

**WOODFORD**  
Cedar Run Wildlife Refuge

# NEWS & EVENTS

Office: (856) 983-0326

Rehab: (856) 983-3329

Web Site: [www.cedarrun.org](http://www.cedarrun.org)

## Caring Volunteers Save Swallows *by Lou Bradley*

The barn swallow needed to be on his way; it was late in the fall migration season.

"This little guy must have hurt himself somehow, he had a droopy wing," said Dr. Gloria Weintrub.

She found the swallow sitting on a nest in one of her stalls. When she reached for him he flew away. He returned later that day, hungry. She tried a net but he flew around the stall, refusing to be captured. Finally she covered the stall in fine netting and after a few days he flew into it. She wrapped him up and brought him to Cedar Run.

Barn swallows breed as far north as Canada, and throughout most of the United States except in the southern states along the Gulf Coast and the Florida peninsula. They spend summer in the breeding areas and take off about late August for winter quarters in central and northern South America. Our fellow had been born in the area but his flock had already left for their winter home by the time Dr. Weintrub found him in the stall.



**Barn swallows nest near human habitats and consume hundreds of insects each day.**

Luanne Weekes, a rehab volunteer at Cedar Run, was nursing two other barn swallows at her home. One, a juvenile, had been hospitalized for several months, and was now being taught to feed. She set out food every fifteen minutes. The other, an adult who also had had a wing injury, was giving the juvenile flying lessons. Luanne offered to take the barn swallow from the Refuge and introduce him to her nesters with the hope they would make a colony.

Swallows fly during the day catching insects on the wing. The sooner they get into warmer climates on their way to wintering the better the chances of finding food. Luanne spent the next week preparing the colony to leave. She had her eye on a large flock still resting in a farmer's field near her home. There were hundreds of beautiful birds, steely blue on backs and wings with rusty pink underparts. She worried they would leave before her charges could join up.

Finally, the colony of three was ready. Luanne took them to the field and released each individually, watching them perch on power lines with the flock. But the story didn't stop there. On her way home she saw another injured barn swallow. She placed him on the back porch to recuperate and by morning he was ready to move on. She carried him to the field and within the hour the flock took off for those sunny southern shores.

"Happy flying," she wished. "See you next year."

## Rehab Wrap-up

Calendar year 2002 was a record for Cedar Run's wildlife rehabilitation unit. More than 3600 animals strained the walls as well as the budget. The amazing intake statistics included 1706 birds, 1822 mammals and 96 reptiles. The 819 cottontail rabbits we took in constituted 23% of all patients, with gray squirrels running a close second at

18% or 636 individuals.

Our survival rate of 44% and release rate of 39% are on the high end for rehab facilities and approximate the survival rate of animal populations in the wild. Twenty-five unreleasable animals remained at our wildlife compound to help educate the public about native species.

### New Admission Charge

As of January 2003 visitors to the Refuge will pay a fee of \$3.00 per adult and \$2.00 for children 3-12 (two and under free). Members, of course, will be admitted without charge. To become a member, use the form on page 7.

# What a Winter! *By Jeanne Woodford*

Winter doldrums? Not a chance. The season's cold weather has caused some unbelievable and unfortunate wildlife problems. A hypothermic bluebird, a very hungry red-tailed hawk, and a thinner than usual great blue heron are among those that we have seen at the Refuge hospital in the last couple of weeks.

Birds have an interesting way of coping with the cold and if their food supply is maintained, they can endure most winter challenges.

The bluebird that was brought to us by Jeanne Griffie from Pleasantville was not flying and obviously suffering from hypothermia. Who knows what exactly caused him to get into this situation, but a few hours in the incubator warmed him and he was soon eating worms, etc. It is commonly thought that bluebirds all migrate, but bluebirds have sometimes been included in our Christmas bird count, and even this year birders are reporting seeing quantities of bluebirds.

With the snow cover on fields and other hunting grounds, red tailed hawks seem to be having difficulty finding their prey. The one that we recently admitted seemed all too happy to receive some mice and warmth from us and we will release him with the January thaw (or will it be the March thaw?).

Great blue herons always seem the most pathetic to me when they are brought into our Hospital. Perhaps their pterodactyl-like forms with those gangly legs, thin bodies and long beaks give an appearance of needing help just by their appearance. Unfortunately, this bird was so emaciated there was nothing that could be done for it.

