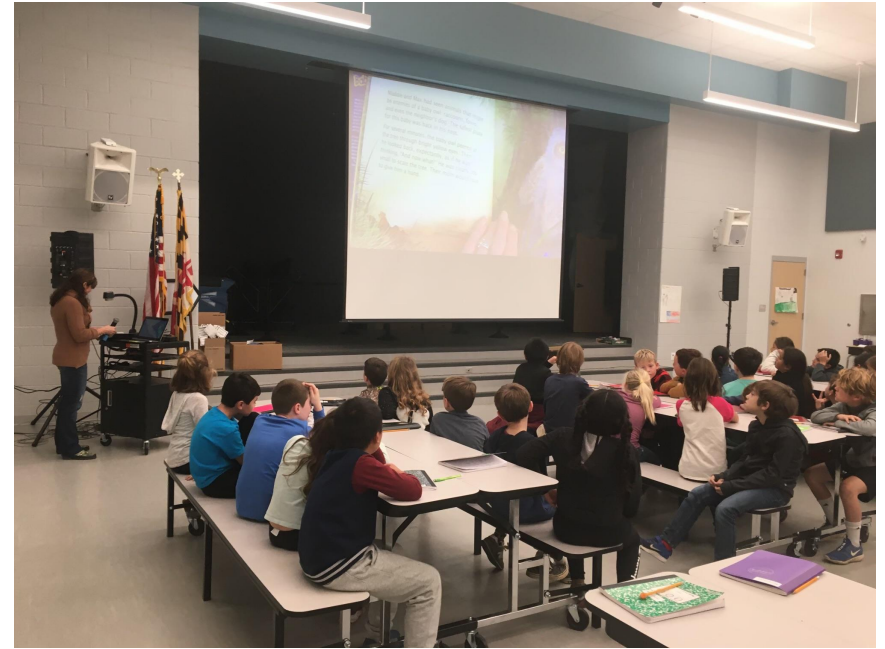


Author Jennifer Keats Curtis visited Third Grade students to share about her experiences working with the local animal rehabilitation center and the Master Wildlife Rehabilitator, Kathy Woods. In preparation for Kathy's visit, students generated a list of questions for the Master Rehabilitator.





Third Grade Teachers are pictured with our Master Wildlife Rehabilitator Kathy Woods. Kathy Woods brought a local wildlife creature, a Screech Owl to visit. The screech owl was injured and brought to the local Wildlife Rehabilitation center. Kathy Woods shared information about an animal rehabilitator job and how students should respond when they find an injured animal in nature. Students learned the importance of helping animals return to their natural habitat.

#### Q&A with Master Wildlife Rehabilitator Kathy Woods

On November 15, 2019, Master Wildlife Rehabilitator Kathy Woods and a screech owl, the second smallest Maryland owl, visited Edgewater Elementary School third graders. Ms. Kathy talked about her job as a wildlife rehabilitator and explained why she had this little raptor. In the wild, the screech owl whinnies like a horse. He would live in a dead tree, in a hole made by a woodpecker. This owl, who does not have a name, was hit by a car. His lower jaw was fractured so his beak is "crossed." He has trouble eating. Ms. Kathy uses a special drill to trim his beak so that he can eat. He was rehabilitated but can't be released because he can't take care of himself in the wild.

Like many animals, this owl likely fell victim to the "legend of the apple core." Someone threw a half-eaten apple from a car window and the apple landed near a road. As a hungry mouse ate the apple core, the screech owl saw the mouse. The owl flew down to grab the mouse and a car hit the owl. Humans can look to the left and look to the right without turning their heads. However, owls cannot move their eyes as they are set in the bone in their head. (Ms. Kathy shared an owl skull with us so that we could see how the eyes are set in the bone.) They have 14 more bones in their necks than humans do so they can turn their heads much farther (270 degrees).

Owls do have big eyes. If our eyes were as big as owl eyes, they'd be as big as oranges.

Ms. Kathy also brought us owl pellets. Owls eat all of their food whole, head first, and what they can't digest comes out much like the way a cat coughs up a fur ball. This pellet is crumbly and when you break it apart, you can see mice bones, lizard bones, and whatever else that owl ate.

## RE: Upcoming Visit

Hi Jennifer,

We are so excited to have you visit Edgewater Elementary School again this year! Our third graders are very excited to meet a real author!

Due to space restrictions and COVID making everything a little more challenging, we were hoping to make a few adjustments to our plan.

Would it be possible to do your initial presentation to all 4 classes separately?

Here's what we're thinking:

November 8- Present to two classes (1 hour with one class, 1 hour with the other class) (1-3 pm)

November 10- Present to two classes (1 hour with one class, 1 hour with the other class) (1-3 pm)

November 12th- 2 hour early dismissal so I don't know if we can meet this day?

November 15th- Float between the 4 writing classes to support with the writing process (1-3 pm)

November 17th- Final visit- Could possibly do all together in the from 2-3 pm in the cafeteria. We would like to have Kathy visit virtually.

Let me know your thoughts. I know this is different than we originally planned so we can be flexible if this will not work.

Thank you again,  
Sarah

Sarah Schreffler  
Third Grade Teacher

Third grade teachers communicate with author, Jennifer Keats Curtis and Master Wildlife Rehabilitator, Kathy Wood to coordinate an on-going cross curricular unit of study focused on the community's role in helping animals return to their natural habitats.