

The BEAVER DEFENDERS

They shall never be trapped anymore.

January 2004



Photo by Alfred A. Francesconi

The Eastern Screech Owl
(Otus asio)

The BEAVER DEFENDERS

A Quarterly Publication



Unexpected Wildlife Refuge, Inc.

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Sarah Summerville, Editor

January 2004

Happy New Year!

It is hard to believe that 2003 is over already. The year passed quickly, bringing both good and bad into our lives. With support from Beaver Defenders and Friends of the Refuge, Unexpected finally purchased Lot 13. We saved another 67 acres from development and hunting, and secured another beaver colony from trappers. We are now a 610 acre haven for wild animals to live their lives in peace.

Deer season is almost over, thankfully, and so far we have had no major problems. The deer stands that were located on the new property were removed, and there has been no evidence of poaching or trespassing to date. Thanks so much to those of you who have taken a little time out of your busy lives to patrol. We could not protect the Refuge without you! We will be patrolling until January 31st, call if you can walk for wildlife at Unexpected.

The beavers are still lying low here at the Refuge. They are taking the poplar that I leave when the spirit moves them, but they are still unpredictable and very inconspicuous. They leave their evidence scattered all over the dike in the form of peeled sticks and scat, like so many messy children. The pond has iced over several times this winter, and the beavers swim under this thin cold sheet to fetch the branches at the cove. They leave frozen trails in the pond like soft iridescent ribbons decorated with brilliant little bubbles that glitter like diamonds in the sun.

Beavers are to Defend

Due to increased development in inappropriate areas and an unseasonably wet year, beavers are

certainly making their presence felt elsewhere. We are getting calls and articles about beaver-human conflicts from all over the U.S.



Representatives in Massachusetts want to repeal the 1996 Wildlife Protection Act, allowing, among other things, trapping with leghold traps, something that has not been permitted for decades. Too many communities are resorting to lethal beaver management, due either to ignorance or arrogance. Many groups like Beaver Defenders, Beavers: Wetlands & Wildlife, PETA and the Fund for Animals, to name just a few, are working hard to educate others on humane beaver-human co-existence.

Beavers are to Befriend

Here in Buena Vista Township, our public works director, Rich Calareso, contacted me to help resolve a beaver problem on Jackson Road; apparently beavers were blocking a culvert and flooding the human homes upstream. Perhaps they thought they were helping their human neighbors - safe homes are supposed to be under water, right?

It was thrilling to hear Rich say that he would like to come to a humane, long term solution to the problem. We provided literature and information that will allow the department to construct a fence enclosure and prevent future flooding.

Some Interesting Visitors

In mid-October, Freya Dinshah, President of the American Vegan Society, Malaga, N.J., brought her most recent guest, Anthony Marr, to the Refuge for a meet and greet.

Anthony Marr is a world-known Bengal Tiger preservationist who has conducted three major expeditions in deep rural India and undercover operations in both Asia and America. On home turf in Canada he is known as a foremost anti-hunting activist, especially against the Western Canada Grizzly Bear Trophy Hunt on which he has conducted several long road tours throughout BC, and against the horrendous Canada Commercial Seal Hunt. His energy and intensity is infectious.

Anthony is traveling with health and nutritional expert, Brenda Davis, RD, and her son Cory, on a 7 month, 41 state, 4 province tour called the Compassion for Animals Road Expedition (CARE). Their goal is to promote compassion for animals and vegetarianism by sound knowledge, to introduce the Omniscientific Cosmology and to launch the Global Anti-Hunting Coalition. Their CARE-a-Van, an RV towing a trailer equipped with the 54" Raw Truth TV, travels from city to city, where they show footage on everything from factory farms to trophy hunting. They are also speaking at Universities, public schools, hospitals, bookstores and other forums and are also available for radio and television interviews.

For more information about experiencing this event, or scheduling Raw Truth TV at a function, please visit www.hope-care.org, or contact Anthony at 925.788.8296 and Brenda at 631.286.1343. You can always call Unexpected for more information.

Now for the Bad News

The recent acts of our State and Federal governments is certainly nothing to cheer about in the new year. New Jersey Governor Jim McGreevey and NJDEP Commissioner Bradley Campbell turned their backs on the bears of Northern New Jersey in December, allowing 328 innocent animals to be turned into rugs and roasts. The administration betrayed the bears, they ignored the voice of those opposed to the slaughter and they totally disregarded an opportunity to manage this precious bear population humanely through a privately funded sterilization program. Governor McGreevey truly deceived the humane voters who supported him in his election.

Not only did the NJDEP allow the bear trophy hunt to go forward, in 2003 they blessed the gassing of thousands of innocent Canada Geese inhabiting public lands, ignoring an independent public poll that opposed

this brutal act. These helpless creatures were rounded up during molting season, when they were unable to fly, and stuffed into gassing trucks. Of course let us not forget the ongoing torture of Princeton's deer populations through net and bolt and sharpshooter tactics.

On a larger scale, last year, as in the previous two, the Bush administration continued to gut our environmental protection acts in ways that completely boggle the mind, destroying habitat, giving away our public land and resources to big business and exposing millions of Americans to filthy air, water and food. This administration will continue to erode our rights, violate our constitution and ransack our nation all in the name of homeland security and the almighty dollar.

And Here's the Good News

Regardless of these, and other transgressions in responsible leadership, we Americans are some of the luckiest people on Planet Earth. We have the right to speak our minds and protest, vote for and criticize (*and praise* - don't forget that one) our elected officials. And yes, sometimes our work for greater good seems to fall on deaf ears, as in the NJ bear debacle. We cannot stop pushing, asking, demanding or pleading for justice. Pick up your pen and write one letter to one representative. Grab the phone and speak your mind. You pick the topic, you pick the recipient. Do this once a week, and it will become a very positive, cathartic exercise in your life; like cleaning house or taking out the garbage. Yes! *Let's take out the garbage!* It is your right, and it could make all the difference in the world to someone who cannot write in their own defense.



