

# Michigan's Official Groundhog!



Howell Nature Center's  
**Woody the Woodchuck**

## Woody's Record

Born: May 1998

Arrived at Howell Nature Center: June 1998



Year	Prediction	Right/Wrong
1999	Shadow/Late Spring	Right
2000	No Shadow/Early Spring	Right
2001	No Shadow/Early Spring	Wrong
2002	Shadow/Late Spring	Right
2003	Shadow/Late Spring	Right
2004	No Shadow/Early Spring	Right
2005	No Shadow/Early Spring	Wrong
2006	Shadow/Late Spring	Right
2007	No Shadow/Early Spring	Right
2008	No Shadow/Early Spring	Wrong
2009	Shadow/Late Spring	Right
2010	Shadow/Late Spring	Right
2011	Shadow/Late Spring	Right
2012	No Shadow/Early Spring	Right
2013	No Shadow/Early Spring	Wrong
2014	Shadow/Late Spring	Right
2015	Shadow/Late Spring (Murray)	???

 <b><u>Super Bowl Picks</u></b>		
Year	Team	Right/Wrong
2006	Seattle	Wrong
2007	Colts	Right
2008	Giants	Right
2009	Pittsburgh	Right
2010	Colts	Wrong
2011	Packers	Right
2012	Giants	Right
2013	Ravens	Right
2014	Broncos	Wrong
2015	Seahawks	Wrong



## Woody thru the years...

### 1999 - 1st prediction

Nancy Sloan and Dick Grant came up with the idea a couple of days before Groundhog's Day. The Ann Arbor News and Livingston County Press and Argus covered it and the prediction had about five people in attendance. Woody's house was a hole dug into the side of a hill near the where the gate is in now for Wild Wonders. Woody was up against the Woodchuck in Oxford. Woody saw her shadow She was Right!

### 2000

First year in a "Dog' House put out in front of Pineview Lodge. This was the first timed appearance of Woody. Woody predicted an early spring and she was Right!

### 2001

Year with the Spaghetti Dinner inside Pineview Lodge. The time keeping was brought into question this year. Woody's prediction was out the back door of Pineview Lodge. Channel 7 and Mary Conway were out for this. Woody predicted an early spring and was Wrong.

### 2002

This year took place at Pineview Lodge. There was not a lot of publicity for this, as it was on a Saturday. There was a pancake breakfast after. About 70 people turned out. She saw her shadow - six more weeks of winter. Right!

### 2003

This year we tried something a little different. We had the prediction at Woody's cage and had a scavenger hunt after. Channel 10 picked it up. About 70-80 people showed up. Woody saw her shadow – late spring - Right!

### 2004

This year we moved it back to the front area by Pineview. It was on the ground near Grant's Creek. There was a continental breakfast and about 50 people showed on this cold morning. She did not see her shadow. Right

### 2005

Still on the grass carpet near Grant's Creek. The kids of Okemos came down to balloon the crowd to over 100. It was also the year that Woody went to Oxford to make a prediction. No Shadow/Early Spring - Wrong!

### 2006

The year that Dick made the comment about how male Groundhog's mate and then get hit by cars, went all over the country. P.E.I. and all points between. Paper Mache stump on stage. Shadow/late spring - Right! First year for Super Bowl Prediction on WHMI. Super Bowl - Seattle - Wrong!

### 2007

Second year for stage. This happened on a Friday. This year Mr. Grant went down to channel 4 for spot. This day filled with radio stations. Cold clear morning. No Shadow/early spring - right!  
Super Bowl - Indianapolis Colts - Right!

### 2008

This prediction happened on a Saturday. We had Woody on stage and she predicted another early spring. We had a pancake breakfast afterwards. Woody was wrong! Super Bowl - Giants - Right!

### 2009

This year was cold and people started to dress up. Woody never came out, not at all. Mr. Grant wore shorts for first time. Late Spring - Right! Super Bowl - Pittsburgh - Right!

### 2010

Woody came out on this cold morning and back in calling for a late spring. She was right.  
Super Bowl - Colts - Wrong!

### 2011

Groundhog's Day Blizzard of 2011. Only a few ventured out. Woody came out and went back in. Six more weeks of Winter—Right! Super Bowl - Packers - Right!

### 2012

Largest crowd ever! 150-200 people. Ryan did a warm up and Dana and Dick came out at 8am. Woody came out and almost went back in! Channel 2 had a live feed! AP wire all over the country! Continental Breakfast. Super Bowl - Giants - Right! Early Spring—YES!

### 2013

Another big crowd with live TV coverage early on. This year featured a visit by Brian Wood & The Troubadads, who taught us their exclusive Groundhog's Day song. Although she appeared indecisive, Woody predicted an early spring and was wrong. Her Super Bowl pick, the Baltimore Ravens, was correct.

When the first day of spring 2013 came with no sign of warming temperatures, Woody was compelled to admit her error.

### 2014

With temperatures hovering in the low 20s and several inches of snow on the ground, Woody declined to exit her house at all, signaling six more weeks of winter. An estimated 200 spectators came out to witness Woody's prediction, which was correct.

Woody chose the Denver Broncos to win the Super Bowl and like many, if not most, experts, she was wrong.

### 2015

Woody was sidelined by an upper respiratory infection this year, so she tapped young Murray to perform her annual duties. When a winter storm dumped a foot of snow on the ground on February first, many Groundhog Day fans stayed safe at home. A small group of diehard groundhog watchers saw Murray correctly predict six more weeks of winter.

Murray chose the Seattle Seahawks to win the Super Bowl and was as shocked as anyone by the New England Patriots' upset win.