

A NEWSLETTER FROM WILDLIFE HAVEN~
CENTER FOR REHABILITATION & EDUCATION

Issue 2 - 2009

Wild & Free

Giving Wildlife a Second Chance.....

Take a Walk on the Wild Side with Wildlife Haven & The Columbus Zoo

**Saturday Night, October 17th, 2009
St. Joseph Activity Center
Corner of Liberty St. & Harding Way E. ~ Galion, Ohio**

Show your support of Ohio's wildlife and join us for a wild evening of good food and great entertainment! All proceeds will go directly towards our rehabilitation and education programs.

**6:00 p.m. ~ Hors D'oeuvre Buffet
Non-Alcoholic Cash Bar
Silent Auction
7:00 p.m. ~ A Wild Presentation by the
Columbus Zoo**

Have an up-close look at some fascinating animals. Be sure to bring your camera!

Program will be followed by close of Silent Auction

**\$25 per adult
\$12 per child (under 10)**

Please RSVP by phone, email or mail as soon as possible.
Responses **MUST** be in by October 10th.
Call Jane at 419-683-3228 or email to wildjane@columbus.rr.com



~ A Message from the Director

I realized recently that somehow I got so busy that I missed putting out an issue of this newsletter this year! I'll try to make up for it sometime in the future by sending out something extra.

Our big annual fundraising event, advertised on the front page, is coming up in October and we are already preparing for it - planning the food and gathering items for the Silent Auction. We hope you will mark that date on your calendar and make plans to have a great time with us at ***Walk on the Wild Side***. I can truly say that everyone who attends is glad they did. It is always a wonderful time with good food to enjoy and a fabulous program put on by the Columbus Zoo. Where else would you get the chance to pet an alligator or have a young flamingo dance by your table? You get an enjoyable evening and are also helping to support the work we do at Wildlife Haven! Hope to see you!

A thank you to those who have sent us their email addresses and opted to receive their newsletter electronically. This not only saves us printing and postage costs but it also gives you a much higher quality newsletter with color pictures and crisp, clear text.

After an extremely busy April, May and June things are finally slowing down a bit. There are still baby birds hatching and bunnies and young squirrels being born but the bulk of this year's wildlife young at our clinic have been raised and many have been released or are nearly ready to go. There are always some latecomers...

after having an empty 'nursery' area in the clinic for over a week we now have 6 young opossums and 4 baby rabbits there.

Wildlife Haven

3659 S.R. 598 Crestline OH 44827

Mission Statement

To promote positive attitudes & behaviors towards wildlife and foster awareness, appreciation and interest in Ohio's wildlife through rehabilitation, education and stewardship.

Wildlife Haven was founded in 1990.

Our main focus is on the care of injured, orphaned & displaced wildlife. Wildlife Haven gives professional care to native birds and animals and gives them a second chance at life in the natural world..

Jane Schnelker, Exec. Director

Chuck Cotsmire, Trustee

Dianne McMahon, Trustee

John Shuler, DVM, Trustee

Deb Landin, Trustee

Shannon Henize, Trustee

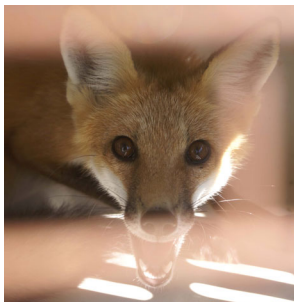
Boyd Epperson, DVM, Advisor

Juanita Carter, Advisor

James Pry, Atty., Advisor

Mike Hocker, Advisor

Yesterday we had the wonderful experience of releasing a young female red fox who had been with us for several weeks after sustaining a head injury when hit by a car. What joy for us to see her able to leave! When she arrived she was nearly comatose and she had problems with walking for awhile. What a difference a little care and time can make!



At left is the fox moments before opening the door to the travel crate. She doesn't look the least bit grateful, ha ha! She stopped and looked back at us for a moment, below, before bounding off into the woodland.

I am so blessed to have this work.....

~ Jane





Make a Gift to Wildlife !

How would you like to give yourself the good feeling of knowing you are helping to make a difference? We're offering our friends and supporters the opportunity to share in helping wildlife by **becoming a member of Wildlife Haven**. Member's support will provide animals in our care with the necessary food, medical care and housing. **The biggest benefit given to members is the knowledge that they are a part of Wildlife Haven and are actively doing something to help the environment on a personal and local level.** Wildlife Haven Annual Memberships run January through December. Simply circle a category, clip out this form and slip it and your dues into the mail to Wildlife Haven, 3659 St. Rt. 598, Crestline, OH 44827-9729!

Wildlife Haven Annual Membership

Name: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

I would like to join in the following membership category: (Circle one)

Regular ~ \$25

Family ~ \$40

Student/Senior ~ \$15

Sustaining ~ \$100

Patron ~ \$250

Benefactor ~ \$500

THE MOST IMPORTANT PERSON AT WILDLIFE HAVEN COULD BE.....

Recognition in this newsletter of Deb Landin is long overdue. She began her association with Wildlife Haven about ten years ago because of a kestrel on her property that was injured. That kestrel brought about an enduring friendship and also got her thoroughly involved in volunteer work at our center.



I can always count on Deb to be there for the animals (and for myself!) . She is always thinking of what's best for each creature in her care... trying to make their lives better while they are in captivity. She cares deeply for each and every one. Deb has formed close relationships with several of our display animals.... Grady the fox, Victor the vulture and Edgar the crow. They look forward to seeing her as much as I do.

