

tales from cedar run

Woodford cedar run wildlife refuge



4 Sawmill Road
Medford, NJ 08055-8133

phone (856) 983-3329

Email info@CedarRun.org

www.CedarRun.org

The Dangers of Imprinting

People in New Jersey often find injured, sick, and orphaned wildlife, but few know or understand what they should do next. It's very important for such animals, especially birds, to be brought to a licensed wildlife rehabilitator such as Cedar Run Wildlife Refuge.

Not only is it illegal to rehabilitate or keep an animal without the appropriate permitting from the state of New Jersey, but it also puts those animals at risk of becoming too familiar with people and missing out on crucial learning opportunities for natural instinctual behaviors. Without these skills, animals would not be successful in the wild.

For mammals, this process is called "habituation." Habituation sometimes can be reversed by housing the animal with conspecifics (animals of the same species) that are exhibiting appropriate behaviors and posturing, enabling the human-raised animal to learn these important skills. Unfortunately, this process is not always fruitful.

For birds, though, this time period when they are young is called "imprinting", during which time they establish what they belong with, by who – or what – is taking care of them. Regardless if a bird imprints appropriately on conspecifics or on humans, the process is irreversible, because it actually promotes a physical change in their brain structure.

Imprinting may sound friendly and nice, but for wild animals, the reality is that what they belong with is what they look to as equals to compete with for food, space, resources, and breeding. This guarantees that the human-imprinted bird never will be able to survive in the wild because of a lack of appreciation for their conspecifics; they also will not recognize predators, and may be a threat to humans, as well.



As you can imagine, it would be compromising for wildlife to not fear humans. Licensed wildlife rehabilitators avoid imprinting baby birds by using various techniques, but the overall common theme is to limit their visual connection with humans.

Imprinting is a process still being studied by scientists. What we do know, however, is that different bird species have different imprinting windows – times at which baby birds are susceptible to the process of imprinting. In general, we know that once the process is completed, it is permanent.

We also know that imprinting is a visual association process. For this reason, it is crucial to the survival of the bird that people are able to put the animal under a licensed wildlife rehabilitator's care as soon as possible after collection.

Licensed wildlife rehabilitators receive a state permit by taking special classes and courses to learn how best to feed, raise, and interact with wild animals, enabling the animal to build crucial skills so it can succeed in the wild. Release always is the number one goal of wildlife rehabilitators, so they always will do everything they can to ensure it is possible.

SAVE THE DATES

Jan 21, Feb 18, Apr 19 & 22, 2019

Day Off Adventures

Feb 24, 2019

Owl Prowl

March 3, 2019

Serenade for Wildlife

Woodford cedar run wildlife refuge



OUR MISSION:

Dedicated to the preservation of New Jersey's wildlife and habitats through environmental education, habitat preservation, and rehabilitation.

To that end: Cedar Run operates the region's busiest wildlife hospital, and engages in conservation efforts through environmental education and ecologically based management of our 171 acres of Pinelands habitats.

Cedar Run offers environmental educational programs for all ages that highlight the connection between wildlife conservation, human health, and the importance of protecting the habitats we all share.

Call Us - (856) 983-3329

Visit Us - 4 Sawmill Rd, Medford, 08055

Website - www.CedarRun.org

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Your Support Saves Thousands of Animals Each Year

Thanks to folks like you, thousands of animals were saved this year and are living back in the wild throughout New Jersey and beyond. We cannot overstate how important your support is to this work, because many of the nearly 5,000 injured, orphaned, or displaced wild animals we treat each year would not survive without help.

The truth is, if everyone who brought an animal into our wildlife hospital each year made even a \$50 donation, our efforts to save them would be fully funded. But only about half of those bringing animals to us make a donation, of which the average gift is \$18. Without successful fundraising and tax-deductible gifts from our supporters, this high impact, much needed community service would cease to exist. **Please consider making a lifesaving gift today.**

The number one reason wild animals are brought in for help is unfortunate interactions with humans or our things, such as cars, buildings, or even soccer nets. Unintended interactions with dogs or cats also contribute to the increasing number of wild animals we care for, as does habitat loss, and even inadvertent nest removal. All of this results in Cedar Run taking in and caring for nearly 5,000 injured or orphaned wild animals each year, which makes us far busier than any other such facility throughout our region. Unfortunately, the costs of medicine, food, and care exceed the donations made by those bringing in animals. **Truly, at Cedar Run, your support matters.**

We offer several ways for you to help, some of which also make great gifts.