The First Amendment

- Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

Decent human beings abhor hunting's senseless carnage

In his misinformed Sept. 8 letter, "Animal-rights activists should get a clue," Mark Snyder claims that animal-rights activists know nothing about hunting. We do know the facts about hunting that hunters -- and the state and federal fish and wildlife agencies, who pander to them -- attempt to hide from the public.

Animals, when not exploited by humans, keep their numbers in balance with available resources -- something humans should emulate. Hunting increases the population, as the drop in numbers, following the slaughter, stimulates increased reproduction.

Fish and wildlife agencies, whose salaries are paid for by the sale of hunting licenses, know and exploit this. With the exception of one public member, who is not anti-hunting, all state Fish and Game Council members are pro-hunting.

Through habitat manipulation and hunting, animal populations are intentionally increased. The next part of the devious plan is to demonize the animals so that the public will accept the "solution" -- more killing, which will further increase the population. The fees that hunters pay to kill animals go entirely toward killing more wildlife.

Snyder calls activists hypocrites for eating and wearing animals. Animal-rights activists practice and promote veganism. We strive to live as cruelty-free a lifestyle as possible in a society dominated by industries based on cruelty. Even those who have not yet graduated to veganism, however, can oppose hunting, fur and other evils visited upon animals.

Snyder is "disgusted" that people want to stop the carnage he believes he has the right to enjoy. The rights of the victims to remain alive and free of exploitation always trump the rights of their tormentors to exploit them.

Snyder says: "Just don't try and take away what we enjoy. Don't bother us, and we won't bother you." Spiritual evolution is driven by the recognition that we are responsible for how our actions affect others.

Snyder is free to enjoy activities that others find boring, but decency compels compassionate people to stop him from killing those who cannot defend themselves from his depraved hobby.

Susan Gordon, North Plainfield, NJ

(responding to a letter to the editor appearing in the Home Tribune News, 9/8/03)

Winged Migration

There has been so much controversy about hunting in New Jersey. Every year the arguments rage between animal advocates and the state's department of fish and wildlife about whether there is a problem with deer overpopulation, and if there is, how to deal with it.

A couple of years ago, coyotes became a big issue, and hunters clamored for the right to kill these wild canines.

This year, the state has declared that black bears are too abundant. Bears are accused of raiding bird feeders and trash cans, and intimidating people in their own backyards. A hunt has been approved to kill the surplus.

Also, this year, mute swans have been declared a nuisance. Claims are made that these birds have destroyed habitat for other species, and efforts are being made to hunt and kill them.

And this year, resident Canada geese have become a hot target, mostly because their

droppings are messy. The state has issued permits for geese by the hundreds, and even thousands, to be rounded up when they are molting, a time when they cannot fly away. They are loaded into specially designed trucks and killed with poison gas, their bodies dumped into landfills.

The animal activists try to raise public outrage at the killing, saying there must be a better way to deal with wild creatures than this. The authorities, made up of hunters, reply that the animals are a renewable resource and their numbers must be managed by harvesting them.

I read a review, written by Roger Ebert, about the movie, "Winged Migration." At the end of his comments, Mr. Ebert makes a statement that seems quite relevant. Although he is neither an animal rights activist nor a fish and game partisan, he sees what is essentially wrong with the approach taken by the government.

"... Life is a hard business, and birds work full time at it. I was shocked by a sequence showing ducks in magnificent flight against the sky, and then dropping one by one as hunters kill them. The birds have flown exhaustingly for days to arrive at this end. It's not so much that I blame the hunters as that I wish the ducks could shoot back."

Maureen Koplow, Deptford, NJ

LETTERS



Canada Geese Pose less of a Health Threat than Human Toddlers or Family Pets

Health experts from the Harvard School of Public Health, the NJ Department of Health and even the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service refute claims that Canada geese pose a health threat to humans. The NJ Department of Health further reports that geese are wrongly blamed for beach closings.

The rhetoric is pretextual and used to justify gassing. The facts are these: Three years ago, Dr. Timothy Ford, professor at Harvard School of Public Health, told me: "Numbers of *Cryptosporidium* oocysts [eggs] associated with Canada geese and waterfowl in general are likely to be minimal, unimportant relative to the potential for oocysts shed from other forms of wildlife and humans. In my mind, there is no possibility that the Canada goose will ever be a major route of infection. To suggest otherwise is utterly ludicrous and you can quote me." Ford is the author of "Microbiological Safety of Drinking Water: United States and Global Perspective 1990." He is the expert health officials go to when they want to know the facts.

Dave Adam, coordinator of Health Projects, Vector Control, Infectious and Zoonotic Disease Program, NJ Department of Health, writes that the role of Canada geese in transmission of *Cryptosporidium* or *Giardia* appears to be small compared with other modes of transmission." Adam points out that Canada geese are wrongly blamed for beach closings: "A number of beach closings including several in NJ have been attributed to goose droppings. However, research on this subject has usually found very low levels of bacteria such as *Salmonella* sp. in the species of waterfowl not exposed to human sewage effluent."



With a plethora of pro-kill state, federal and county sources eager to establish any connection, none has been established. Few species, most especially man, whose feces is by far the most bacteria-laden and potent polluter, could withstand such scrutiny. Only recently, the National Wildlife Health Center confirmed that there is no threat from the geese. It is humans and mammals who spread *Giardia* to geese. According to Adam: these infections are most commonly transmitted to humans by person-to-person fecal-oral contamination or by water fecally contaminated by humans or other mammals. Infection is usually asymptomatic, with children infected more frequently than adults, often in the day care setting."

Ironical, very sad, and a stone-cold fact: the minority of farm mongers standing up at public hearings and pointing the finger at geese pose more of a threat than the birds.

