

# The BEAVER DEFENDERS



*In memory of Jean Cooper Fuschillo  
April 16, 1927 ~ June 10, 2005*

**July 2005**

*They shall never be trapped anymore.*

# The BEAVER DEFENDERS



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**Unexpected Wildlife Refuge, Inc.**  
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Editor: Sarah Summerville

July 2005

## GOOD NEWS FROM UNEXPECTED

by Sarah Summerville

### Good News, For Sure!

We did it, Beaver Defenders! Unexpected Wildlife Refuge went to settlement on June 9 and walked away from the table with an additional 127 acres. Thanks to your support we were able to pay settlement costs. We purchased the land with a bridge loan from Open Space Institute's (OSI) New Jersey Conservation Loan Program. OSI is a non-profit organization dedicated to permanently protecting landscapes of significant ecological, agricultural, historic and recreation value. This program provides critical bridge financing for land conservation projects throughout New Jersey, facilitating the protection of more than 10,000 acres. We are very confident that we will repay the loan through private donations and State financing like NJDEP Green Acres Land Acquisition Program. We have begun posting the new land with our distinctive white and green Refuge signs, and I am happy to report that this land can be patrolled during hunting season by *automobile*!



If you didn't have a chance to help out with settlement costs, don't despair! You have an opportunity

to contribute toward upcoming interest payments. Just remember, Unexpected Wildlife Refuge could not continue without the support of people like you who believe in our mission.

### Meanwhile, Back at the Nursery

I have abandoned all hope of turning the back room into a spare bedroom, reading room or rec room. It is now, and will always be, our nursery. Working with our licensed wildlife rehabilitator, we have raised rabbits, opossums, squirrels and raccoons in this room, with cages of various sizes and shapes.

In the terrarium are four baby opossums that were rescued from their mother's pouch after an unfortunate accident.

They are very quiet and spend much of their time sleeping in a furry pile. When feeding time comes around they turn into ferocious little beasts, posturing and hissing with their tiny, toothy mouths. I pretend to be terribly frightened for their benefit.



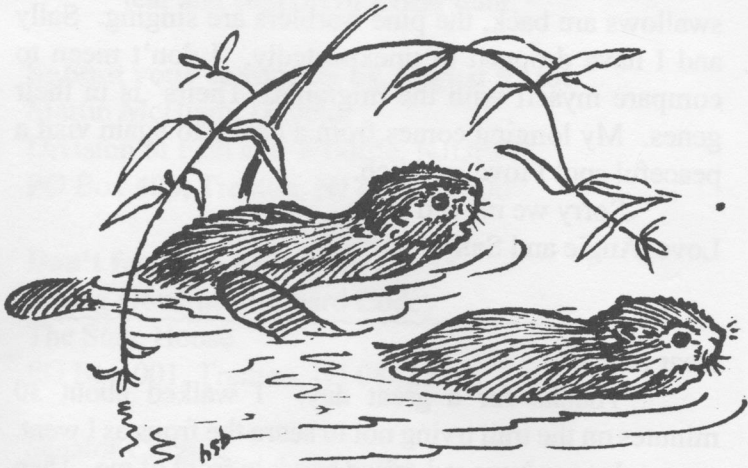
The old parrot cage was hauled back in from the barn again, and it is now the home of two very amusing raccoon babes. Oop is a little wild boy and will not be held or handled. He is starting to taste my fingers when offered, but he scampers into his wood duck nest box at the slightest movement. Ooola, the little girl, was a bottle baby and demands hugs and kisses and snacks. The hugs usually turn into her reaching around my neck to steal my necklace. When I attempt to dislodge her she tangles her sticky little paws in my hair and holds fast. They keep

each other occupied rolling around, chewing on one another and falling asleep in a small pile of tired raccoon.

### Beavers! Briefly.

We had a considerable amount of rainfall during March and early April. The pond was full and spilling over the dike so forcefully it could be heard all the way over at the cabin. Spadderdock was blooming and the beavers were relishing the succulent yellow flowers and tender roots, a refreshing departure from the stale bark stored in their winter pantry.

I was coming in from working at Bluebird Field, passing over the water on the Long Boardwalk, when I heard a familiar sound - the faint noise that a beaver makes when it leaves a lodge through the plunge hole. I quickly examined the two old lodges that were abandoned during the drought of 2002. There were no new sticks or mud, and they seemed very flat; too flat for any beaver headroom inside. Seconds later, up popped a two month old beaver kit. She swam boldly toward me and then abruptly turned to her left and disappeared around the lodge. She was still very buoyant and floated very high in



the water like a little toy beaver-boat.

Excited, I immediately sat down on the boardwalk and waited. I watched a tiny muskrat baby come out of the same lodge and swim in and out of the tussocks, whimpering. He also rode high in the water, with his little tail snaking after him. He seemed to be looking for someone.

I had no apples or poplar, but I sat quietly until the kit reappeared. She had a sibling in tow! The other kit,

who was obviously not as curious or bold as his sister, quickly made a feeble slap and swam away, high in the water.

The remaining kitten began to talk to me with nasal grunts, so I spoke back with nasal grunts. This seemed to please her, although I have no idea what I said to her, or she to me. She busied herself nibbling on this and that, exploring the grasses and mosses around her, talking all the while. One of her parents showed up (her brother was a snitch), and the agitated adult hissed and blew and slapped, swimming back and forth in front of me. After everyone disappeared, I continued on my way home, soaking wet.



For a little over a week, I would sit in the evenings with the little beaver kitten. I would take enough apples for three beavers, but she was the only one interested in partaking of my gifts. She had no problem eating all the apples and looking for more, before moving in on the poplar that I brought. I had no idea on little beaver could hold that much fruit!