Please consider Cedar Run in your 2018 Holiday Giving by renewing your membership, making a tax-deductible donation, or giving the gift of life through our Adopt-a-Wild-One program. (See page 7)

In addition to the thousands of animals we care for in our wildlife hospital, Cedar Run also is home to about 60 resident animals, all native to New Jersey. These animals, who we call our Wildlife Ambassadors, survived their injuries but, for various reasons, cannot be released back to the wild as they are not able to care for themselves. Our Wildlife Ambassadors are given a second chance as valued members of our education team.

Cedar Run's Wildlife Ambassadors can be symbolically adopted through our Adopt-a-Wild-One program. These "adopts" make great gifts and come with a frame-worthy photo of the individual animal, the personal story of that animal, species info, and now, additional thank you gifts to make these more memorable for you and your loved ones.

Thank you,

Jeanne M. Gural, Executive Director

Use the form on page 7 to renew your membership or to take advantage of the benefits and gifts offered through our Adopt-a-Wild-One program for yourself or as gifts. You also can order online at CedarRun.org, call us at 856-983-3329, ext. 108, or email Kathleen Marozzi at Kathleen.Marozzi@CedarRun.org.

How Cedar Run Shaped Me

By Katelyn Corris

My only goal in my professional life was to find a job that I loved, and one that I was excited about doing. Never did I think I would stumble upon my future career path at just sixteen years old.

I first started at Cedar Run as a young volunteer in the wildlife hospital. I was captivated by the thousands of patients, and the ability to work hands-on with these wild creatures.

Before my time at Cedar Run, I had no idea what I wanted to do "when I grew up," or who I wanted to be, but after a few short shifts, I knew I wanted to be just like the Rehabilitation Hospital staff, helping animals who can't help themselves. With the love and support from my Cedar Run family, I pursued a degree in Conservation and Wildlife Management, hoping to one day contribute to the greater good.

With my new perspective on the natural world from my college education, I became inspired to share that excitement and the thrill that came with my experiences here at Cedar Run. Joining the education team provides me with the ability to share my ideologies of conservation and environmental education with the local community, all while learning from the amazing education staff here on-site.

As a naturalist, I get a chance to use the outdoors as a classroom, which is not just fun, but a great learning opportunity. Every day I wake up excited to contribute my knowledge and motivate others to share in my love of the pines.

Over the course of the past five years, Cedar Run has molded me into the person I am today. The experience, the passion, and the lessons I've learned have been invaluable in my everyday life and career. I am forever grateful for my humble start, and for the bold new beginnings I know I'll have through Cedar Run.

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATOR



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We are grateful to our annual sponsors. Thank you for your generosity.

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Wonderful Giving

2019 Upcoming Programs & Events: mark your calendars!

2019 EVENTS: JANUARY - MAY

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY - JAN 21: We will present *Hunters of the Sky* at 11am and 1pm. A hawk and owl will make a special appearance as you learn all about the adaptations that make these birds fierce predators. Kids can make a special craft inside the nature center. All ages. Program included with the price of admission.

DAY OFF ADVENTURES - JAN 21, FEB 18, APRIL 19 & 22: No School? Enjoy a full day of fun at Cedar Run. Activities include hiking, games, live animals and crafts. Children in grades K-5 can join us from 9am-3pm for exciting adventures at the refuge. \$60/child. Children should dress for the weather and plan on spending most of the day outdoors. Bring a lunch, snack, and water bottle. Advanced registration and pre-payment required.

STARGAZING AT THE REFUGE - JAN 27: Spend time with us under the stars and join us for a night filled with starwatching and a lesson in astronomy. Telescopes will be available for use, but you may bring your own. 5-7pm in the covered pavilion. \$7/person. Rain/snow cancels event. Advanced registration required.

WILDLIFE TRACKING 101 - FEB 3: This fun and informative program will help you review the basics of animal tracking in the wild. 1-2pm. \$10/adult, \$8/child. All ages welcome. Advanced registration required.

VALENTINE'S DAY - FEB 14-17: Children ages 12 and under will receive FREE admission Friday – Sunday when they bring in a handmade valentine for one of our resident animals. Other programs include making a pinecone birdfeeder and coloring pages in the Nature Center. Kids also will receive a bird checklist to complete and turn-in for a prize.

PRESIDENT'S DAY - FEB 19: Kids can make a special craft inside the Nature Center and participate in a fun scavenger hunt along the trails. All ages. FREE with admission.

OWL PROWL - FEB 24: Winter often is the best time of year to locate owls in the forest as they are in the midst of nesting season. Program begins inside the Nature Center for an up-close experience with our resident owls followed by a hike on the trail in search of our local species. 5:30-7:00pm. Please dress accordingly and wear comfortable shoes. No flashlights, please. This program will fill up! Suitable for ages 8 and up. \$15/member, \$20/non-member. Advanced registration required.

