



FRIENDS OF WILDLIFE

NEWS

Spring 2007

OUR MISSION

Friends of Wildlife is an independent, non-profit, volunteer organization dedicated to the emergency and extended care of orphaned or injured Michigan wildlife.

Our goal is to rehabilitate these animals in a professional manner that allows them to return to their natural habitat and continue their lives in the manner of that species, independent of humans.

We are licensed by and have a close working relationship with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.

In addition to wildlife rehabilitation, we are vitally interested in education and the broader aspects of protecting and restoring the natural habitat of the world we share.

Friends of Wildlife endorses the high standards set forth by the National Rehabilitators Association and the International Rehabilitators Council.

Rocky, A Squirrel's Story

This was exactly why I became involved with Friends of Wildlife. Animals are brought to me in all forms of health and all types of containers. My co-worker, Lisa, and I have had baby mice in bags, rabbits in buckets, squirrels in boxes, once we got a fish tank with eight hamsters, not to mention one dog and several birds.

These animals are left in Ann Arbor's city parks, sometimes injured, sometimes orphaned. Whatever the reason, animals seem to make their way to the Field Office of Ann Arbor's Parks and Forestry. This day it was a squirrel, handed to me in a raincoat held somewhat like a dirty diaper. Jeff, one of our forestry technicians was the rescuer.



I always ask before opening anything – I hate surprises. So Jeff proceeded to tell me about this little guy. The forestry crew had spotted him injured, making that pitiful, high-pitched scream squirrels can make, in the street near where they were working. The forestry techs work around squirrels all the time – running a stubborn squirrel out of a dead tree slated for removal or moving a whole nest to another tree for the mom to find later. This squirrel proceeded to crawl right under their truck, dragging his head and one of his front legs. Not wanting to run the squirrel over, they reached under the truck, grabbed him by the tail and tossed him into the nearest yard. But he was still moving and screaming. The guys soon found an old raincoat and used it to trap and bundle him up – and that was how “Rocky” came to me.

Carefully moving the raincoat aside, I looked into the box at Rocky, a half-grown fox squirrel now screaming – but not moving. It looked as though he had head trauma and an injury to his shoulder or leg. I didn't think he'd make it through the night.

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Board of Directors

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Hotline Advice

Bat	248-645-3232
Deer	734-670-4343
Fox	734-670-2920
Opossum	734-670-2157
Rabbit	734-670-1407
Raccoon	734-670-2120
Snake	616-789-1930
Squirrel	734-670-2101
Turtle	734-481-1812
Woodchuck	734-670-4317
General Info	734-913-9843

Letter from the Board of Directors

It's spring and our rehabbing season has begun. We are already getting calls!

Over the winter, several good things happened:

- The advanced and basic workshops were wonderful with great turnouts. It looks good for the future of rehabbing here and in adjoining counties.

- Sarah Devaney, a dedicated FOW rehabber, joined the board and will be our new treasurer.

- An ambitious Eagle Scout is making much-needed release cages for many of our animals (please see page 3 for story).

- We had a wonderful response to our fall/winter newsletter. Your support and donations ensured our being able to continue to help thousands of animals this coming season.

In addition to continuing our rescue/rehabilitation work, we also plan on raising public awareness of FOW and have and strengthened our committees to help in that endeavor.

Thank you again for your valuable support and have a wonderful summer.

FOW Board

Please contact us at 734-913-9843 with any comments, questions, thoughts or suggestions. Thank you for your continued support!

Workshop Introduces New Volunteers to Rehabbing

We are happy to report that the Introductory Wildlife Rehabilitation Workshop held Saturday, March 31, was a wonderful success, with more than 30 new attendees present.

The workshop was an introduction to what Friends of Wildlife (FOW) does to help native wildlife in our area. Topics included the history and structure of FOW, Department of Natural Resources (DNR) regulations, immediate care procedures, volunteering, fundraising, and information that will help new volunteers become licensed wildlife rehabilitators with FOW.

Completion of the workshop enables new volunteers to participate in hands-on training sessions covering specific needs of nine native Michigan wildlife.

We thank everyone involved who made the day such a success!



NOTE:
If you'd like to be notified

about next year's workshop, please call 734-913-9843.



NEWS FOR MEMBERS AND REHABBERS

Can't Rehab at Home? Here's Another Way to Help!

Help us help animals by staffing information tables at two important events this summer.

We are looking for volunteers to pass out information about Friends of Wildlife and answer basic wildlife questions (or give the appropriate phone numbers to get those questions answered) to folks who will be enjoying two summertime events in Ann Arbor this year:

- The 7th Annual Green Fair, Friday, June 15 from 5-9 p.m. on Main Street in Ann Arbor
- Huron River Day, Sunday, July 15 at Gallup Park

If you think you'd like to help, please contact Nancy Haddix at NHaddix@comcast.net.

Thanks so much!

