking aluminum pie pans, scary balloon faces and noisy "gunshots" really won't hurt them. Since birds can't smell very well, noxious scents have little effect.

The best defense is a thick border of native plants or a low

fence along your waterfront. Geese like to land on water and walk out onto beaches and lawns, so a barrier that's attractive to you discourages them. It need not be tall, just impenetrable. Even a thick carpet of ground covers like pachysandra or periwinkle that tangle in their feet will help. Low, spreading junipers are extremely effective.

So, if you need the geese police, consider a landscaper instead. Installing a pretty gate flanked by native shrubs and wildflowers will please you and your neighbors, add to the value of your property and signal web-footed marauders that your lawn is off limits.

For more information on appropriate plan species call the Master Gardener's Program at Medford Leas or one of the garden centers listed below.

Successful Serenade

Mother Nature provided the perfect backdrop for the ninth annual Serenade for Wildlife, which was held at the Lord of Life Lutheran Church in Tabernacle on Sunday, March 9. Tall pines visible through the windows over the performers seemingly swayed to the music. The program of light classical music featured cellist William Stokking, accompanied by his wife Nancy, Jonathan Beiler, also of the Philadelphia Orchestra, as well as many of Nancy's students and fellow performers, all of whom donated their talents.

Eleven year old Erica Tursi, accompanied by her mother, wowed the audience with Fritz Kreisler's violin arrangement of "Perpetual Motion." Equally impressive was the trio of high school

young men, Chris Huan, violin, Michael Holak, cello and Andrew Nguyen, piano, playing Beethoven. A trio of Dawn Williams, flute, Lauren Alter, violin and Marilyn Shenenberger, piano opened the program with Bach.

Ranaan Meyer was back, putting his bass violin through its paces with Bach and then a selection by Koussevitzky. Jonathan Beiler showcased his violin with an unaccompanied "Ballade" by Eugene Ysaye. After playing a tocatta by Fescobaldi-Cassado and Rachmaninoff's "Vocalise," Bill and Nancy Stokking encoored with "The Swan" by St. Saens, which has become a signature piece for this concert. The program ended with a Mendelssohn Scher-zando, played by Jonathan Beiler and Rachel Segal,

violins, Lauren Alter and Marka Kadker-Simmons, violas and Nancy Stokking, cello.

For those of you who missed this year's concert, you can plan to attend the next on Sunday, March 28, 2004.

In appreciation for their faithful support of the Refuge, the

Stokkings received our Partners Award for 2003 and were presented with a crystal eagle. Nancy began her association with Cedar Run Refuge in 1995 when she volunteered at the wildlife rehabilitation center. Since then, she has tirelessly organized the benefit concert.

This year's event brought in over \$5000 for the Refuge from ticket sales and sponsors – an added bonus to the beautiful music. Our thanks to the sponsors who made the concert so successful.



Bill and Nancy Stokking were honored for organizing and headlining the concert since 1994.

Serenade for Wildlife Sponsors

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Membership/Adopt/Program Registration

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Adopt-A-Wild-One (please circle your choice)

\$150	\$100	\$75	\$50	\$35	\$25
Bald Eagle	Red-tailed Hawk	Screech Owl	Striped Skunk	Corn Snake	Box Turtle
Snowy Owl	Great-horned Owl	Raccoon	Canada Goose	Flying Squirrel	Cottontail
	White-tailed Deer	Red Fox	Mute Swan	Groundhog	Robin

Membership (please circle level)

\$1000	\$500	\$250	\$100	\$50	\$30	\$25
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Please mail form with check to: **WCRWR, 4 Sawmill Road, Medford, NJ 08055. Thanks!**

**Cendant Mortgage Presents
Wonderful Wildlife
Weekends**

Spring-Summer 2003

If you love animals, join us for a **Wild** time at the Woodford Education Center. Each weekend will focus on a unique Pinelands species and feature hands-on activities for all ages. Try them out, then walk the trail to the Wildlife Compound to see our live animals.

- May 3-4 Skunks
 - May 10-11 Songbirds
 - May 17-18 Spiders
 - May 24-25 Beavers
 - May 31-June 1 Frogs & Toads
 - June 7-8 Leapin' Lizards
 - June 14-15 Woodpeckers
- No reservations needed. \$3 adults; \$2 children; two and under free*

John Volpa's Explorer Series

Canoe Short Course

Sat., Jun. 7, 1-4 pm
Or Sat., Jun. 28, 1-4 pm
Cost: \$15 adults, \$10 ages 8-16
Pre-registration required
Brush up your skills or just have fun on beautiful Cedar Run Lake. Canoes, paddles and life jackets provided.

Canoe the Batsto

Sat., May 31, 9 am-4 pm
Or Sat., Jun. 21, 9 am-4 pm
Or Sat., Jul. 12, 9 am-4 pm
Cost: \$30 adults; \$20 ages 7-17
Plus \$16 canoe rental
Float peacefully down a Pine Barrens stream, making several stops along the way for wildflowers, wildlife and history. For reservations, call with your credit card.

Adult Programs

Rattlesnakes:

Gentlemen of the Forest

Mon., May 12, 7:30 pm
Gibson House, Main Street near Elmwood Road, Marlton, NJ
Free; no reservations needed
Here's your chance to learn the facts and ask questions about the timber rattlers that may be sharing your habitat. You'll also hear about the Pinelands Commission's rattlesnake research project. No reservations are needed for this free seminar, which Cedar Run Refuge is presenting in

cooperation with the Evesham Environmental Commission. Call Cedar Run at (856) 983-0326 for more information.

Oh, Deer! Coping with Four-legged Foragers

Wed., June 4, 7:30 pm, Cranberry Hall, Medford. Free; no reservations needed
If deer are dining on your garden and ornamental shrubs, this talk is for you. Dr. David Drake of Rutgers Cooperative Extension Service will give you the lowdown on dealing with deer. No reservations required. Call the Refuge at (856) 983-0326 for more information

Stormwater Control = Cleaner Lakes and Streams

Wed., June 25, 6:00 pm
Medford Public Safety Building
Free; no reservations needed
New Jersey's new stormwater regulations will have significant impact on local municipalities and their residents. ANJEC "Stormwater Road Show" will outline the proposed regulations. Call Woodford Cedar Run Wildlife Refuge for details: (856) 983-0326.

Wine & Wildlife
A moonlit evening of wine-tasting, hors d'oeuvres and music at the Refuge
Saturday, June 14, 6:30-9:00 pm
Cameo appearances by our live hawks and owls
\$35.00 per person, Call (856) 983-0326, Visa & Mastercard accepted



Lost? Call (856) 983-0326 for directions.



Sun.: 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.
Mon. - Sat.: 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
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Cedar Run Wildlife Refuge

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