After three or four days, I was able to stroke the little beaver's nose and forehead, and she would grasp my pinky with her hand when reaching for an apple slice.

Considering the condition of the old lodges, the kittens must have been using them for cover or protection while napping, or perhaps they were playing in their clubhouse with the muskrats.

As I enjoyed each magical evening with this precious creature, I was becoming alarmed by the lack of rainfall. Each day the Main Pond was lower and lower, with more pond bottom exposed. The stick that I used as a gauge at the feeding spot kept reminding me that time was short.

Then one evening two weeks ago I sat waiting for my little friend, and she did not come. The water was very shallow and muddy, far too shallow for a beaver to feel safe. They moved downstream again, and we are all desperately waiting for rain.

Dear American activists,

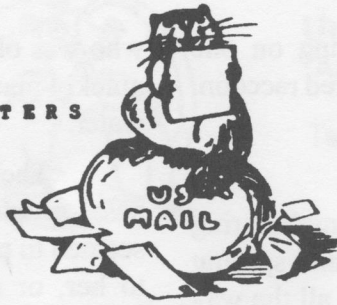
I'm a Canadian activist and wildlife preservationist working with activists and preservationists worldwide against the Canadian seal massacre and the Japanese dolphin slaughter, and for the survival of the Grizzly bear of Canada and the Bengal tiger of India.

I'm also the author of the book *Omni-Science and the Human Destiny* I'm currently planning a two-part campaigning tour through the United States, the western half in the spring/summer and the eastern half in the fall/winter. If your group is concerned with any or all of these issues, I would like to work or at least meet with you and your members when I arrive in your state.

About the Canadian seal hunt, my objective in your state is to persuade its major seafood merchants and restaurants to refrain from stocking, selling and serving Canadian seafood until the seal hunt is terminated, and to sign a declaration to that effect for subsequent presentation to the Canadian government. This is of course to help make the international boycott of Canadian seafood as overwhelming as possible, which must extensively and systematically involve sellers and buyers alike.

We should never make a threat we are not prepared to carry out. The threat of boycott has been made, very loudly and publicly. We are now "riding the tiger", as the Chinese saying goes, meaning, hard to stay on but suicidal to get off. If the boycott fails, i.e. fails to be overwhelming, the whole movement would lose steam, momentum, credibility and even integrity. Seeing that politicians are short on conscience if not devoid of it, there are in my humble view only three legal ways powerful enough to terminate the seal hunt for good. The first is an overwhelming global boycott, the keyword being "overwhelming". The second is a landslide Canada-wide referendum victory. And the third is nothing short of a hunger strike unto death, a la Gandhi. Anything less just won't cut it. Demonstrating on a street corner once a year certainly helps, but by itself won't cut it either. The boycott is logically the first major offensive to try, and try with all our might we must, escalating month by month, year by year if necessary, until the critical mass is reached and the seal hunt is crushed,

#### LETTERS



because the second way would be prohibitively expensive, and if it comes to the third way, there would be no trying at all; just do or die.

I would love to give *Know Thy Enemy* to your group, your friends and your public as a gift of appreciation, as well as *Tigers Forever* and/or

*Omniscientific Cosmology and the Human Destiny* if you wish, while we meet and work on terminating the Canadian seal massacre.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Anthony Marr  
Heal Our Planet Earth (HOPE)  
Compassion for Animals Road Expeditions (CARE)  
[Anthony-Marr@HOPE-CARE.org](mailto:Anthony-Marr@HOPE-CARE.org)  
toll free at 1-866-822-1169

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Dear Sarah,

I feel like a migrant; the phoebe is back, tree swallows are back, the pine warblers are singing. Sally and I have dropped in unexpectedly. I don't mean to compare myself with the migrants. Theirs' is in their genes. My longing comes from a desire to again visit a peaceful spot I love so much.

Sorry we missed you.  
Love, Augie and Sally

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Dear Sarah,

Thanks for a great day. I walked about 30 minutes on the trail trying not to scare the frogs as I went.

I saw a huge red-tailed hawk in front of me. Then I walked to Otter Dam from Base, and a bunch of turkeys ran in front of me. Later they again intersected my path before I got to Otter Dam.

There was so much to see, listen to and sense all around. I sat at Otter Dam for quite awhile, hoping a beaver might come back.

It was a wonderful time. Thank you for letting me share in this blessed, awesome land.

Take care, Cheryl M.

## WHAT IS A PERSON TO DO?

## WRITE!

### Write Your Game Code Letter

NJDEP Commissioner, Bradley Campbell is expected to approve a bear hunt for 2005. It is expected that he will bless NJ Fish and Game Council's comprehensive policy for black bear management. Please write a letter opposing the upcoming bear hunt based upon the following points:

- ▶ There are 2.2 million people live in bear country with only a couple hundred complaints - most people are living in harmony with bears;
- ▶ Tools like garbage containment, bear proofing, public education and adverse training should be used instead of hunting;
- ▶ Restrict unnatural food sources like garbage and bird feed and bear populations will decline naturally;
- ▶ Bear hunts are supported by hunters and Fish & Game Council, most residents oppose the hunt;
- ▶ Bear hunts will not increase public safety; they are trophy hunts - you are not buying this tactic;
- ▶ The Division of Fish & Wildlife should not be moving bears within the State. The result induces fear and support of a bear hunt.

### Submit your comments by August 5<sup>th</sup> to:

Martin McHugh, Director  
Division of Fish and Wildlife, NJDEP  
PO Box 400, Trenton, NJ 08625-0400

### Don't forget to copy:

Acting Governor Richard Codey  
The State House  
PO Box 001, Trenton, NJ 08625

Senator Corzine  
One Gateway Center, 11<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Newark, NJ 07102

Let them know that you are opposed to the bear hunt. Your votes for Assembly and Governor depend on their actions.