I have long depended on her to take care of things here while I am away at conferences or on vacation with Chuck and the dogs. She not only makes the animal's lives better—she makes mine better, too. She has been there for me during crises and losses ~ and she was a wonderful friend to my Mom, too.

We have had our disagreements, our ups and downs, but what friendship doesn't? I feel safe in saying that Deb will always be an important part of my life and of Wildlife Haven.

While Deb might not have started Wildlife Haven and isn't in charge of it, she IS an integral part of what makes this place work. A HUGE thank you for caring so much, Deb.



Wildlife Profile ~ Woodchuck



Hoover, our resident groundhog, inside a squirrel box high on the wall of his pen. Yes, groundhogs DO climb!

Woodchuck

Marmota monax

Mating: Polygamous

Breeding period: March-May with the peak in April

Gestation: 31-32 days

Birth Period: April-early June peak in May

Litters per year: 1

Litter size: 2-7, average of 4-5

Eyes of young open: 4 weeks

Young leave nest 9-11 weeks

Young weaned: at 6 weeks

Breeding age: 1 year

Food: Grasses, clover, alfalfa, soybeans, peas, lettuce, apples, and rarely animal matter such as snails and insects.

When Ohio was first settled, groundhogs, or woodchucks, were a rare sight. However, as Ohio's forested land was cleared for agriculture, the number of groundhogs increased. Today, they can be found in all of Ohio's 88 counties and throughout most of North America.

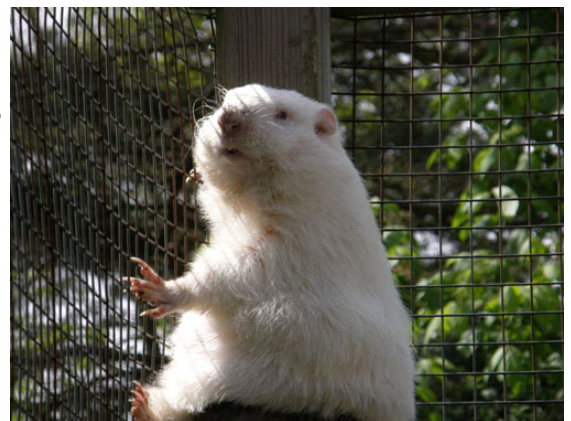
Groundhogs must put on a thick layer of fat to survive their hibernation through the winter months. In the early fall, they begin to ready themselves for hibernation by spending most of their time eating. Hibernation comes to an end as the first warm days of spring arrive.

The head of a woodchuck is broad and flat with small ears and eyes. The coarse fur is usually grizzled grayish brown with a reddish cast. The legs and feet are typically dark brown to black and are well suited for digging. Unlike the dark yellow colored incisors of other rodents, the woodchuck's incisors are white to ivory colored.

Woodchucks live in open grasslands, pastures and woodlands where it is easy to see predators such as man, hawks, or coyotes. Burrows can be in woods, along fencerows, or along stream banks. Some burrows have over 45 feet of tunnels going five feet beneath the surface and there are often several rooms and more than one entrance. The rooms are each used for different purposes such as sleeping, nesting and toilet chambers.

Immediately after coming out of hibernation the male seeks a mate. After mating with one female, the male will usually search for other females to mate with. Some males will stay at the burrow until the female drives him off shortly before she gives birth.

The naked, pink, and helpless newborn groundhogs weigh about 1.5 ounces. The young grow rapidly and by midsummer the den will be overcrowded and the female will drive the young off into nearby burrows, but she will continue to care for them. She guides them in their development until they leave to create territories of their own.



This article is written in loving memory of Sammy, our resident albino groundhog who lived with us for 3 years and passed on last winter. He loved to climb the leaning log in his pen—he could get nearly 7 foot up and then he would perch on top in the sun, as shown in this photo taken during his last autumn with us. We miss him.



Our First Herring Gulls

Most people call them seagulls but there isn't a bird called a seagull! There are Ring-billed, Thayer's, Laughing, Black-backed, Herring and many other kinds of gulls. They are all gulls, not seagulls. This doesn't, of course, stop everyone at Wildlife Haven from called them 'seagulls'! We raised our first three this year and SO enjoyed them. We're looking forward to doing more of them another year.



Learning to feed themselves, Annie with chick & relaxing!



Deb with chicks outdoors for the day - Growing up in outside housing with small pool.



Free on a dock at Dempsey Landing on Marblehead. Enjoying the feel of wind in their wings.



YES! First flight for one of them. What a great feeling to see this!

EarthShare Ohio - Environmental Workplace Giving

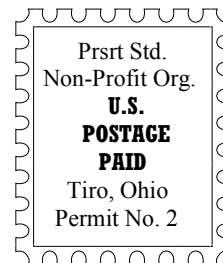
If you already support Wildlife Haven by your designated workplace giving through Earth Share of Ohio, please disregard any funding appeals you may receive from us throughout the year!

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3659 State Route 598
Crestline OH 44827-9729

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Return Service Requested



One environment.
One simple way to care for it.®

Annie, Chloe & Emilee

The mainstay of our workforce this summer has been these three young women.... Annie Reed, Chloe Lewis, and Emilee Fraizer. All have been wonderful workers and are very much appreciated for their efforts on behalf of the wildlife in our care! Annie and Chloe graduated from Galion High School this year and Emilee graduated from the same school last year. All are planning on biology/animal science careers and will be attending Ohio State University.



Emilee on the
right....

Chloe & Annie on
the left.

Thanks so much
for all you've done
this summer!

