

# Animal Tracks™

[The Wildlife Sanctuary](#) 435 Cougar Lane, Ellijay, GA 30540

March 2011

## Tornado Hits Sanctuary - Major Damage

It is now life-or-death for The Wildlife Sanctuary in Ellijay. One of the storms last night unleashed a tornado that hit the sanctuary dead on. We are currently assessing the damage, but most of the habitats have been damaged or destroyed by large trees blown down by the storm that fell on cages and perimeter fences. Electricity and water that runs throughout the sanctuary is out and damaged, with downed lines. We have three people crawling through downed trees and limbs trying to reach and assess all the animals - risky their lives and limbs to do so.

We were working on a two-story building to open as a store and office this spring, but it was heavily damaged, along with the teepees and some of our cabins. The picnic pavillion also has tree damage. We can't even get to all areas of the sanctuary yet because of all the downed trees and damaged property. The early results are that no animals lost their lives in the storm, but their homes have been bent, twisted, busted or collapsed.

We are going to need your help to reconstruct the sanctuary! We are going to try to resurrect it from this damage. Early estimates are over \$150,000 in damages. We have to remove trees, remove damaged habitats, remove damaged buildings, and then rebuild -- essentially from scratch. We will be posting pictures of the damage on our web site, although pictures sometimes don't convey the full impact of the damage.

There is no sense going on and on in this brief report until we have a full assessment, but we don't expect the repairs to be less than six figures. Either we will get the help and support we need right now or we will have to make a final decision about the animals.

Over the last year, we have contacted many parties to see if we could reduce the number of animals at the sanctuary. There were exactly zero takers. Basically, we have no alternative places to put animals, and that has never been our goal. However, nature has a way of forcing your hand.

Please go to our web site and make a donation right now. Please forward this to every animal lover you know, and ask them to forward it to every animal lover they know. We need a major injection of cash right now. There is no other way to put this - dig deep and DONATE!!!

## Wildlife Director Loses Home to Fire - Double Whammy

Debbie Cylke, our Wildlife Director who took over for her husband Craig (Grizzly) after he died, lost her house and all her belongs in a fire this past weekend. Their home was in Murphy, North Carolina, although they virtually lived at the sanctuary. With little income, their insurance lapsed, and their 30 years of possessions and personal sanctuary was a total loss. Now, her beloved wildlife sanctuary has been severely damaged. Talk about a double whammy!

Please help Debbie re-establish her life by saving this sanctuary! Send us a check or go to [www.thewildlifesanctuary.com](http://www.thewildlifesanctuary.com) and make a donation today!

## Chain Saws and Tree Cutters Needed!

Those of you familiar with The Wildlife Sanctuary know we have been living on the financial edge. We don't have the resources to hire a tree service, and many of them are very busy after this damaging storm.

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Tree Crews Needed

**Send to a Friend:** Our sanctuary could use lots of supporters. Please encourage your friends to visit our web site and...

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

### Contact Us:

The Wildlife Sanctuary  
435 Cougar Lane  
Ellijay, GA 30540  
[wildlife@ellijay.com](mailto:wildlife@ellijay.com)  
PH: 706-276-2980

Thank you  
for your  
support to  
Save our  
Wildlife.

Sincerely,  
Debbie Cylke  
Wildlife Director  
and  
Tim Grady,  
Executive Director

**Note:** If you want to be a **Re-Founding Member** of The Wildlife Sanctuary, please call the Executive Director in confidence at 404-574-8119. **Your major donation at this critical time will be vital to our reconstruction of the sanctuary.**

### Spamming

With each newsletter we send, we have one or two people who send Constant Contact a spam complaint. To keep people updated about the sanctuary, we send a monthly newsletter. If you do not want to receive it, please unsubscribe, but don't claim