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WINTER WILDLIFE IN CHEROKEE COUNTY

By Patricia Bowen, Cherokee County Master Gardener

I grew up in the urban Northeast, where the snow came up to my short knees in winter when I walked to school as a little girl. If I ventured out in my neighborhood, I might see squirrel tracks in the park, footprints of dogs being walked next to the sidewalk by their owners, the boot tracks of people; nothing unusual.

While I'm not a fan of even our short winters in Cherokee County, I must say I LOVE any dusting of snow here. It shows the animal traffic on my long driveway, down by the creek, and on the trails in my woods, and I follow wherever they lead, as far as I can. Tracks of deer, opossum, raccoons, rabbits, coyotes, squirrels, turkeys, even bobcat, prove they coexist here with me.

As animals lose habitat in our county due to land development for

homes, schools, and businesses, we'll see more and more evidence of their presence. They'll be competing for food and shelter and becoming more acclimated to human company. So, should you break down and feed them and provide them some form of shelter or not? If you do, they'll remember your address and may come back, or even set up residence near your home, eat your plantings, da(g)-10()684 Do Q77.4 693 5.04 5.04 reft-9.12 -9.1199 630.24 810.24 reW*n0.07 0 0 0.070001 70.07

Newsletter for the Cherokee County Master Gardeners

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Step Four

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• Watch for camellia buds that have brown spots on the edges and then spread to the entire flower. This is petal blight. Remove and destroy any buds showing symptoms.