Susan Russell, Policy Director, Center for Animal Protection
P.O. Box 253, Rumson, NJ 07760
732.219.9033 serussell@monmouth.com

NEW YORK GOVERNOR PATAKI APPROVES "CANNED SHOOTING" OF ANIMALS

Despite overwhelming legislative support and thousands of calls flooding his office, NY Gov. Pataki vetoed a bill that would have banned the inhumane trophy shooting of exotic mammals held captive on fenced property, so long as the "canned hunts" take place on property greater than 10 acres.

Whether eleven acres or eleven hundred, guides who work at canned hunts know where the animals feed, know how to trap the animals in corners of fences, and accompany their clients to guaranteed shots at point-blank range.



Governor Pataki's decision to veto this much-needed legislation will result in untold suffering for wild animals.

Call Pataki's office and let him know how you feel about his veto of S.2735a, and for his complete disregard for the animals and for public sentiment. PLEASE CALL

Phone: 518-474-8390 Fax: 518-474-1513

IN MEMORY OF RAY DAVIS

This issue of the Beaver Defenders is dedicated to the memory of Ray Davis, an avid birder and an highly regarded nature photographer, who passed away on November 16, 2003.

Shortly after coming to Unexpected, I stumbled across Ray in the Poplar Patch. He was photographing the ruby throated hummingbirds; luring them to the crabapple tree in an attempt to achieve the "perfect shot". Soft spoken and smiling, he questioned me at length, mostly about my intent here at the Refuge. I was touched by his concern for the future of this sanctuary that he had been a part of for so long. Ray showed up at the Refuge unexpectedly the next day to help pull an old rusty chain link fence from the cove with his Suburban. Shortly thereafter, Ray donated a very useful slide projector to Unexpected.



Over the past 40 years, Ray has spent countless hours at Unexpected, photographing bats, beavers, bees and birds. Ray's memory here, through his nest boxes, spectacular photography and financial support, will remain alive forever.

BEAVER AND HUMAN COLONIES

A beaver colony in the wilds gives a touch of romance and a rare charm to the outdoors. -- from *In Beaver World* by Enos Mills (1913).

Earth Day and the beavers here at the Stillman Nature Center leads me to Enos Mills. Long before April 22nd was dubbed Earth Day, it was Enos Mills' birthday. He was born in 1870.

Who was he? A dedicated conservationist who settled in Estes Park, Colorado. Once there, he worked tirelessly for the creation of Rocky Mountain National Park which was established by Congress in 1915. The *Denver Post* dubbed him "The Father of Rocky Mountain National Park." As the opening quotation suggests, he was also an author.



As you might expect, *In Beaver World*, is set in what is now the National Park.

In 1991, I reviewed *In Beaver World* (which had been reissued by the University of Nebraska Press) for a couple of environmental publications. I shared the review with a friend who was a ranger at the Park. He, in turn, shared it with a member of his congregation, Enda (yes, Enda) Mills, Enos' daughter.

Beavers in Illinois

A hundred years ago, when Enos Mills was watching his Colorado beavers, they had been nearly or entirely exterminated here in Illinois. At one time, they were common in the state.

In describing his second trip to Illinois (1674 - 1675), Father Marquette said that the local Indians gave beaver skins as gifts. Before the interior, low-lying areas of Illinois were drained, beavers were present. Early settlers in Champaign County found beavers and beaver dams.

Ninety years ago, Mills saw what was happening, "In the golden age of the beaver, their countless colonies clustered all over our land." He continues, "Elm avenues now arch where the low-growing willow drooped across the [beaver-dug] canal, and a populous village stands upon the seat of a primitive and forgotten colony." Mills would be surprised to learn that in many

of our suburbs today, a healthy beaver might be easier to find than a thriving elm.

How did the beavers return to Illinois? With a little help from Uncle Sam. As early as 1929, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (which is celebrating its 100th year) released a pair on the Savanna Army Depot. In the 1930s, the Forest Service also sponsored beaver releases in Illinois. Others, no doubt, came on their own from neighboring states.

Beaver Problems?

Beavers are now so plentiful that some villages are trapping them because they are cutting residents' trees. Good luck with the trapping. In a Tennessee study, 169 resident beavers were removed from a wetland site. Within a few years, 162 new beavers had moved in. Migrating two-year-olds, in search of new territory, often move into the vacated ponds and lodges.

Protecting the more valuable trees would be a better solution. I suggest stopping at a hardware store and buying a roll of heavy gauge wire mesh (4 feet high with 2" by 4" squares). Form a cylinder with the wire and place it around the tree. Leave about five to six inches between the tree and the freestanding cylinder. As long as the wire is flush with the ground, the beaver should not go under it.

Back to Colorado

Since reviewing *In Beaver World*, I've had a chance to visit with Enda Mills. Despite being only three when her father died in 1922, she has done an honorable job of looking after his cabin in the Rockies and keeping his memory alive.

It is a sense of history that Stillman's beavers inspires in me. As Mills correctly observed, "The beaver hastened, if it did not bring, the settlement of the country." Voyageurs, and the fur companies behind them, opened pathways and established trading posts across the continent. When the supply of beavers was exhausted, the settlements often remained.

Now, the once-rare beavers are colonizing our human landscapes. Somehow, that only seems appropriate.

(Mark Spreyer is the Director of the Stillman Nature Center, 33 West Penny Road, Barrington, IL 60010)

There is Trouble Brewing in Massachussetts! Please help to Stop the Reintroduction of Steel Leghold and Other Body-Gripping Traps (from MSPCA)

Did you know that several bills have been introduced into the Massachusetts state legislature that would bring back the use of body-gripping traps without restrictions? H. 200 and H. 4283 have been filed to not only repeal the "Wildlife Protection Act" that restricts the use of body-gripping traps to capture animals, but allow steel leghold traps on land for the first time in decades!

The MSPCA is OPPOSED to H. 200 and H. 4283; H. 200 which would allow the conibear trap to be used for trapping without the restrictions. H. 4283 would allow the use of all traps, including steel leghold traps on land.

