



Woodlands Wildlife Refuge
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NEWS

Comings and Goings - 2005

The icy storms of early spring brought a different start to our usually busy season. It began slowly this year with fewer gray squirrels and late arrivals for several other species. Lucky for us we assumed that Mother Nature would make the necessary adjustments and sure enough, before long we were working at our usual feverish pitch!

Every year is different and unpredictable at Woodlands Wildlife Refuge and each brings its own surprises and stories. This year we worked with many more adult animals than usual during the "baby season". So, along side the infant squirrels, opossums, raccoons, skunks, woodchucks, etc. were their adult counterparts. This was an unexpected opportunity to learn about and see the natural development of several species. Some of these adults brought us surprises of their own! The most notable were an opossum and a skunk that arrived with injuries and while in our care gave birth! Thus came the phrase: "Welcome to Woodlands Wildlife Refuge Spa and Maternity Ward". We are happy to say that all were successfully released. Having that experience and being witness to these incredible Mothers was the best thank you we could ever dream of.

The usual happenings at Woodlands included the intake of a myriad of species to care for and release, new volunteers, new staff, cage building and final renovation work. Throughout the busiest part of the season volunteers and staff gave the best care and kindness to all types of mammals and reptiles. This included a surprise but brief visit by a Copperhead! This was an amazing chance and we appreciated the opportunity.

We had our share of miracles this year, too. Coyotes, raccoons, foxes, and woodchucks that arrived broken by substantial injuries or near death by illnesses that recuperated and were released. Look for their amazing stories in this publication.

Throughout the fall we made up for the slow start of the season with a huge number of infant squirrel and rabbit arrivals as well as very late raccoon infants that will stay the winter.

As we wind down another unusual and very busy year with the last of the releases, we once again experience the bitter sweet of the work we do. We are already planning for next year by asking; how can we do it better, what needs to be changed, what more can we do, etc? We will always be committed to growing and learning and striving to do the best that we can.

As Woodlands Wildlife Refuge looks forward to celebrating its 20th Anniversary we would like to thank all of you for taking the time to care about your wild neighbors.

We wish you all very happy holidays and a great New Year!