**NEW JERSEY ASSEMBLY** passed Bill A804 on June 23<sup>rd</sup>. Bill A804 prohibits product testing with traditional animal test methods if federally recommended alternative test methods exist.



## MASS REMOVAL OF WILD HORSES

Despite a brief, six-week moratorium on wild horse and burro roundups following the death of 41 wild horses at a slaughterhouse in Illinois, on 1 June 2005 the government resumed capturing and removing these animals from public land.

While the government continues to appease ranchers by confiscating horses and burros to make room for an ever-burgeoning cattle industry, Friends of Animals calls for the end of the roundups that strip horses and burros of their ability to live unmolested on public land.

Last December, a rider called the Burns Amendment was quietly passed, making it easier to slaughter older, unwanted horses. From then until the moratorium began in April, the government has removed 3,346 wild horses and burros. And starting next month, the Bureau of Land Management, the Forest Service and other government contractors will continue roundups as expediently as ever; another 5,000-6,000 horses and burros are scheduled to be removed before the end of September.

By proceeding only through September, the government can assure removals go smoothly without being inhibited in any way by a recent amendment introduced by Rep. Nick Rahall (D-WV), passed in the House on 19 May. If enacted in September, that legislation will constitute a ban on the use of tax money for wild horse sales, effective in October – after the forced removal of more than 12,000 wild horses and burros will have taken place throughout the fiscal year.

Although some media reports and one national humane society have called Rahall's efforts "a victory for wild horses," and the Bureau of Land Management recently created a new bill of sale pledging harsher prosecution for those buyers with mal intent, the actions are too little, too late. Thus, Friends of Animals will propose legislation to halt all roundups.

*Reprinted from Act-ion Line, the Friends of Animals' magazine, 777 Post Road, Darien, CT 06820 May 30, 2005*

**Please write to your Member of Congress** to cosponsor Bill HR297 and companion Bill S567 to restore the 1971 Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act.

## We Wish the Beavers Would Give a Dam

This is the time of year I miss the beaver pond the most.

It's been five or six years since the dam broke and the beavers threw in the towel. We never actually saw them leave, but when heavy rain punched a hole in the dam and nobody showed up to fix it, we figured they were history. It wasn't long before the pond had shrunk back to the creek that fed it.

By that autumn the beaver lodge was so overgrown with weeds you could barely see it.

What I miss most this time of year is the water fowl. For more than five years we had a front-row seat to the comings and goings of mallards, Canada geese and the occasional wood duck. We got to watch their offspring grow and, as offspring tend to do, move on to attempt life on their own.

The pond attracted spring peepers in abundance. So many that on warm spring nights we had to close the windows in order to sleep.

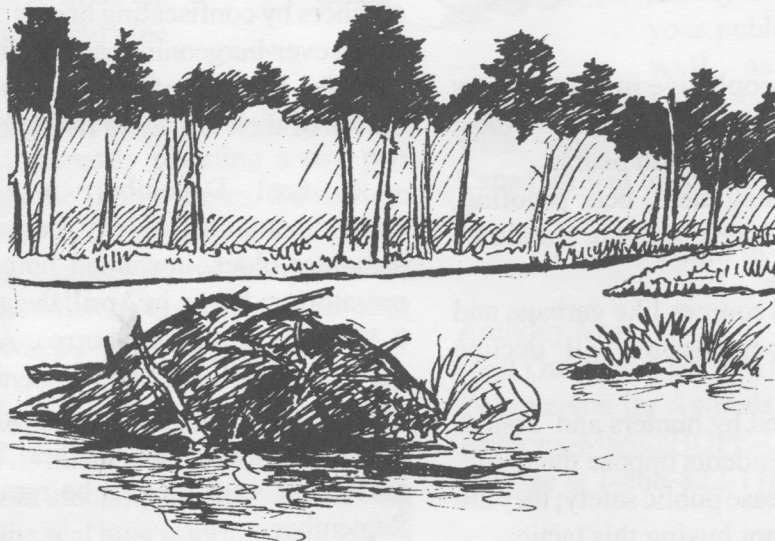
At first, we didn't notice the pond forming in the field across the road. Didn't notice until the mishmash of branches and mud the beavers had slapped together was solid enough to make the creek widen at a point not far from our mailbox.

It would be weeks before we actually saw the beavers, but by then the pond was almost the size of a baseball diamond.

To catch sight of them you had to be up early or out at dusk, when they'd cut V's in the water with little more than their snouts and the top of their heads visible to us nature-gawkers.

The pond became something of an attraction on our road. Neighbors and strangers would drive by slowly, hoping for a glimpse of the beavers or other wildlife that gathered in and around the pond.

One winter, when the pond was frozen solid, we hung a kerosene lantern from a tree branch and took the kids night-time ice skating, secure in the knowledge that even at its deepest end, the pond was still shallow enough to be safe.



Early one spring a pair of Canada geese came and nested on the beaver lodge. They produced eight goslings, which we photographed often and counted from time to time to make sure none of them had fallen prey to a fox or a coyote or some other predator.

Then came that heavy rain. The overflow in the pond bored through the dam and roared over top of it. The geese must have gone with the water -- we never saw them again.

These days, the place where the pond used to be is once again an overgrown field bordered by the creek, which, after a rain, looks as if it could turn into a pond again if someone or something would just rebuild the beaver dam.

We tried it a few times, propping up branches in a vain attempt to recreate what had been. But we're only

human, and that's not what's needed here.

What's needed is a four-legged critter with a broad, flat tail and an insatiable urge to chew.