THE FACTS ABOUT THESE BILLS

* Changes to the trapping law were made recently -- in 2000. The current law is reasonable and was carefully considered and adopted by the Massachusetts Legislature just a couple of years ago.

* When used properly, the law is working as intended. It encourages the use of non-lethal, cost-effective and long-term alternatives to trapping - such as water control devices to prevent property damage.

* These bills will not control the beaver population. Recreational trappers number less than 300, only about 100 of which are active. The beaver population in Massachusetts steadily increased when conibear traps were unrestricted - from 12,800 in 1993 to 24,000 in 1996, according to MassWildlife. Trapping has declined in Massachusetts as it has across the country.

* These body-gripping traps are inhumane. The conibear is not a "quick-kill-trap" as is claimed, but rather a trap that takes from one to more than eleven minutes to kill a beaver. The steel jaw leghold trap is an unusually cruel trap that often results in limb amputations, fractures, and agonizingly slow deaths for captured animals. This trap has been banned in 80 countries around the world. Both the conibear and leghold traps do not discriminate, killing and injuring non-target species, including companion animals.



* Allowing the use of body-gripping traps without restrictions will not result in less beaver-related flooding. Non-lethal solutions like water flow devices work and are cost-effective, solving problems for the long-term. Between July, 2000 and November 2003, more than 235 devices were installed by one company alone - Beaver Solutions. Trapping is a "band aid," at best - removing animals from good habitat only make it available to others, and the problem cycle begins again; if one insists on trapping, it can legally be done under current law.

Please contact the Bill sponsor and copy supporters to voice your opposition to these bills.

Representative Mark Carron (D) Sponsor

Room 33, State House, Boston, MA 02133
(617) 722-2060 / Rep.MarkCarron@hou.state.ma.us

Representative Brian Knuuttila (D)

Room 166, State House, Boston MA 02133
(617) 722-2900 / Rep.BrianKnuuttila@hou.state.ma.us

Representative James Eldridge (D)

Room 33, State House, Boston MA 02133
(617) 722-2060 / Rep.JamesEldridge@hou.state.ma.us

Senator Pam Resor (D)

Room 410, State House, Boston MA 02133
(617) 722-1120 / Presor@senate.state.ma.us

Other contacts include the **Committee on Natural Resources and Agriculture** at Room 473, State House, Boston MA 02133 (617) 722-2210

And of course, **Governor Mitt Romney (R)**

Office of the Governor, Room 306, Boston MA 02133
(617) 722-4005 / Goffice@state.ma.us

For more information on how to resolve beaver - human conflicts under the current law, contact the MSPCA's Living With Wildlife program at (617) 541-5104. Additional information is also available at www.LivingWithWildlife.org, click on "Wildlife Help Center". You can contact Stephanie Hagopian at (501) 573-2975 for more information.

"Ah, but there lies the subtlest treason; To do all the right things, for all the wrong reasons."

Once again Augie Sexauer again leant his time to patrol the Unexpected Wildlife Refuge during six day shotgun season, only this time he recruited his birding friend, Nels Anderson. Together these awesome birders listed all the birds they saw on their walk around the Refuge:



hermit thrush, heron gull, Canada geese, blue birds (4), mourning doves, kingfisher, black ducks, marsh hawk, carolina wren, chickadee, tufted titmouse, robin, red bellied wood pecker, turkey vulture, black vulture, golden crowned kinglet, white breasted nuthatch, goldfinch, white sparrow, and redwing blackbird.

(And then they went out for more!)

Wet and Windy Day

by Nels Anderson

This year the Christmas Bird Count was scheduled for December 14 in our area. The weather man also scheduled an event involving rain, snow, sleet and wind for the same day. With the forecast we had conditions would be iffy at best. We started out to gray skies and within the hour it began to snow and blow. Snow is nice to view and walk through but sure messes up bifocals as well as binoculars.

Where are all the birds? One half hour into it and we had only three birds. Rachel Carson's Silent Spring was mentioned. Walked to the lake by Timothy's on Stokes Road which is usually a hot spot, still no birds. Glassing the lake and shore line I spied what could have been a Muskrat; No it's a Beaver. No look at the tail, It's an Otter! Sure enough, another dive displayed that characteristic hump up and dive clearly showing the Otter tail. We watched for awhile and then decided we had better get back to work. OK, three birds and an otter, hmmmmmmmm.

Again not much out there even with bushwacking through thickets and shrubs. Yes, we had bad weather but no Chickadees, no Titmice, only three Crows and no Bluebirds. Birds that have been all over are suddenly very scarce or absent completely. I think this is unnoticed by many but something seems to be going on. West Nile or other diseases might be the cause or is it something else? Whatever it is some species seem to be decimated.

We carry on soaking up more moisture but with a few bright spots. We disturbed a female Kingfisher at Silver Lake. She kept rattling around us scolding or more likely telling us to get the "H" out of there, she was busy. We left and looking back she settled at the exact spot we had first seen her. It was probably a good fishing spot.

At Clark's we hit the mother lode. Twenty Goldfinches, Five White Throated Sparrows, Three Fox Sparrows, male and female Purple Finch, Carolina Wren, Robins and a female Redpoll. Oh yeah! Where? On the middle bottom of the right hand feeder. We both had good looks and even got the book out to help make certain. " Bob Confer is going to question this."

Wet and weary we decided to call it quits by noon. It only took us an hour or so to check a last few good places. Augie and I tallied 31 species after all. For the conditions that was reasonable. When finally done no glass surface within twenty feet of us would remain unfogged for long. Unpleasant in some respects yes. But for us, food for the soul.

Hear Bird Songs on the Web

(From National Wildlife October/November 2003)

You can hear the songs of more than 550 North American bird species by visiting eNature.com at www.enature.com/audio/audio_home.asp.

The songs are grouped into several categories, such as warblers or thrushes, and you can click on individual species to hear characteristic songs. eNature also offers birders a wide array of wildlife and outdoor information and tools. You can question experts, check into a variety of regional birding information, track bird sightings, create a life list select a national park that suits your outdoor interests and more.



