

March 21, 2002

We saw Twiggy the water-skiing squirrel at the Home and Garden Show in Lansing last weekend. He skied behind a little remote-control speedboat in a round, 15' diameter plastic wading pool. The skis were attached to the back of the boat, so he didn't really water ski. He just held on and looked intense.

His keeper is a woman who calls herself his "mommy". She carries him around inside her blouse. She is from Florida, and she has been touring with water-skiing squirrels for 20 years. In that time, she has had 7 squirrels. The first one was a baby rescued after it fell out of its nest. They raised it their house, where it ate all the leaves off their houseplants and as a result got the name Twiggy. At some point, her husband got the idea to try to get Twiggy to ski behind his toy speedboat. It worked, and soon they were putting on shows.

I don't know what kind of squirrel it was. Not a fox squirrel. Maybe a gray squirrel. The handlers have become licensed animal rehabilitators, and after the original Twiggy died, their performing squirrels have been recruited from babies brought in for rehabilitation.

I think I need a squirrel.

In other news, Carol is all set to get trained to do neurofeedback. The training is in White Plains, New York, the first week of May. Soon she will be making big bucks.

I have been writing a small book about my exploits at the Michigan Department of Social Services in the 70's. My memory of those events is not so good, but I have an amazing collection of memos. The sad thing is the realization is that my career peaked at age of 35.

Steve