The folks who brought it in thought it was the same heron that had been feeding at their pond for five years. Have some of the birds been lulled into warm winters just like humans? Why hadn't the heron flown to open water before the pond froze over or gone south in search of good fishing spots?

Seeing our mute swans fly above the snow-crueted lake and landing as though they had skates on is a sight to behold. Our lake is kept open in one small area by a pump and that enables the waterfowl to remain safe from predators and in open water during this cold period. Our resident raccoons remain tucked into their warm nest box, coming out only every couple of nights perhaps for water, but not to eat. Rosebud, the groundhog doesn't surface unless the thermometer goes above 40 degrees. Our rough-legged hawk, which we think is about 18 years old, is spending these cold nights indoors. The red and gray fox look the warmest in their thick fluffy coats as they continue to greet visitors to the Refuge despite the chill.

Thanks as always to our many volunteers for their efforts during these winter months and helping us with the winter doldrums.

## Gracias!

We are grateful for the support of the following organizations that help make our work possible:

The Ahimsa Foundation  
The Bernice Barbour Foundation  
The Natalie W. Furniss Trust  
The Partnership for the Delaware Estuary  
The Henry M. Rowan Foundation  
The Stull Family Foundation  
The Subaru Foundation

# Cedar Run Refuge

## Missions

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

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## Possum Trot

In early January Michael Garofalo contacted the Refuge by email about his opossum problem. It seems the critter had taken up residence in his shed.

We returned an email suggesting he gently guide the animal out the door with a broom because 'possums are not known to carry rabies. An alternate suggestion was that he should just leave the door open that night since opossums are nocturnal.

Michael was kind enough to send us the following update:

"This morning I went back to the shed with my light in hand and carefully went inside to look around. In the leaves where the 'possum was the day before only a large depression remained. I gave a large sigh of relief that during the night it had wandered out.

With that I went on and about cleaning of all the leaves and other old stuff to be discarded. He must have been there awhile because there were a lot of leaves for his bedding.

Moving things around so I could sweep, I had to shift a large floor radio to clear the leaves behind it. Yes, as you probably guessed, I saw the 'possum curled up in a ball in



Rehabilitated young possums clamber up an evergreen at our Wildlife Compound.

the back of the radio. I didn't panic, I just kept moving the radio towards the door. But then he started waking and moving and before I knew it, he scurried to another part of the shed and hid behind a closet. I guess he was as scared, but I'll bet I was more scared than he was!

Despite several attempts to move him out, the 'possum continued to move from one side to another and

hid wherever he could. But after about 30 minutes of gentle prodding to guide him to the door, he finally saw the daylight and ran out and across the property. That was the last I saw of him, at least for that day.

Kind of a wild experience for a city guy, wouldn't you say?"

Thanks, Michael, for not killing your guest.

## Premiere Perches



Burlington County Institute of Technology welding students display the perches they made for our raptors.

When the Refuge needed some sturdy and good-looking perches for our Hunters of the Sky raptor show, education coordinator Terri Loy called the Burlington County Institute of Technology with a plea for help. Sure enough, the welding shop came through with 16 different types of steel perches, a contribution valued at over \$2,000.

Our thanks to instructors Jack McDade and Jay Lloyd and their students: Steve Adams, Steve Ayd, Javier Claudio, Zach Coker, Erik DeFuria, Dale Drayton, Bob Hofflinger, Steve Horton, Russ Latkovich. Paul Merrill, Colin Mulhall, Alex Roman, Jordan Street and Brandon Wood.

# Vegetarian Fundraiser



**Fundraisers extraordinaire (left to right) Laura Henry, Allison Henry, Danni Romer and Katherine Moran admire Tommy Turtle at the Woodford Education Center. The friends held a Vegetarian Carnival and raised \$50 for the Refuge.**

*Photo by Toni Moore*

Katherine Moran, Danielle Romer and sisters Laura and Allison Henry are united in their love of animals. In fact, the girls, who range in age from 7 to 10, formed a vegetarian club to promote animal welfare.

To help wildlife, the girls put their heads together and decided

to hold a vegetarian carnival to raise money. Says Daniel, "We wanted to do something because we all felt bad about how people treat animals. We wanted to pay for medicine and care for them." They decided to give their profits to the Refuge because Danielle had visited Cedar Run with her

Brownie Troop.