Girls Scouts Trapping (rom Beaversprite, Winter 2003)

A Girl Scout troop in Alaska is learning how to kill beavers as part of the "Take a Kid Trapping" program set up by the State Department of Fish and Wildlife. Members of Troop 34 have reportedly killed and skinned two beavers and plan to turn their furs into hats and mittens once they kill ten more. This program is particularly cruel and futile because plenty of excellent non-lethal beaver control alternatives abound.

Please contact **Kathy Cloninger, National CEO**, Girl Scouts of the USA, 420 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10018-2798, Phone: (800) 478-7248, or program@girlscouts.org.

"For he was gentle, and his tenderness encompassed me. And there is not anything in the world stronger than tenderness."
-Han Suyin



Bad Energy Bill Stalled...For Now

(From John Williamson-Beaver Defender)

On November 21, in a temporary victory for the environment, the Senate declared the disastrous energy bill dead, at least for this year, when it failed to force through a vote on the energy bill. This bad bill, laden with tax breaks for special interests and polluters, gave short shrift to energy conservation and efficiency in favor of more oil dependence, air pollution and global warming. Thanks to the more than 40,000 activists who wrote, e-mailed, faxed and called Congress opposing this bill. Senate leadership has declared that passing this energy bill will be priority #1 early next year. More help is needed to ensure this bill is improved or defeated in the new year. Senators Corzine and Lautenberg were among the 40 who helped stall this bad bill. Let them know you appreciate their stand on it and encourage their continued opposition to it's bad provisions next year.

(Editor's note: this bill passed in the Assembly on November 17, 2003 with \$50 billion in giveaways to fossil fuel and nuclear energy interests.)

Senator Jon S. Corzine, 502 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-4744 / Fax: (202) 228-2197 <http://corzine.senate.gov/contact.cfm>

Senator Frank Lautenberg, Hart Senate Office Building, Suite 324, Washington, DC 20510 (202) 224-3224 / Fax: (202) 228-4054

With this new century, this new millennium, comes the hope of a greater, more compassionate way for mankind to manage and live with wild animals.

As the vanguard in this effort, we dedicate ourselves to the highest of scientific standards, and, with ground-breaking technological advances, will seek to make that better world a reality.

You have just read the mission statement of Millennium Wildlife Sciences (MWS), a new organization formed to discover and promote alternatives to hunting.

Current wildlife management practices by state agencies are designed to create a growing supply of wild animals for recreational hunting. This often creates a serious conflict between humans and wildlife, especially when once open spaces are cleared for housing developments.

When these situations occur, lethal methods are often used to kill those wild animals. These efforts are both cruel and unproductive, and rarely result in anything but forcing the situation to spiral downward. Once we recognize that it is human fault which created these events, we can begin to take responsibility for the lives of the wild animals that are over-managed, displaced and shunted into neighborhoods. There has been a clarion call for anon-lethal reproductive control. Now, in the 21st century, we have it.

Millenium Wildlife Sciences, a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit corporation, is dedicated to serving the public interest by offering state-of-the-art solutions for non-lethal wildlife management. Our inaugural venture is the use of Neutersol®, a chemical sterilant, to sterilize male wild animals, but it shall not be the last.

Millennium Wildlife Sciences will utilize ground breaking scientific discoveries to further help understand and resolve conflicts between wildlife and humans. Many conflicts can be resolved with education and understanding, but for those that require a more direct measure, gun and bullet will be a thing left to the past.

MWS's science will be available to any activist anywhere in America. Where ever you are, if you want to present your state government with a viable, non-lethal way to control wildlife populations. MWS will be there to work with you. We are on the brink of a new day for our wild animals. Together, we will march forth into it.

Dr. Gordon Stull, President,
PO Box 2504, Vincentown, NJ 08088
(609) 268-2878 / staff@wildlifescience.org

The war against New Jersey's bears began back in mid-May of this year, when the Fish and Game Council held their public comment hearing. Loaded with hunters (many of them in full regalia), bears were bashed for having the audacity to continue to live within their ranges, entering backyards and searching trash cans for food. Many bear advocates spoke amid hissing and quiet threats, but to no avail. Bear populations were inflated by the Division of Fish and Wildlife to be between 2,000 and 3,000 when other private consultants were coming up with numbers in the low 1,000's. Bear-human conflicts escalated with continued human development in bear habitat, an increase in vehicular traffic and the failure to secure human rubbish, forcing these animals to interact with humans regularly. The entire tableau was fueled by the hysteria of the media, hoping for another confrontation to sell another paper.

The battle continued through December only to result in the first State sanctioned bear hunt in 33 years. Bear proponents worked hard to educate the administration and public about hunt alternatives (privately funded sterilization) and education programs about securing trash and food.

The administration failed miserably, or rather did not even attempt to try, to address this wildlife management crisis with anything but lethal intent. After parading as an advocate of the bears during Governor Christy Whitman's administration, even writing a letter in support of stopping the then scheduled bear hunt, Governor McGreevey hid behind the NJDEP Commissioner, Bradley Campbell, who did everything except load the shot.

The bear hunt began on Monday, December 8th and continued for the 6 full days. When the week ended, 328 bears were murdered. This happened after the McGreevey administration was offered the Black Bear Sterilization Plan, \$100,000 in private funding to install a humane bear sterilization program and documentation that 67% of registered voters polled felt that non-lethal methods should be used, instead of hunting, to reduce bear-human conflicts.

When a mortally wounded bear cub crawled upon the shoulder of Route 23 in West Milford and died in front of mourning commuters, it brought a rash of tears and angry letters against the bear hunt. NJDEP

Fish and Wildlife actually constructed a far-fetched fairy tale about how this victim of violence died from being hit by a car and was *then shot by a hunter*, even after the hunter's wife stated that her husband killed the bear cub and was on his way.