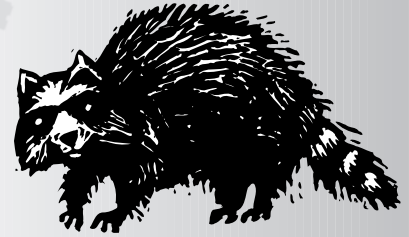


Rehabbers - Please Don't Leave Us Hanging!

We know how busy you can get and we understand if you're unable to take in an animal, but PLEASE return all phone calls from placement people who are looking for foster homes. It's very frustrating to wait on return phone calls which never come thereby delaying calling the next person on the list of interested rehabbers. If you believe that you'll be unable to rehab for the season, please let your placement person know that also. It will save a lot of time for us in the future! Thanks so much!

Friends of Wildlife Holds Advanced Training Workshop

On February 3 of this year, Friends of Wildlife (FOW) held a half-day workshop for members in accordance with DNR licensing rules.

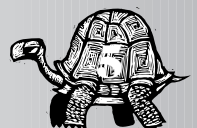


Our speaker, Lisa Fosco, received B.S. degrees from the University of Illinois in Biology and Chemistry. She teaches workshops all over the country, including through the International Wildlife Rehabilitation Council (IWRC) and holds the position of Director of Animal Care for the Ohio Wildlife Center (OWC).

The OWC, a non-profit wildlife rehabilitation organization located in Columbus, Ohio has provided veterinary care and rehabilitation for orphaned and injured wild animals and birds since 1984. More information can be found at their website www.ohiowildlife-center.org.

Fosco discussed initial care and treatment, focusing on assessing newly presented cases, diagnostics, and formulation of treatment plans. More simply – how to really look at an animal during the first hours after he is brought to a rehabilitator and attempt to decide what is wrong with him based on weight, color, general appearance, temperature and manner so as to provide appropriate care and treatment for the animal.

Our thanks to the Friends of Wildlife Board who put together this wonderful workshop and to Lisa Fosco for her extremely educational presentation which was enjoyed by everyone.



Friends of Wildlife

P.O. Box 1505

Ann Arbor, MI 48106



Can You Help?

Any donation made is greatly appreciated by us and the animals who need our help. The amounts listed below are approximate in raising an entire litter of the animal named through to the date of release, though sometimes the expense is considerably more if any are seriously injured.

Rabbit	\$ 20
Squirrel	\$ 25
Snake	\$ 30
Opossum	\$ 30
Turtle	\$ 50
Woodchuck	\$ 65
Raccoon	\$ 130
Fox	\$ 150
Deer	\$ 300

Thank You

- Keith Warner and Serv-All Printing
- Our volunteers who are about to enter into another busy spring/summer season
- Our donors who help make our efforts possible



Wish List

- Release sites on private land
- Heating pads
- Materials for building outdoor cages (wood, wire mesh, etc.)
- Volunteer help in building cages

Eagle Scout Project Gathers New Release Cages for Wildlife!

Last year the Chelsea Boy Scout Troop invited Friends of Wildlife (FOW) to participate in their anniversary celebration by allowing us a public information table at their event where we could raise awareness and funds to help in our efforts of saving orphaned wildlife.

Everyone who stopped by enjoyed talking with FOW rehabbers and learned much about Michigan's wildlife. The day was a success!

That success led to a wonderful surprise when Scout Scott Roblee contacted FOW a couple of months later to offer to build release cages for our soon-to-be-released wildlife as part of his Eagle Scout Project.

Shortly after, Scott joined many FOW rehabbers to exchange ideas and experiences on cage building. Opossum, raccoon, squirrel, fox, deer, and woodchuck rehabbers shared valuable experience with Scott and his Eagle Scout Mentor, Steve Mattison, who was helping Scott with his efforts.

After visiting a variety of existing cages, Scott present-

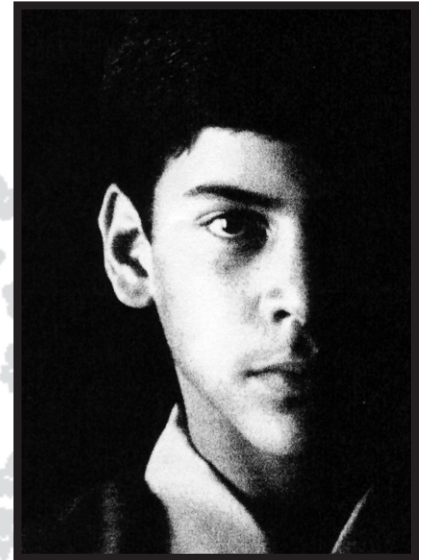
ed the Eagle Scout Project to the FOW Board at their February, 2007 meeting. His ambitious proposal was to build two raccoon release cages 8' x 8' x 8' and two

squirrel release cages 4' x 4' x 8' – and all would be portable. Scott addressed the Board and answered all questions presented. His

proposal was accepted unanimously.

Scott is currently finishing this wonderful project with the help of his fellow troop members. Delivery of all cages is expected by late May of this year.