The team created flyers and went door to door in their 30 home development, the Meadowood area of Medford. They brainstormed ideas and came up with a variety of games, made vegetarian chili, hot chocolate and cupcakes. Katherine even dressed up as a gypsy and told fortunes. They rounded up items and held an auction, too.

The vegetarian carnival was held on one of the coldest days of winter, but the neighborhood turned out and had a good time.

"The girls' enthusiasm just bubbled over to the neighbors," says Danielle's mother Marie Romer. Best of all, \$50 was raised to support the wildlife at Cedar Run.

Of course, the parents got involved and helped. "But the children did this on their own," Marie stresses.

"We did it because we just like the animals," claims Allison.

"Besides," Danielle adds, "It was fun!"

## We Get Letters

Recently teacher-naturalist Pat Gurgul presented a hands-on science lesson about water to fifth graders at Indian Mills School. Here are excerpts from some of the letters the students sent her.

"One thing I liked was when there was a model of a neighborhood. We sprinkled materials on it and sprayed it away with water. It's horrible how when it rains all the oil, fertilizers, and dog poo wash away into the stream or pond." Micki

"My favorite part was when you brought out the pretend storm sewer and showed us where the sewer leads and what not to put down the sewers." James

"When you said that we will



**"Squam" the barred owl was Dana's favorite during Mrs. Gurgul's presentation to her class.**

have the same water forever it really changed the way I look at water conservation." Jeffrey

"I have changed the way I feel about littering and people pollution. I'm setting a better example for my little sisters not to throw trash on

the ground." Erin

"I learned that water is very important to our lives and animals." Alison

"This was one of the best shows I had ever seen in the school! P.S.: Tell Squam (the owl) I said 'Hi.'" Kelsi

"I really hope my next field trip is to an animal reserve because if just your presentation was fun, going there should be a *blast!*" Mark

*School and scout groups can schedule fun and educational tours of the Refuge or book a Refuge on Wheels program by calling (856) 983-0326. For details, click the "Group" button on our website, [www.cedarrun.org](http://www.cedarrun.org).*

# Autumn with the Animals a Hit

Despite very blustery November 2<sup>nd</sup> nearly 200 people enjoyed games, crafts, rides, music and food at Autumn with the Animals. Our new Hunters of the Sky live raptor show made its debut to great acclaim and a beautiful great horned owl was released. The Refuge netted more than \$4,500 from this fun family event and made many new friends.

Our thanks to the many volunteers and to the sponsors who made this event possible.

## Autumn with the Animals Sponsors

Bob Meyer Communities ~ Presenting Sponsor  
Conective ~ Entertainment Sponsor  
Sterling Bank ~ Clydesdale Ride Sponsor  
Burns Honda ~ Children's Rides Sponsor  
Cornerstone Bank ~ Puppet Show Sponsor  
Deitz & Watson ~ Food Tent Sponsor  
Comcast ~ Raptor Show Sponsor  
Burlington County Times ~ Advertising Sponsor  
Murphy's Market, Ocean Spray, Acme Markets,  
Zallie's Shop Rite ~ Food Donors



## Guardians of the Wild

Thanks to the following corporate members:

*Eagle*

InSign, Inc.

*Great Horned Owl*

Lockheed Martin Technology Services

*Red Fox*

H & H Industrial Corporation  
Holman Enterprises  
PSE&G

## Lockheed Leaves a Legacy

Lockheed Martin Technology Services fulfilled their pledge of \$12,500 to the Woodford Endowment in January, bringing our nest egg to more than \$25,000. Our thanks to the company for investing in our future so generously. Your bequest can also help. For more information on our **Legacy Society** and **the Woodford Endowment**, please call Janet Jackson-Gould at (856) 983-0326.

## Don't Feed Deer!

White-tailed deer: beautiful wildlife or voracious pests? Whatever your perspective, deer are wild animals, not pets. Feeding them can harm your family, your neighbors and, especially, the deer themselves.

Since deer carry ticks, luring them into your yard can expose humans and pets to disabling illnesses such as Lyme Disease. Bringing deer into your yard and those of your neighbors will always result in landscape damage. White-tailed deer are browsers, nibbling at twigs and shoots as well as grazing.

Garden crops like corn, beans and melons are favorite foods, but the tender buds and tasty branches of landscape plantings are equally attractive. Deer will eat these natural foods even when being fed by humans.