The depths to which this administration has sunk are criminal. They failed to enforce many of their own rules prior to the hunt in the form of no feeding rules and trash lockdowns. After the hunt began they failed to enforce the ban on harassing dened bears, as hunters were overheard laughing about throwing firecrackers into dens to rouse bears (one plausible reason for 2/3 of the bears killed being females, who should have been safe in their dens with their cubs during the hunt).

The brutality and violence needed to kill an animal as substantial as a bear is sickening. Some hunters told of firing up to five shots into the chest of a bear to bring it down, let alone kill it. (Many of the bears killed were shot in the back - but you won't read that in the papers). The frightening thing is that since the administration had set the "scientific limit" or rather, magic number, at 500 bears to be killed, and only got 328, the chance for another hunt next year is not out of the picture. Bowhunters are now clamoring for the chance to bag a bear next year, and if that happens, there will be unbelievable suffering and death due to bleeding, wounding and infection caused by this "sport".

Many people have poured their hearts out for the bears, but Lynda Smith, the head of BEAR, the Bear Education and Resource group has to be one of the most vocal and tireless bear advocates. She says, "Even though we could not stop the hunt, we are not going away."

And we will not. This battle is not over. The number of people opposed to this barbaric hunt is large and growing larger. We are consolidating, uniting and networking. If you want to get involved and learn more about our New Jersey bear population, habitat, politics and the bear hunt, please get in touch with **Lynda Smith, Director of Bear Education And Resource Group**, PO Box 918, Hewitt, NJ 07421, (973) 853-BEAR <http://www.savenjbears.com> or contact Beaver Defenders.

Please take a moment to thank NJ Senators Frank Lautenberg, Joseph Vitale and Jon Corzine for standing up for New Jersey bears. They took the heat from their party for doing so. Please let them know that we appreciate their integrity. See **page 9** for contacts for **Senators Lautenberg and Corzine**.

You can contact **Senator Joseph Vitale** at
87 Main Street, Woodbridge, NJ 07095
(732) 855-7441 / senvitale@njleg.org

EPA Proposes Relaxing Mercury Standards

(from Environmental Media Services 12/16/03)

The Bush administration proposed on Dec. 15 a cap-and-trade system that requires power companies to cut mercury pollution of the nation's air by nearly 70 percent over the next 15 years.

The administration's critics say the proposal delays and weakens mercury regulations that were set to go into effect sooner and require steeper reductions.

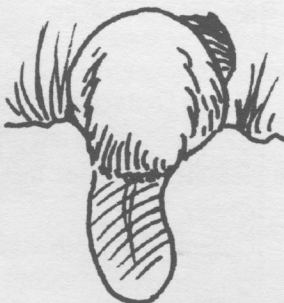
"Put simply, this rule means that power plants can pollute more, for longer than the law allows," said Sen. James Jeffords (I-Vt.).

Captive Wildlife Safety Act Passes in Senate

The U.S. Senate passed S. 269, which prohibits the keeping of lions, tigers, leopards, cheetahs, jaguars, and cougars as pets by prohibiting the interstate transport of them for this purpose.

What's For Dinner? Not Beaver!

Please contact Dan Whittaker, owner of Lambertville Station Restaurant and thank him for promising to remove beavers from his "wild game" menu this winter. We talked to Dan and provided him with information about beavers, and he agrees that beavers are for looking - not for cooking. You can reach Dan at **Lambertville Station**
11 Bridge Street
Lambertville, NJ 08530.



Some Good Reasons to Become a Vegetarian

by Doreen Schultz

Many people think being environmentally aware is about recycling, driving a gas efficient car, and turning off the faucet while you brush your teeth. But if you are eating meat, you are not a true environmentalist, and here's why:

Pollution: the meat industry causes more water pollution in the US than all other industries combined. Animals raised for food produce 130 times more excrement than the human population-86,000 lbs. per second.

Land: of all agricultural land in the US, 87% is used to raise food animals. Twenty times more land is required to feed a meat-eater than to feed a pure vegetarian (vegan).

Water: Raising animals for food consumes more than half of all the water used in the US. It takes 2,500 gallons of water to produce a pound of meat, but only 25 gallons to produce a pound of wheat.

Deforestation: Rain forests are being destroyed at a rate of 125,000 square miles per year to create space to raise animals for food. For every 1/4 lb. fast-food burger made of rain forest beef, 55 s.f. of land are consumed.

Energy: Raising animals for food uses more than 1/3 of all raw materials and fossil fuels used in the US. Producing one hamburger uses enough fossil fuel to drive a small car 20 miles - enough water for 17 showers.

Animals: You can't be concerned about the environment without caring about animals. More than 25 billion are killed by the meat industry each year, and they're raised and killed in ways that are more savage and horrific than most of us can even imagine. The average American meat-eater is responsible for the suffering and death of more than 2,500 animals on factory farms (about 2,500 chickens, 80 turkeys, 30 pigs and 10 cows and calves) and many thousands of sea animals as well.

Being a consistent and responsible environmentalist means progressing from a meat-based diet to a healthy, peaceful vegetarian lifestyle. Complete the circle of compassion: help yourself, the animals and the earth we share; go-Veg.com. (reprinted from Tadpole Times, October 2003)

Wild Animal Slaughter Surges for Fashion Sake

by Jeremy Lovell

LONDON, Nov 28 (Reuters) - The return of fur to the world's fashion catwalks has spelled death to thousands of endangered animals with a boom in demand for their skins, a top wildlife protection officer said on Friday.

John Sellar, senior enforcement officer for the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), said there had been a surge in seizures of tiger and leopard skins as the fashion industry embraced fur once again.

"In the 1980s and 1990s the illegal skin trade virtually ceased to exist because it was not fashionable," he told a gathering of wildlife enforcement officers. "But we are seeing models going back into it and a consequent boom in the trade."

Only last month, Chinese officials impounded 1,276 illegal pelts in their biggest seizure to date. They said the skins had come from 32 tigers, 579 leopards and 665 otters.