BEHIND THE SCENES AT ANIMAL REHAB - APR 6: Ever wonder what happens in the hospital when you drop off an injured animal? Now you can find out! Rehab staff will discuss the process for accepting patients in our hospital, the care involved, and give personal insights into working in this fast-paced environment. Program will wrap-up with a tour of our outdoor wildlife housing area. (Sorry, no tours of the hospital will be given). 1-2:30pm. All ages. FREE with admission, but please bring an item from our wish list! Advanced registration required.

DIGITAL PHOTO CONTEST - APR 19-APR 28: Children ages 3-17 can participate in our digital photo contest and submit their favorite refuge photo for display at the Nature Center. Photos can be taken with a digital camera or phone, but must be taken and submitted during this week only. Photos will be judged based on age and subject, and displayed during our gallery weekend May 31-June 2.

2019 PROGRAMS: JANUARY - MAY

HOMESCHOOL PROGRAMS: Knee-High Naturalists and Nature Nuts - JAN 8 & 9, FEB 12 & 13, MAR 12 & 13, APR 9 & 10, MAY 14 & 15: Classes for ages 3-12. Knee-high Naturalists (ages 3-5), Nature Nuts (ages 6-12). Theme varies each month. Classes are on the 2nd Tues & Wed each month. 10am or 1pm. \$10/child. Advanced registration and pre-payment required.

"TUESDAY TALKS AT TWO" LECTURE SERIES - TUESDAYS, JAN 8-MAY 28: Tuesday at 2pm for a lecture series! This weekly event will meet promptly at the amphitheater in the Wildlife Housing Area. Topics will alternate every other week between an up-close meet and greet with a Wildlife Ambassador, and a myriad of nature-based topics - such as native plants, investigating insects, naturalist-led birding excursion, and a day in the life of a rehabilitator. \$10/adult, \$8/child, and includes general admission. Some lecture series events may require advanced registration; please consult the schedule for details.

RAPTOR PHOTOGRAPHY SESSION - MAY 5: Join us for a morning of photography. Our trained staff will bring at least 6 birds from their enclosures for photographing up-close on perches and in a natural setting. This program is limited to 12 participants. \$50/member, \$60/non-member. 9-11am. Advanced registration and pre-payment required.

FULL MOON NIGHT HIKE - APR 18, MAY 18: Experience the refuge in an exciting way - at night! Enjoy a guided hike under the light of the full moon to visit nocturnal habitats that are home to owls, raccoons, opossums and other wildlife that emerge after dark. Times vary by month. Suitable for ages 8 and up. \$10/person. Advanced registration required.

Welcome New Residents!

The Cedar Run family has grown in the last few months.

We wanted to share a bit of information about our new residents. Drop by and say “hello”!



Bucky

Bucky was brought to us in June of 2018, after he had been raised in someone's home for multiple weeks. Sadly, this is the case with many fawns. If you find a wild animal that you believe is orphaned, please contact a licensed wildlife rehabilitator immediately.

After arriving at Cedar Run, Bucky was raised with the other orphaned fawns in our care. He spent 3 months living with the other fawns without any physical or visual contact with humans. Unfortunately, as we assessed the fawns for release, it was clear that Bucky was permanently habituated to humans.

This means that if he were released, he would readily seek out humans, and his chances of survival would be extremely small. As a result, Bucky will have a safe home at Cedar Run for the rest of his life. Bucky is still behind the scenes, but eventually he will move in with his new roommate Sassafras!

Blueberry

Blueberry came to us on July 1, 2018. He was brought to a veterinarian after he was found with a wing injury. Unfortunately, the veterinarian kept Blueberry for many weeks leading to imprinting.

Imprinting, as explained on page 1, is a form of learning, where an animal gains its sense of species identification. Birds do not automatically know what they are when they hatch – they visually imprint on their parents during a critical period of development. After imprinting, they will identify with that species for life. Imprinting for wild birds is crucial to their immediate and long-term survival.

Blueberry lived in an outdoor enclosure with other songbirds (including other non-imprinted Blue Jays) for his entire first summer without any interaction with humans. Unfortunately, the effects of his imprinting were too severe, and he can not be released back into the wild.

You can see Blueberry in his beautiful enclosure at Cedar Run.



Phoebe Muffay

Phoebe was brought to us when her living situation in a home was not working out. Phoebe was born at a skunk breeding facility in May 2018, and had her scent glands removed prior to arriving at Cedar Run. She will now spend the rest of her life with us as an ambassador for her species, educating countless children and adults! Cedar Run does not encourage or promote the breeding or use of skunks as house pets.

Bradley Cooper

Bradley is a Cooper's Hawk that arrived at Cedar Run in June 2018.