*Haupt teaches journalism at Binghamton University. E-mail her at [mhaupt@pressconnects.com](mailto:mhaupt@pressconnects.com).*

Check out *Natural Wonders of the Jersey Pines and Shore*, written by the late Robert A. Peterson with selected photography by Michael A. Hogan and additional photography by Steve Greer. Fifty-seven short yet informative chapters showcase a range of "natural wonders" associated with southern New Jersey, with an emphasis on the region's unique Pine Barrens and coastal ecosystems.

This book has over 300 pages of text, color photographs and chapters on the bay, orchids, swamp pink, hawks, owls and oaks. Your coffee table is waiting.

To order a signed copy, please send a check for \$56 dollars, which includes NJ sales tax and shipping to:

Michael Hogan, 1511 12th Avenue, Dorothy, NJ 08317



**OWASA has Beaver Dam Blasted**, from the  
News and Observer, Raleigh, NC June 14, 2005  
By CHERYL JOHNSTON, Staff Writer

CARRBORO -- The blasting of a beaver dam along the Bolin Creek Trail earlier this month has left some trail users asking what happened to the beavers and why the local water agency busted the dam.

John Zornick and Matthew Villemain, rising seniors at Chapel Hill High School, were posting laminated signs they had created for a school science project about the ecology of beaver dams, their usefulness in filtering water and information about beavers when they noticed the wetlands were no longer flooded.

It was then they realized their "Do Not Disturb" signs were too late.

The Orange Water and Sewer Authority, which serves Chapel Hill and Carrboro, maintains a sewer easement in the dam area and decided the stopped-up creek was a potential hazard. "The water level behind the dam had gotten within two or three inches of the height of the manhole," said OWASA spokesman Greg Feller. "If the water can go through the manhole into the sewer, if the sewer gets full of water, then that can cause sewer water to get out," he explained.

OWASA had asked the Wildlife Services branch of the U.S. Department of Agriculture to break up the dam because it was too large to dismantle with OWASA equipment, as the water agency has done in the past, Feller said.

Wildlife Specialist Doug Slake said he set off one explosive the morning of June 3 to break it up. "It causes the least damage to the environment there, by just using explosions," Slake said. Blasting the dam didn't kill the beavers because they are generally nocturnal and sleep underground during the day, Slake said. OWASA had notified UNC-Chapel Hill, which owns the property, before the blasting.

The agency didn't notify the town of Carrboro or the Friends of Bolin Creek, a residents group that supports the creek and trail system. Ed Kerwin, OWASA's executive director, said Monday that, in hindsight, his agency should have contacted the other stakeholders.

"Our staff that made that decision were certainly well

motivated with the need to keep the sewer system operating and safe, but ... in the future when we have such problems we are going to be more deliberate in considering alternative approaches and doing it with more input from stakeholders," he said.

"That's good news," said Noah Ranells, environmental planner for the town of Carrboro. "Given its unusual nature and its affecting a waterway, I think we can work towards some kind of notification policy down the road," Ranells said.



Julie McClintock, chairwoman of Friends of Bolin Creek, said her group had met with OWASA staff a couple of months ago to talk about installing a flow device that would let water flow through the dam. "I feel comfortable that OWASA is going to talk with the community before they take any further actions

regarding beavers," McClintock said after speaking with Kerwin Monday afternoon.

"What we all hope is that the beavers, [which] are excellent engineers, will be back and rebuild," she said.

#### The Facts About Flying

\* Air travel produces 19 times the greenhouse gas emissions of trains; and 190 times that of a ship.

\* Aviation could contribute 15 percent of greenhouse gases each year if unchecked.

\* Greenhouse gas emissions caused by UK air travel have doubled in the past 13 years, from 20.1m tons in 1990 to 39.5m tons in 2004.

\* During the same period emissions from UK cars rose by 8m tons, to 67.8m tons.

\* Emissions at altitude have 2.7 times the environmental impact of those on the ground.

\* Air travel is growing at UK airports at an average of 4.25 per cent. In 1970, 32 million flew from UK airports; in 2002, 189 million. By 2030 some 500 million passengers may pass through UK airports.

\* Cargo transportation is growing by 7 per cent a year. In 1970, 580,000 tons of freight were moved by plane; in 2002, 2.2 million tons. It is forecast to reach 5 million tons in 2010.

\* Flying 1 kg of asparagus from California to the UK uses 900 times more energy than the home-grown equivalent.

*One of the developments I've been watching out of the corner of my eye, but not following very closely (or writing about), is the current kerfuffle over land trusts. It's an important issue, though. Land trusts protect an immense amount of land in the U.S., and their very existence has recently been in question.*

*Luckily, there's an excellent blog -- Nature Noted -- devoted entirely to land trusts. If you want to follow the unfolding developments, that's the place to go. I invited its proprietor, Pat Burns, to join us here with a rundown on the issue, the recent developments, and what's at stake. Posted on the Grist web site by Dave Roberts.*

#### Essay by Pat Burns

One of the most successful environmental movements of the last fifty years is about to change the way it does business. And if it doesn't do it on its own, the government will step in and force it to change. That's the headline on the recent investigation of the nation's land trusts by the Senate Finance Committee. Wednesday, the Finance Committee held hearings ostensibly aimed at tightening the tax code on the use of conservation easements, which have become a prime tool in conserving land from development. It's also become a prime tool for evading taxes.

The Finance Committee began its investigation three years ago after a series of embarrassing articles in the Washington Post about the practices of the country's biggest trust, The Nature Conservancy. The staff released the results of its investigation Tuesday, outlining a series of abuses by TNC, including:

A pattern of dealings with insiders that gave preferential treatment on land deals; a pattern of dealings with the companies of board members; selling emissions credits, including a \$10 million deal with General Motors while GM's chairman John Smith served on TNC's board; selling emissions credits that it may or may not have even owned, essentially furthering its own environmental goals (buying

land) at the expense of another environmental goal (reducing greenhouse gases); and allowing oil and gas drilling on one of three known habitats of the Attwater Prairie chicken, bumbling its way through the deal so that it ended up in court, accused of cheating one of its partners, all while pocketing over \$8 million in royalties.