Sellar, tasked with monitoring and encouraging international enforcement of the CITES bans and restrictions on trade in endangered animals and plants, said London was a significant transit hub in the illegal trade, but not a major consumer.

"A lot of the fur trade is heading for China these days. It is a huge and increasingly affluent market," he said.

Sellar, who works from CITES headquarters in Geneva, admitted that patrolling, let alone preventing, the illegal trade was a one-sided struggle as the lone operators of old were increasingly sidelined by organised crime syndicates.

And it was not just easily identifiable animal skins that were involved. The trade covered skins and products from reptiles, birds, snakes, rhinos, and elephants as well as bushmeat, caviar and plants for use in traditional medicines.

Sellar said that for every sturgeon legally taken in Russia for its caviar, up to 12 more were taken illegally and emptied of their eggs which were then fed

into the lucrative legal trade using fake or purchased papers.

Those involved in the highly profitable and illicit trade were not averse to using bribery or violence to get their way. There had been numerous cases of investigators and officers being killed in mysterious circumstances, Sellar said.



But the threat of violence aside, in most cases enforcement officers were hugely overstretched just trying to catch the poachers, he said, let alone tracking down the merchandise.

In Tibet, the endangered Chiru antelope is slaughtered for its under-fur, which is

made into a very fine, cashmere-like material called Shahtoosh but the country has just 15 officers to police an area larger than Switzerland.

And even when caught, the penalties were in most cases too feeble to act as a deterrent -- except in China which had executed 28 wildlife smugglers in the past 14 years.

Speak up for Animals at the Post Office:

A pro-trapping postage stamp is currently under consideration by the U.S. Postal Service. The National Trappers Association (NTA) is pushing the stamp and if they go forward with their campaign to institute the pro-trapping stamp, the trappers will inundate the USPS with vocal requests for these stamps. Let's make our voices against the trapping stamp even louder!

Please Contact the national Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee and ask it to deny any pro-trapping stamp requested by the NTA. Tell the Committee that the USPS should not promote animal cruelty.

Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee
c/o Stamp Development
U.S. Postal Service
475 L'Enfant Plaza, SW; Room 5670
Washington, D.C. 20260-2437

Respect Rights of Protest Groupsby Wayne Madsen, Miami Herald, 9/27/03

It is indeed a slippery slope when some on the right say that vandalism carried out by destructive environmental activists be defined as acts of terrorism.

Congress hastily passed the anti-terrorist Patriot Act in October 2001 during a time when it was under siege by a real bio-terror anthrax attack. Many members of Congress, on both the left and right, now regret not examining closely the long-term effect of the Patriot Act on the constitutional rights of Americans.

Following an arson attack against a condominium under construction in San Diego, the vandalism of sport utility vehicles at four Los Angeles area auto dealerships and the freeing of 10,000 minks from a farm near Seattle, the Justice Department is labeling such attacks "eco terrorism."

There are calls by some in Congress, particularly Rep. Scott McInnis, R-Colo., that "eco-terrorists" be treated in the same manner as members of al Qaeda. To expand the Draconian Patriot Act and the proposed future "Patriot II" and "Victory" acts to cover arson, vandalism, destruction of private property and trespassing would propel the United States dangerously closer to the type of society envisaged by George Orwell in 1984.

It is a hallmark of totalitarian regimes around the world to elevate simple crimes to "crimes against the state." In many lands, those who merely practice their religion or join a labor union are labeled national security threats by the authorities and are tossed into jail. It is clear that Attorney General John Ashcroft and his zealous allies in Congress have environmental activist groups such as the Earth Liberation Front, Earth First and the Animal Liberation Front in their gun sights.

But to argue that these groups pose the same level of threat as al Qaeda and Jemaah Islamiya is ludicrous. The environmental vandals are not in the category of worldwide networks that aim to kill thousands by setting off bombs and releasing dangerous toxins.

Enemy combatants

If Ashcroft and his friends get their way and pass new anti-terrorist legislation, American citizens who support environmental causes could find themselves detained as "enemy combatants," thrown into the brig without having the right to see a lawyer and, according to one provision in a version of the proposed Patriot II, could have their U.S. citizenship taken away, even if they are native born.

The word "terrorism" is now being used as cavalierly to describe opponents of the current administration as much as "communist" was used to describe liberals and the left in the 1950s and '60s.

Congress must be on guard against attempts by Ashcroft and his colleagues to tip the scales of justice to enable the government to brand as "terrorists" those who commit lesser crimes or who commit no crimes at all but are merely exercising First Amendment rights.

Ashcroft has already used anti-terror powers to bust a prostitution ring in Louisiana and a cigarette smuggling operation in North Carolina. Those who spray-paint cars are not terrorists. There are state and local laws on the books to deal with vandalism.

Setting buildings on fire is arson, and we have plenty of laws to deal with arsonists. Freeing minks that then go about eating pet parakeets and chickens, although abhorrent, does not constitute terrorism. The United States is a nation of laws, not a land of dictates, decrees and fiat.

Wayne Madsen is a senior fellow of the Electronic Privacy Information Center. Copyright 2003 Miami Herald

Course in Cruelty at Purdue U. (Animal Welfare Institute, Fall 2003)

You can receive college credit for taking a fur trapping course through Purdue University of West Lafayette, Indiana. But before you sign up for the course, you must become a member of the Fur Takers of America (FTA). As part of your education, you are

expected to go in the field, barbaric traps in hand, and attempt to subject hapless victims to the horrors of these devices. The Indiana Department of Natural Resources provides an "educational" special use permit so that raccoon, opossum, skunk, muskrat, otter, and beaver can be trapped as part of the class even though the trapping is done outside of the state mandated season. The course is touted as teaching a "respect for wildlife," yet leghold traps, neck snares, and conibear traps are the instructive tools, and there is nothing respectful about these cruel traps.