Feeding deer can also be very harmful to the animals themselves. Lettuce and table scraps do not provide proper nutrition, weaken-

ing some animals. Pelleted feed spoils readily, releasing toxins that may poison the deer. Larger, stronger animals dominate the feeding area, depriving others of needed food.

Bringing deer close together at a feeder spreads diseases like bovine tuberculosis and mange.

Attracting deer to your neighborhood by feeding also damages the adjacent woodlands. Since the deer are concentrated, they browse too heavily on the undergrowth and saplings, destroying new growth and the habitat it provides for other wildlife.

Most of all, feeding deer accustoms them to the presence of humans. As they lose their



**White-tailed deer use the Refuge's trails, too.**

*Photo by Val Pullen*

wildness, they become more vulnerable to collisions with cars, to hunters and to predation by free-running dogs.

So, do feed the birds and not the deer. You'll be doing your neighbors a favor and protecting your backyard habitat for all the wild creatures that also call it home.

# Bracken Fern *By Georgia B. Wurster*



From "The Southern Fern Guide"  
by Edgar T. Wherry

So the ground hog saw his shadow, and we know what that means. But don't lose heart; spring will come.

One of the first plants to poke up from under the dry leaves of the forest floor is the "fiddle head" of the bracken fern. This tender green head of the plant is considered quite tasty by some! Bracken is the most common fern growing in southern New Jersey. It is one of the first to carpet a burned forest floor.

Ferns were one of Elizabeth Woodford's favorite plants to show children. She began by letting them examine a fossil she found in Pennsylvania. Then she'd tell them how superstitious people were about ferns during medieval times because they thought

ferns had no seeds. The children then had a chance to turn over the fern's fronds and see rows of brown spots. Each one of these is a case containing spores that produce a tiny plant very unlike the large, showy parent. That tiny second generation unobtrusively produces the seed from which the familiar fern grows.

Betty Woodford always encouraged people to use native species in their gardens. Here's what she had to say in her "Ways of the Wild" column printed in the August 1989 *Central Record*.

*Many varieties of native fern grow very well in the home garden. Because bracken is deep-rooted and hardy, it tends to take over in a planted garden—much like a weed. Put lime on your ground and none of the Pine Barrens species will exist for very long. While lime will make grass grow and vegetables, too, it is not for wild woody plants. If you can leave part of your land as a "natural" garden, it will be a joy forever.*

## Native Plant Nurseries

**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

## Cedar Run Seniors Brave the Cold

Nineteen intrepid seniors explored the nature trail at Camden County Park in Berlin on January 16. It was cold and birds were few, but the group warmed up with tailgate hot chocolate and a good time was had by all.

Senior Run Seniors, a club for the over-50 set, meets every third



Smiling members of our Cedar Run Seniors Club enjoyed a winter outing at Berlin Park.  
Photo by Donald F. Kanzler

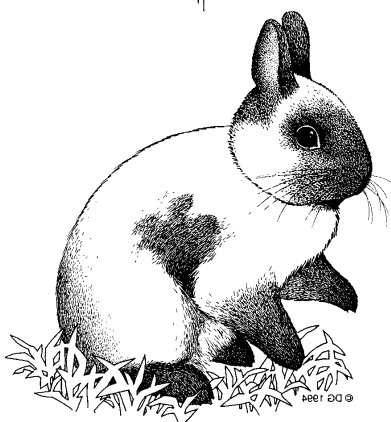
Thursday at 1:30 pm. The cost is \$3.00 per session. Call the education center for details: (856) 983-0326.

## Wonderful Wildlife Weekends

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. Admission \$3 adult, \$2 child, two-under free

No reservations required

Mar. 1-2	Owls
Mar. 8-9	Opossums
Mar. 15-16	Eagles
Mar. 22-23	Snakes
April 5-6	Waterfowl
April 12-13	Bunnies
April 19-20	Closed for Easter



### Pre-K's Discovery Days

Five Tuesdays, Mar. 11, 18, 25, Apr. 1 and 8, 9:30-10:30 am  
Ages 3-5 plus parent

Cost: \$25; \$3 second child

Bring your youngster and enjoy an hour of wildlife adventures for budding naturalists. Songs, stories and some of our wildlife will enliven your time together.