Chelsea Eagle Scout Scott Roblee took on building much-needed release cages for Friends of Wildlife



If you would like thank Scott or to make a contribution to this project, please call 734-913-9843 and leave your name, phone number, and interest in the cage building project. Your personal information will be forwarded to Scott in a confidential manner.

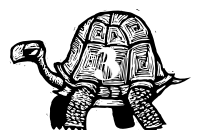
Our heartfelt thanks to Scott, his mentor Steve, and the Chelsea Boy Scout Troop for their wonderful efforts to help our orphaned wildlife!

“The purpose of human life is to serve and to show compassion and the will to help others.”

Albert Schweitzer



Eagle Scout Scott Roblee (left) and his mentor, Steve Mattison, checked out numerous wildlife release cages including this one built for squirrels???? Can someone check to see if info here is correct!!!



continued from cover

At home he was gently placed into a small aquarium which was partially on top of a small heating pad set on low. I gave him a drink of Pedialite through a syringe into his gaping mouth. He wouldn't take much. I moved him as little as possible and in the morning I was happy to see he no longer screamed when he saw me, but took a little water when offered. I knew that without some sign of improvement, euthanization would be necessary.

I placed a small piece of banana near Rocky, hoping against hope he might take it. When I returned later I was thrilled to see the piece was definitely smaller. He continued to improve over the next four days, first dragging himself around the tank and then sitting up.

Once Rocky was sitting he improved quickly. He was soon eating and drinking normally and quickly became "bright-eyed and bushy-tailed" – just like a squirrel should be. To acclimate him to the weather, he was put into a nesting box outside during the day and brought in with his box at night. Each time I neared his cage, he quickly hid inside his box. Fear of humans is always good for wild animals.

I had kept Jeff, his rescuer, updated daily on Rocky's progress and mentioned that he would soon be ready to release – after only two and one-half weeks at my house. Jeff wanted to release Rocky right where he was found and I agreed, as it was best Rocky return to familiar territory – his true home.

As so often happens while rehabilitating wild animals, things do not go as planned. That very night, as Rocky was allowing me to see only his head through the hole in the nesting box, I noticed a slight crustyness on the edge of his ears, a probable sign of mange and a very common problem in squirrels. My hopes of releasing Rocky would

be delayed, at least two more weeks, for treatment.

Although mange is easily treated, it occurred to me that I would have to handle Rocky if I wanted to make sure he took the medicine. Rocky was now a healthy, active squirrel whom I had not touched in more than two weeks – this was not going to be easy. I prepared my syringe of medication and approached the cage confident that, when Rocky was finally released, he would be completely healthy.

My plan would be simple and quick. Trap Rocky in the nesting box, open the side door of the box, hold him firmly, then shoot the dab of medicine into his mouth. How foolish could I be? I had neglected to inform Rocky of my intentions, or even ask for his input, so how could I have possibly expected him to cooperate?

The moment I opened the side door of the nesting box the race was on. Even with my hand over the open door he squeezed through my fingers and up my arm. He raced around my head from shoulder to shoulder and down my back. I was able to grab him off my lower back but realized that I had forgotten to put on my leather gloves (also very foolish). Expecting to be bitten at any moment, I loosened my grip just the slightest – and the race began again. Up my arm and across my shoulders he went, but he never jumped off me. I quickly grabbed and held him with the "squirrel hold" – one finger on top of his head so he couldn't squeeze his shoulders out of my hand. The medicine went into his mouth and he went back into his cage. The whole thing took about 10 seconds, but both of us were out of breath and in shock. Rocky, because of the assumed assault on his life and me, because I wasn't bitten! I would have liked to think that Rocky didn't bite me because he knew I had nursed him back to health, but

let's be real, as far as he was concerned I tried to kill him and, if given another chance, he would educate me on proper squirrel handling.

A week later Rocky's mange had cleared and the release plans were back on. The second dose of medication was given in a grape which Rocky happily ate. Why hadn't I thought of that the first time?

The next morning Rocky went to work with me, ready for release back where he had been found. I left Rocky in the corner of the forestry shop since I knew Jeff was expecting him, but wasn't in yet. It wasn't long before Jeff was in my office questioning if Rocky was even in the cage at all. I assured him that he was just hiding low in the nesting box and that he would have to open the side door to get Rocky out. I never questioned Jeff's ability to release Rocky, since working around squirrels is common practice for our forestry techs.

An hour and a half later Jeff was back with an empty cage. When I asked how it went he smiled and said, "just fine." He had taken the nesting box out of the cage, opened the side door and Rocky "shot out like a bullet" straight toward a row of pine trees. No limps and not even a backward glance. No one would ever have known he was the same injured, screaming squirrel, in the same street, such a short time ago.

Rocky's story had a happy ending, but not without the help of many people besides me. From the forestry rescuers to my co-worker who covers for me so that I can check on injured animals, to my knowledgeable FOW coordinator and my husband and kids who support me in all my animal rehabilitations. Without all of these folks Rocky may not have had the chance to live out his life on a quiet Ann Arbor street.

**By Elaine Bater,
FOW Rehabilitator**