He was a nestling that had fallen out of his nest and fractured his right wing; he also suffered trauma to his right leg as a result of the fall. Unfortunately, the fracture in his wing already had healed improperly and we determined he would not be able to fly. After receiving treatment for his other injuries, Cedar Run decided to provide Bradley with a home as a permanent resident. He now lives with our female Cooper's Hawk, Alice Cooper!



Happy to Volunteer!

By Deirdre Radwill



You may ask why a busy, 64-year-old woman would want to immerse herself as a volunteer in the fast paced – intense, challenging, exhausting – world of wildlife care and rehabilitation? I already knew all the perks of volunteerism – “The more we give, the happier we feel.” “Volunteering increases self-

confidence.” “Your role as a volunteer can also give you a sense of pride and identity.”

But did I really want to put on my oldest clothes and never sit down for hours on end, while I did countless loads of laundry, scrubbed floors, cleaned out animal cages, prepared endless dishes of food, washed and sterilized dishes, sterilized animal carriers and containers (and there are so many more tasks)? And the answer? **YES!**

Why? Because I also get to coax baby mammals and birds into taking nourishment, bottle-feed infants, give a baby raccoon or opossum a warm blanket and clean water, hold various species of owls and hawks up-close and personal, and interact with wildlife I never would get a chance to be anywhere near on a normal basis.

A Tremendous Payoff

All of this hard work has a tremendous payoff – I get to witness injured wildlife come into the Cedar Run Hospital and be lovingly cared for and expertly rehabilitated and returned to the wild. What a reward! Plus, I get to do all of this work in the beautiful serenity of the New Jersey Pinelands. I marvel at the complex uniqueness and beauty of each of the mammals, birds, and raptors that I come in contact with on my shift.

The “people side” of Cedar Run has its own perks.

Because so much of the work here involves teamwork, there is a certain *esprit de corps* that I have found in no other workplace. It truly adds to my fulfillment in volunteering at Cedar Run.

Each week I am amazed and awed by the dedication, determination, and patience of both Cedar Run Staff and fellow volunteers. I am uplifted at the way they tirelessly fulfill the Cedar Run Mission. Their spirit and tenacity is contagious and, even though I go home thoroughly exhausted, my heart is uplifted at what I have experienced and witnessed during the course of my shift.

Appreciating the Impact of Cedar Run

Volunteering at Cedar Run has given me the ability to break out of my comfort zone. I am learning how to identify bird and raptor species I do not know. I am eager to learn how to handle, feed, and medicate each species of wildlife, and I experience great self-satisfaction when I do these tasks correctly. Through my volunteer work, I also have learned to never underestimate the importance of this small place in the New Jersey Pinelands!

Volunteering at Cedar Run has helped me appreciate the strength of purpose in the human spirit, the indomitable spirit of all wildlife, and the enigmatic beauty of the New Jersey Pinelands.



Deirdre with wildlife resident Sassy.



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REFUGE VISITING HOURS

Monday – Friday: 9am – 5pm
Saturday & Sunday: 10am – 4pm

+ **WILDLIFE HOSPITAL INTAKE**

Summer: 9am – 7pm
Winter: 9am – 5pm
Seven Days per Week!

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2019 Summer Camp: mark your calendars!

Cedar Run's summer camp sessions run from June 24 to August 23, for pre-school through eighth-grade. Half day* (9am-12pm) or full day (9am-3pm) sessions available, depending on age. *Early bird registration deadline is April 15.* Visit CedarRun.org for pricing and registration information.

- **June 24-28:** Discovery by the Day (K-5th), Fledglings* (Pre-K, ages 3-4)
- **July 1-3: NEW for 2019! Patriotic Family Days (all ages)** Fun for all – with guided hikes, canoeing, crafts, s'mores, and more.
- **July 8-12:** Forest Frolic (2nd-3rd-grade), Awesome Adventurers (4th-5th-grade) and Earth Avengers (6th-8th-grade)
- **July 15-19:** Wild 4 Wildlife (4th-5th-grade), Earth Avengers (6th-8th-grade)
- **July 22-26:** Polliwogs (K-1st-grade), Pond Paradise (2nd-3rd-grade), **Girls Go Wild About STEM** (4th-8th-grade)
- **July 29-August 2:** Polliwogs (K-1st-grade), Forest Frolic (2nd & 3rd-grade), Awesome Adventurers (4th-5th-grade)
- **August 5-9:** Fledglings* (PK, ages 3-4), Polliwogs* (K-1st-grade), Pond Paradise (2nd-3rd-grade)
- **Aug 12-16:** Kids Go Wild About STEM (4th-8th-grade)
- **Aug 19-23:** Discovery by the Day (K-5th-grade)



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