### Sunday Drive in the Pines

Sun., Mar. 9, 1-5 pm

Cost: \$20 per car

Pre-registration required

Car caravan to some of John's favorite historic and nature spots. The woods are surprisingly interesting in winter. Don't forget to bring your camera to record the fun.

### Treasure Tracking

Sat., Mar. 15, 10 am-noon or 1-3 pm

Cost: \$8 adults, \$5 ages 8-16

Enjoy a lively treasure hunt at Cedar Run Refuge. Team up with a map and compass to navigate the course and earn a prize.

### Walking Tour of the Pines

Sat., Mar. 22, 10 am-4 pm

Cost: \$30 adult, \$20 ages 12-16

Pre-registration required

Banish cabin fever with a brisk hike and search for signs of animals. Birds are definitely easier to see before the trees leaf out.

### Canoe Short Course

Sat., Apr. 5, 1-4 pm

Cost: \$15 adults,

\$10 ages 8-16

Brush up your skills or just have fun on beautiful Cedar Run Lake. Canoes, paddles and life jackets provided.



### Flower Power

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




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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
Lifetime	Benefactor	Sustaining	Super Family	Family Plus	Family	Individual

Program (list below)	Date	Number Attending	Amount per Person	Total Amount
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

Please mail form with check to: **WCRWR, 4 Sawmill Road, Medford, NJ 08055. Thanks!**

Capehart & Scatchard,  
Attorneys at Law  
present



# Serenade for Wildlife

A concert of light classical music  
**Sunday, March 9 at 3:00 pm**  
Lord of Life Lutheran Church  
Medford-Tabernacle Road  
(near Shawnee High School)

## Featuring

Philadelphia Orchestra artists  
William Stokking, cello  
Jonathan Beiler, violin  
Nancy Stokking, piano  
and other musicians  
Plus young artists  
Erica Tursi, violin  
Andrew Nyugen, piano  
Michael Holak cello  
Chris Hwang, violin

Admission  
Adults \$15, Students \$10  
Prepaid tickets \$12.50  
Call (856) 983-0326

# This Gift's a Real Turkey

In early February Daniel Obester of Bernardsville and his mother pulled up in front of the Woodford Education Center. Strapped to the tailgate of their vehicle was a large square shape shrouded in blankets. Daniel was delivering an unusual donation to the Refuge.

As the blankets were unwrapped an adult tom turkey was revealed. The beautiful taxidermy mount was displayed on a natural looking base and protected by a crystal clear cover.

Daniel's gift arrived just in time for our turkey-themed

weekend. It was proudly displayed in the Great Room and amazed our visitors. Few people get to see majestic wild turkeys, let alone study them close up.

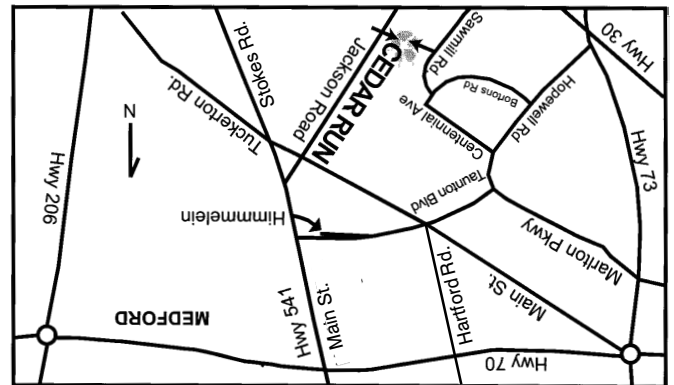
The visitor who was most impressed was "Peepers," an immature hen turkey who came over from the wildlife compound. Peepers came to the Refuge last summer and can't be released because she is too fond of people. She kept shooting puzzled glances at the tom.

Our thanks to Daniel for his contribution. His turkey makes a great addition to the Education Center.

## Make the Most of Your Estate

Tuesday, Apr. 8, 11 am No cost; Reservations required. You can plan your estate to pass valuable assets on to your heirs while benefiting charities like Cedar Run. Join Daniel G. Nigito, author of *Don't Die Until You Read This*, to find out how. Luncheon will be included in this informative mini-seminar presented by Legg Mason. Call Janet Jackson-Gould for details: (856) 983-0326.

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



REFUGE HOURS  
Mon. - Sat.: 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.  
Sun.: 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

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Cedar Run Wildlife Refuge

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