The report paints a picture of an organization that's gotten so big, and so successful, it lost sight of why it was formed in the first place. To its credit, TNC leaders know they need to make some big changes, and appear to have done so, although there are still questions about whether the new safeguards are as effective as they can be. Also the report breaks out just how wealthy TNC has become. At the end of fiscal year 2004, it had gross receipts of \$2.5 billion with revenues of \$732 million.

But TNC isn't the only reason the Senate began investigating. It has become clear that some people have been abusing the law that allows tax deductions for

conservation easements. The easement deduction allows me to sell the development rights to my property to a land trust. I keep the property the way it is, and everyone who buys it from me agrees to keep it that way too. If it's wilderness, it stays wilderness. If it's a ranch, it stays a ranch. In areas with lots of development, that can be worth a ton of money. The big question: How much? It's a subjective appraisal, and if both parties want to unfairly jack up the value, the hearings have shown the IRS doesn't have the manpower to catch it. And it's led to a cottage industry in easement tax shelters, including millions of exemptions for golf courses, driving ranges, and backyards. Phony trusts were set up not to protect land, but to act as tax shelters for the wealthy. As the

facts come out, it's outraging critics, and depressing supporters.

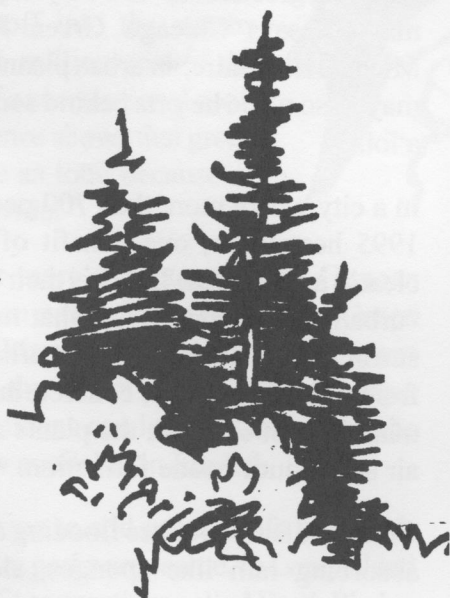
There's also the unfairness of the tax code. I can only write off the amount of the deduction against what I earn. If I'm a small rancher just getting by, the deduction isn't



worth nearly as much as if I'm a millionaire who keeps the ranch for weekend getaways. And the investigation highlighted the difficulty in monitoring the easements. They are donated in perpetuity. That's a long time. Is the supervising trust making sure the land stays the same, and new owners haven't bulldozed a big section for a new pool? Will they have the stomach for a legal fight if the contract is violated 10, 20, or 100 years from now?

So why not just kill the easement deduction? That's what the Joint Senate Committee essentially proposed earlier this year, sending land trusts into a panic. Trust leaders say that it would, instead, kill the movement. Easements are effective because they allow land to stay in private hands, and give the trusts more bang for their buck. Far fewer acres would be conserved, and smaller trusts simply wouldn't have the money to even exist. Fewer landowners would be willing to donate their property. More land would go to development. Land trusts that have played by the rules have been unfairly tarred by the abuses.

But the damage is done. The consensus is that in order to keep the easement deduction, and to stay in business, trusts will have to agree to reforms. The Land Trust Alliance has proposed an accreditation system that is going to mean tougher standards, more paperwork, and stronger monitoring. It's institutionalize or die. And many trust members have debated whether it's not better to just pack it in. They argue the reforms are going to rip the soul out of their organizations. Most are small, predominately volunteer groups, staffed by people who love their local land. They got into this to save a particular patch of ground that means something to them. They didn't get into it to become bureaucrats. There's also an outrage that they've done nothing wrong, but now they are being viewed as tax cheats, out to help the rich and big corporations. But it's clear to most that the freewheeling days of a bunch of like-minded individuals getting together to save some land is over. The days of the IRS forms, staff accountants, and lawyers are here. So why should anyone



else in the environmental community care? First, land trusts work: They've conserved over 9 million acres of privately held land, 5 million of those through easements. Most importantly, they enjoy broad political support. You won't find many organizations that do as much environmental good that are supported by conservatives and liberals alike. Bottom line, trusts work. And if it hadn't been for an intensive lobbying campaign by the LTA and other conservation leaders, and a deep reservoir of goodwill, trusts faced at the very least the loss of their most effective tool. At the worst, it would have meant the end of many trusts.

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This issue of The Beaver Defenders is dedicated to the memory of our dear friend, Jean Cooper Fuschillo.

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Jean held a B.A. in History from Mt. Holyoke College, an M.A. in Social Studies and a M.Ed. in Education, both from Cornell University, and a Ph.D. in Psychology from Penn State University.

Aside from her academic achievements, Jean was an active and talented birder, naturalist, sportswoman, humanitarian, and political and environmental activist. She was honored in 2004 by the Environmental Federation of New Jersey for her work with Integrated Pest Management. She played a pivotal role in the establishment of The Wetlands Act, and worked tirelessly, along with her husband, Nick, to prevent a nuclear plant from being built 12 miles off the coast of Atlantic City. Jean was a longtime Community Representative on the Ethics Committee at Shore Memorial Hospital and volunteered regularly, through the Cape May County Court system, to perform family mediation. Recent and ongoing projects with which she was involved include Integrated Pest Management, and Clean Election Reform in Ocean City.

She traveled widely, often with close friends and/or family. Some of her favorite places included New York City, Assiniboine, Nepal, India, Alaska and Costa Rica.