Apparently Purdue University has partnered with the FTA in conducting this "trapper's college" for more than two decades. The FTA is a big supporter of steel jaw leghold traps, despite the fact that they are condemned as inhumane by the American Veterinary Medical Association, the American Animal Hospital Association, and the National Animal Damage Control Association. Steel traps and conibear traps adorn the FTA's website. The class runs for six days and will allow students to "experience at least nine hours a day of intensive trap line instruction." The animals caught, be they target or non-target victims, may suffer severed tendons and ligaments, broken bones, amputation of toes, and a long, drawn-out struggle against an excruciatingly painful device prior to death. And the students, who have inflicted such suffering can't keep the animals' fur pelts, but they get several books and other trapping propaganda, free samples of animal lures, a certificate and graduation patch from the FTA, and two continuing education credits from Purdue University.

Register your objection to Purdue University's so-called educational trapping program. Please write to:

Martin C. Jischke, President, Purdue University, 1031 Hovde Hall, Room #200, West Lafayette, IN 47907 (mcjischke@purdue.edu)

It's the Media Stupid

by Doug Moss

A local anti-fur rally I participated in years ago was attended by about 100 animal activists and a clique of 10 or so fur supporters, recruited by the fur show we were picketing. The local paper, which carried ads for all the local furriers, juxtaposed news photos of the two groups, giving the impression they were of equal size—and making sure to focus on the most unkempt individuals in the anti-fur crowd.

I noted the same media tendency years later when I marched in Washington against the U.S.-backed Contra war in Nicaragua. There were zillions more protestors than there were flag-waving “patriots,” but many papers played that down, quoting the low estimates for the numbers of protestors, and running photos that misrepresented the relative attendance numbers.

Things haven't changed—and are arguably much worse. Watching Fox, ABC, NBC, CBS—even the supposedly liberal CNN—you'd never guess that there's overwhelming scientific consensus that climate change is indeed happening, and that irresponsible human behavior is partly to blame. Instead, a parade of conservative news and talk show hosts, along with their hand-picked commentators, throws up an endless array of smoke and mirrors calculated to muddle the issue with the illusion that the “jury is still out.”

I was delighted at comedian Al Franken's recent victory against Fox, which sued him for using their supposedly trademarked phrase, “Fair and Balanced,” in his book, *Lies and the Lying Liars Who Tell Them: A Fair and Balanced Look at the Right*. “Two all-beef patties, special sauce, lettuce, cheese, pickles, onions on a sesame seed bun” might pass for a trademark. “Fair and Balanced?” Hardly. These conservative commentators are some of the lyingest liars in the media profession..

The truly unbalanced media coverage that Americans now numbly accept (remember the “embedded journalists” in Iraq?) has everything to do with why most people are still not sure what to make of climate change—or, for that matter, a whole host of important issues. Progressive voices are either not invited to—or are shouted down in—those form-over-substance programs like *Hardball with Chris Matthews* and *The O'Reilly Factor*. Between that, and the gargantuan coverage given to J-Lo and Ben, the environment gets very short shrift in the mainstream media.

Even though the airwaves are a public trust, the demise of the Fairness Doctrine and the recent FCC ruling allowing even greater corporate media ownership have ensured that only a few privileged voices are heard. Blatant unfairness—like giving Arnold Schwarzenegger but not his rivals a *Time* cover and access to *Oprah*—rules the day. Journalism has lost its soul as media has increasingly consolidated under the umbrella of large corporations that put the interests of their investors and advertisers above all else, while also following Washington's official line.

So, here's a form of environmental activism, though it may not seem one: Join the efforts of Fairness and Accuracy in Reporting, Free Press and others in mobilizing a movement for media reform. A great place to start is at the Free Press Media Reform website. For more information, go to www.mediareform.net.

(Doug Moss is Publisher and Executive Editor of E Magazine. This article is from the November/December issue, which can be found on line at www.emagazine.com or by contacting E Magazine at PO Box 2047, Marion, OH 43305-2047)

The Beaver Defenders is published quarterly by the Unexpected Wildlife Refuge, Inc., a non-profit organization created in 1961 to provide an inviolate sanctuary for wild animals, to study wild animals in relation to humans and to promote humane treatment of animals through education and example.



The Beaver Defenders Membership Application

Name: _____

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Address: _____

Comments: _____

Phone/fax: _____

Membership/subscription is \$20 annually (July renewal). Please make checks payable to Unexpected Wildlife Refuge. All contributions are tax deductible. The amount of your donation in excess of actual membership dues will be considered a donation unless otherwise specified.

Mail to: Beaver Defenders, PO BOX 765, Newfield, NJ 08344

In the Store!

| | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|
| Books: <i>Hoofmarks</i> | \$18.00 |
| <i>The Best of Beaver Defenders</i> | \$ 8.00 |
| T-shirts: Hunter green, on the front - our logo; on the back - <i>I support the Unexpected</i> with charming beaver | \$20.00 |
| Mugs: Light brown mug with green logo, very tasteful | \$ 5.00 |
| Posters: Trapped beaver and baby | \$ 1.00 |
| Beavers turn wilderness into happiness | \$ 1.00 (colorable!) |
| Cards: 12 custom beaver block prints (by 5 th graders) with poems (by Beaver Defenders), pack of 24, fit legal envelopes | \$ 4.00 |
| Sheet Music: Away with Traps, Song of the Beaver Defenders | \$ 1.00 |
| We Love You, Little Beaver | \$ 1.00 |

Educational Materials free with a self-addressed stamped envelope.

- Unexpected Wildlife Refuge, Home of the Beaver Defenders
- What Beavers do for Waterways
- Beaver Problems and Solutions
- Species found at the Refuge
- Coloring sheets (seven different beaver scenes, drawn by Hope Sawyer Buyukmihci)
- They All Call it Home
- Slandered Do-gooders (snake information)
- The Square of Flesh
- Chopper, in Memoriam
- Intruder in a Cageless Zoo (by Ferris Weddle)
- Is it Safe to Come Near You? You Won't Hurt Me, Will You?

Furs should be worn on only the ones they were born on.



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