

# MIETRO

MONDAY, APRIL 12, 1999



BY JAMES M. THRESHER—THE WASHINGTON POST

This beaver, a yearling of undetermined sex, was released at an undisclosed site after it was caught in the Washington Channel entrance to the Tidal Basin.

## *Second Celebrity Beaver Moved Out of Limelight*

By ERIC LIPTON  
*Washington Post Staff Writer*

Another of the city's celebrity beavers was taken into federal custody yesterday, then resettled in an undisclosed location where the critter will no longer chew up national treasures.

The beaver, a yearling of undetermined sex, and an adult female seized Friday night were released shortly after being captured, though federal wildlife officials are keeping their new habitat a secret. They are afraid that the frenzy surrounding their discovery will follow them to their new home, where the beavers are free to chew as they choose.

"These guys have become celebrities," said Julia Long, a behavioral ecologist with the National Park Service, recounting how reporters from around the country have pressed her for beaver facts. "It is time to respect their privacy and let them have a little peace and quiet."

There were no signs yesterday of additional damage to the Tidal Basin's famous flowering Yoshino cherry trees after four of them, along with five cedar trees, were felled by the chisel-toothed rodents. But the trappers hired to capture the animals are still hunting for a third beaver.

"Hopefully, this will be the last

See BEAVER, B4, Col. 1





Photo by Tippi Nicole Thole/The Washington Times

John Adcock Jr. demonstrates a "Hancock" trap, which is baited with a beaver scent and willow tree branches.

## BEAVERS

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College Park caught an adult female beaver Friday and a yearling of an undetermined sex Sunday. Park Service officials relocated the beavers together, similar to the FBI's witness-protection program, at a safe house in a location they refuse to disclose.

"These beavers have attracted a lot of attention, and for their protection and privacy we will not reveal that information," said Ms. Long.

Park Service officials should disclose the location to let the public know the beavers are safe, said Sherri Tippie, president of Denver-based Wildlife 2000, which assists people trying to survive beavers in cities.

"That just bothers me that they are being so secretive," Miss Tippie said. "When they turn them loose, no one will be able to find them. People care about these animals and should know where they

have been located."

Small mammal experts are concerned that the Park Service has split up a beaver nuclear family.

"If the third beaver is a 1-year-old, it definitely would have been better to keep the family together," said Sharon Brown, director of the New York state-based Beavers: Wetlands & Wildlife. "Generally, the beavers do stay with their parents until they are 2 years old."

John Adcock Jr., manager of Adcock's Trapping Service, said it should be easy for the beavers to reunite because the rodents — they have the cunning of their cousins, the rats — leave their scent in areas to mark their territories.

Stephanie Boyles, a wildlife caseworker for People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, suggested the Park Service should have left the beavers in the Tidal Basin.

"I'm beginning to wonder how many animals they are dealing with here," Ms. Boyles said. "Maybe such a quick response would not

have been the best thing."

Impossible, Mr. Adcock said. "They would destroy the Tidal Basin," he said. "They would devastate the trees."

Mr. Adcock's company planned to resume trapping last night, when cherry blossom sightseers were expected to leave the Tidal Basin.

Trappers caught the first beaver Friday after they saw her swim into a storm drain. They flushed the beaver out of the drain and into a box-shaped trap, called a "Tomahawk." The beaver stepped on a lever in the Tomahawk that automatically closed a trap door behind it.

Adcock's Trapping Service caught the yearling Sunday using a suitcase-shaped "Hancock" trap baited with a beaver scent and willow tree branches. The trap snapped shut when the beaver went for the bait.

"One thing that was surprising was how comfortable with people they are," Mr. Adcock said about the beavers.