Jean made many friends during her lifetime that she treasured as she did her family and extended family members and, she will be remembered for her intelligence, compassion, kindness, wit and passionate dedication to causes involving human injustice and harm to the environment.

The world is a far better place for all of us because of Jean.

## Missouri Trapper Shoots Dogs Caught in Leghold Traps From AWI Quarterly, Spring 2005

On the morning of Feb. 6, 2005, Marcela Egea did something she had done every morning for several years. She let Bubba and Savannah, her English Mastiffs, outside for a run on her 41-acre property in Belton, Miss. Approximately 20 minutes later, Egea and her boyfriend overheard the dogs yelping and a series of gun shots. The terrifying discovery that followed is one no dog owner should ever have to endure.

Egea found her two dogs dead in a creek just 10 feet beyond her property line. They had been shot, killed and pushed into the creek by local game trapper Michael Kartman after they were caught in leghold traps he set to catch beavers and otters. While Kartman claims both dogs were caught in his traps, only Bubba was found with a trap attached to one of his paws.

Kartman claims he shot each of the dogs multiple times because they acted aggressively when he attempted to free them from the traps, yet he has also been quoted by the Kansas City Star as saying he shot the dogs because they were interfering with his business. He admits he could have gone to nearby homes to find the owner of the dogs, but he opted not to do so because it would have taken too much time and he had several hours of trap checking left to do.

The incident is still under investigation, but Kartman has only been charged with two conservation misdemeanors to date. He received one citation for failing to label his traps with his name and address, as required by Missouri Hunting and Trapping Regulations, and another for littering the creek bank. Kartman left behind the carcasses of a skunk, two possums and a small raccoon he had also caught in his traps and subsequently shot; trappers generally refer to such animal pelts with little or no economic value as "trash."

The trapping of domestic animals in leghold traps is not uncommon. Because such traps do not discriminate among their victims, they can catch any animal who triggers them. Once caught, the jaws of the leghold trap can cause the

trapped animal to suffer bone crushing injuries and sometimes even death. Some animals will escape by chewing off a trapped limb, while those unable to escape remain at the mercy of their captors.

The Society for Animal

Protective Legislation has lobbied vigorously to ban the use of these inhumane devices, and it will continue to do so. While 88 nations worldwide and eight states in our country have passed laws outlawing or severely limiting the use of leghold traps, federal legislation in the United States has yet to be enacted. We anticipate a bill to end the use of leghold traps will soon be reintroduced into Congress.

## Living Roofs-Green Miracles that Also Cool Buildings by Cathy Shufro

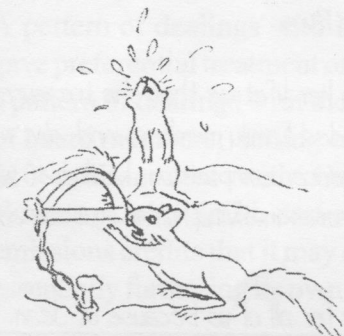
Critics praised the new Millennium Park in downtown Chicago when it opened last July, and visitors streamed in: a half million in the first week alone. Visitors exploring the 24-acre park were drawn to the shiny 110-ton abstract steel sculpture by Anish Kapoor, nicknamed "the bean," and to Frank Gehry's concert pavilion, a bandshell composed of stainless-steel ribbons surrounded by a green lawn designed to seat 7,000. One journalist called the park a "green miracle in the Windy City."

But few writers noticed one of the greenest things about Millennium Park: it's a living "green roof" of plants on top of a huge subterranean parking garage and commuter train terminal. With 120 living roofs built or planned citywide, including one on City Hall, Chicago is pioneering a trend that has taken off across North America. The impetus came from Mayor Richard M. Daley, a proponent of green technology who was impressed by the green roofs he saw when traveling in Europe—where they've been built for 30 years and have become commonplace.

Building green roofs "is a very important initiative for the mayor," says Chicago Green Projects Administrator Michael Berkshire, an urban planner. "He's a very popular mayor, so when he gets behind something, it really means a lot."

In a city where more than 700 people died during a July 1995 heat wave, one benefit of green roofs that was clearly important to Daley is their capacity to mitigate the "urban heat island effect" that makes cities hotter than surrounding suburbs. Higher urban temperatures derive from mile after mile of concrete and other heat-absorbing materials; in contrast, the plants on green roofs cool the air and reduce ozone formation.

Green roofs also reduce flooding and sewer overflows by absorbing rain like sponges, slowing its release and



filtering out pollutants. The plants oxygenate the air, attract birds and insects and soften the urban "viewscape." In addition, the living systems insulate roofs, keeping buildings cooler in summer and cutting electricity use. (An unexpected benefit of the Millennium Park green roof is that the South Shore Terminal directly below the park stays cool, despite the heat of the trains.)

Chicago has taken its cue from German cities by requiring green roofs and other "green" strategies for certain construction projects that are built with public money, that are large enough to require special review or that sit close to Lake Michigan. For instance, a new Target store on the city's north side is getting a green roof. The Millennium Park green roof is unusual; most green roofs are not designed for everyday foot traffic. Those that are require a heavier layer of soil and stronger roofs.

Other examples in North America include a 1.5-acre living roof at the Gap corporate office in San Bruno, California; a 3/4-acre roof on a business complex adapted from a 1925 Montgomery Ward catalog warehouse in Baltimore; more than two acres of green roofs and terraces at the Solaire high-rise in Manhattan; and an eight-acre multi-level roof at Salt Lake City's Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Conference Center. The Salt Lake City center's roofs resemble mountain meadows, planted with 300 types of wildflowers.

The world's largest green roof shelters the Ford Motor Company's Rouge River truck plant in Dearborn, Michigan. The 10.4-acre roof, completed in 2003, absorbs four million gallons of rainwater each year, minimizing storm runoff into the nearby Rouge River. The \$3.6 million cost of the roof was double that of a conventional roof, but the German experience shows that green roofs last at least twice as long because of the protection they provide.

Americans should take more advantage of the German experience, says German native Peter Philippi of Green Roof Service in Street, Maryland. "In the States, it seems people want to invent the wheel anew," Philippi says, adding that North Americans can learn from reading the German standards, now available in English.

New York City is working to add green roofs to mixed-use neighborhoods where parks are scarce. In Long Island City, Queens, a nonprofit consortium called Earth Pledge

is backing a living roof on a metal manufacturing plant in a noisy and drab neighborhood. The aim is to make the area more livable. "There's been a lot of interest in trying to focus green development in areas that are at risk," says Colin Cheney of Earth Pledge.

Cheney notes that storm water control is a prime motivator. Even a 1/20th inch of rain can trigger a flood, and when any of the city's 14 sewage treatment plants is overwhelmed, the overflow—raw sewage—dumps into the Hudson River, the East River or the New York Bay.

Another ambitious project is the green roof planned for the remodeled California Academy of Sciences in San Francisco's Golden Gate Park. The challenge is to plant greenery on two domes that will house a planetarium and a rainforest exhibit. "It's like a flying carpet with big bumps in the middle," says Lawrence Reed, a principal with the landscape architects SWA Group. Reed notes that in a Mediterranean climate like California's, "green roof" is a misnomer. The roof won't be green during the dry season. And the plants are chosen less for looks than for their hardiness. "The romantic vision is the sod roof and grasses," says Reed, "but the most durable plant is the sedum plant," a humble succulent. Reed's firm will plant the Academy roof with wild strawberry, sea thrift, the herb self-heal and stonecrop, a sedum that attracts the endangered Mission Blue Butterfly.



The possibility of butterflies pleases Paul Kephart of Rana Creek Habitat Restoration, a project consultant. He sees living roofs as the key to restoring urban "hardscapes." His aim is "encouraging habitat where it's otherwise not found ... using living architecture and restoration ecology to restore the missing components of our environment." Although some roofs incorporate irrigation, Kephart prefers roofscapes that survive on their own once established.

Kephart also advocates green walls: the more living ecosystems in the city, the better. Fostering urban greenery has a long history, he says, citing the ancient Hanging Gardens of Babylon. "They did it to convey water through the site and cool their buildings, and to provide pleasant courtyards and plazas," says Kephart. "There's nothing new under the sun."

*From E The Environmental Magazine, July / August  
PO Box 2047, Marion, OH 43306 (815) 734-1242*

Dear Sarah Summerville,

It was me, Alexander Hiller, who promised to come for a visit and perhaps for some volunteer work at the Unexpected Wildlife Refuge, so I must apologize for not coming to visit. Instead, I spent my holidays at Harriman State Park, NY. There was such a lot to see and to do with the beavers there, that I couldn't miss one day.

Hope Ryden, and her husband John, guided me through the park on June 2<sup>nd</sup>, my first day in America. We met at famous Lily Pond, and I was shown all the places where the four years observing beavers took place, as described in Hope's book *Lily Pond*.

At Lily Pond, I could see two beavers, one huge and the other smaller, and there were two beaver ponds. One was situated beside a small road inside the park and is not shown on as a pond on any map. When we approached that pond, John and Hope, at the same time, noticed the strong current in the small river beside the road. A minute later, when we arrived at the dam, we saw that vandals had tried to destroy about three feet of the dam.



Hope, John and I began to help the beavers reconstruct the damaged portion of the dam. Hope assumed there were kits in the lodge far up in the middle of the pond, who were not yet able to dive.

The beavers did not appear until 6 PM when we left. After returning at 7:45 PM, we observed three beavers. The biggest of them with reddish fur and about 60 pounds was called the worker, for he did most of the work. The two smaller beavers merely watched the worker, they did not really know what to do. The worker was cutting blueberry bushes along the pond and carrying them with mud to the dam.

When the worker reached the broken dam, he dived to put his load against the dam to stop the flow of water. We observed the beavers until dark and left the park at 9:30 PM. The dam was visible from the small road, and we could watch it from our car.

The next day I returned to Harriman Park around noon to admire the efforts of the beavers. But everything was damaged again, the vandals had returned. I stood there on my own, without the help of Hope and John. I tried to do

the best I could, collecting wood from the sides of the road. With smaller sticks I tried to give structure to the smaller breach of about 1 ½ feet. The huge trunk was pushed away from the flooding water but a very long 12-16 foot trunk got stuck over the bigger four foot breach. When I returned at 5:30, the worker beaver had been working in the bright sunny afternoon and managed to close the smaller breach completely.

I helped the beaver for a while longer, and then went away to let him work on his own. When I returned at about 7:30 PM I observed the beaver from my car for about an hour, cutting bushes and repairing the dam. He had managed to close the broken part completely.

For the rest of the holiday, the dam wasn't broken again. I have kept a keen eye on it twice a day. I thought then of going to Unexpected Wildlife Refuge to volunteer, but this was such a unique chance for me to see beavers working, and even help them to secure their pond. When I read the book *Lily Pond* I was most impressed by beavers repairing their dam. Now I have taken part in it, just as described in the book.

Hope was so nice as to ask a member of her naturalist league, Tom Cunningham, to show other active beaver works in Harriman State Park. I was shown several places with active beaver ponds throughout the park. In Sterling Forest (near Tuxedo) you can see a beaver dam of about 650 feet just beside the forest road leading to a fire tower. The water level was three feet over the road, so the road was closed for the beavers. Those beavers are working in the bright afternoon, and you can hear them slapping their tails at 4 PM or earlier.

But the most romantic place to observe beavers is still Lily Pond. I enjoyed so much seeing them swimming and eating water plants, even if it was for a short time.

I wish all the best to Unexpected Wildlife Refuge, and next year perhaps I will visit your place for some days.

All the best to you,  
Alexander Hiller

*Alexander Hiller is a social worker, and beaver lover, who lives near Frankfurt, Germany.*

Nature is marvelous and humbling. The more you read the living book of nature, the more you realize you don't know. For instance, if you take stock of Ohio's pre-settlement landscape, you'll find evidence of large numbers of native wildlife relying heavily on small, shallow ponds of water to survive. American and Fowler toads, Jefferson and spotted salamanders, wood frogs, newts, and dozens of dragonfly species all require ponds without fish to successfully reproduce. Other wildlife species, although not as totally dependent on ponds as the ones above, nevertheless thrive in such pond habitats. These species include little green herons, painted turtles, cricket frogs, spring peepers, and snapping turtles, green frogs and bullfrogs, northern watersnakes and many minnow species.

Yet, geologically speaking, ponds just aren't something that occurred naturally in Ohio in any significant number. Most vernal pools of water in the spring woodlands dry up before most frogs and salamanders can complete their life cycle. This leaves us with a serious riddle. With so many animals in Ohio depending on ponds to survive, how did these species make it here before people began building farm ponds in the last two centuries?

Enter the animal that was almost surely responsible for the creation of wetlands in the original landscape: the American beaver, an animal once densely populating nearly the entire North American continent from coast to coast. When left alone, beavers have been known to reach densities of 1.3 colonies per mile of stream. In one location, when beavers were allowed to repopulate a natural area after being temporarily wiped out, moist wet meadows rose from 0.6% of the landscape to 5.5%. This is how pre-settlement Ohio must have once looked; dense hardwood forests dissected by a network of streams and a dense patchwork of wet beaver meadows.

Beavers are superb wildlife managers. They begin colonization by damming relatively small streams and creeks, usually creating multiple dams to maximize flooding - using the still water to take refuge and store

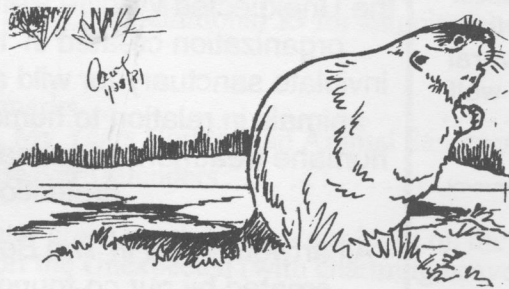
food. Their lives center around their lodge - usually a round stack of mud and branches covering an eating/sleeping platform and a hidden plunge-hole into the pond. Here a monogamous unit of two adults live, overseeing and average of two yearlings and two kits. Trails lead into the surrounding woodlands where these 40-50 pound animals graze on grass, tree leaves, and particularly in the winter, tree bark and twigs.

It is impressive that one average beaver colony can impact 17 acres of landscape with either flooding or grazing. Similar to slash and burn agriculturalists, once a colony 'eats out' an area, the beavers abandon their earthworks and move to virgin territory. After departing, dams eventually break and drain, creating wet meadows of grasses, sedges, and shrubs. Such grasslands and thickets can endure for up to 30 years before reverting to forest, making beavers one of the most important grassland managers in the state, and compared to fire, drought and human activity, the most innocuous.

Extirpated in Ohio soon after European settlement for the popular beaver hat trade, beavers have been re-introduced and are still trying to make a comeback in our state, their industriousness coming head to head with our own. Often they are seen as nuisance animals and are trapped out of suitable habitats. If we were wise, we would welcome them in our back forty more often. Their reclamation of the landscape requires neither backhoe nor petroleum fuel to re-create Ohio's original life-affirming landscape of dotted wetlands.

At the Highlands Nature Sanctuary we are delighted to see that a beaver colony has moved into one of our preserves, with quiet access to 300 acres of old pasture and woodlots. They have built four consecutive dams on a small 6 foot wide stream, flooding considerable land and creating a handsome wetlands. Ironically, this is the same preserve that is ineligible for wetlands restoration funding because the soils are considered unsuitable! Fortunately, no one ever convinced the beavers!

Nancy Henry is the Director of the Highlands Nature Sanctuary - reprinted from Beaver Creek Wetlands Association's *The Spotted Turtle*, Spring 2005  
PO Box 42, Alpha, OH 45301



## GAME MANAGEMENT OR JUST A GAME?

From AWI Quarterly, Spring 2005

The use of aircraft to hunt wildlife is illegal in most places, but not in Alaska. Hunters can legally fly planes across the sky and gun down wolves in the snow below them using a practice called aerial hunting. Not only is it lawful to shoot wolves from the air, but aerial gunning teams in Alaska also fly close to the ground in planes and chase wolves to exhaustion before landing and shooting them at point blank range. The latter practice is known as land-and-shoot hunting.

Alaskan residents passed ballot initiatives in 1996 and 2000 to ban aerial gunning and land-and-shoot hunting, but Alaska Gov. Frank Murkowski reinstated the legality of these savage practices in 2003. Hunting enthusiasts contend that using aircraft to hunt down wolves is a necessary form of predator control to maintain the moose and caribou populations in Alaska for game hunters, but several biologists say the data being used to justify wolf hunting is not based on sound science.

### A WISH

A wish for walks through peaceful woods  
on paths that wind by sparkling streams....  
A wish for sunlight through the trees  
and quiet moments just for dreams....

Anonymous

This year's current death toll from Alaska's aerial wolf killing program exceeds 200, and hundreds more are expected to die before this summer. The killing will not stop without your help, for it is obviously not enough that the Alaskan people have already shown their strong opposition to this cruelty.

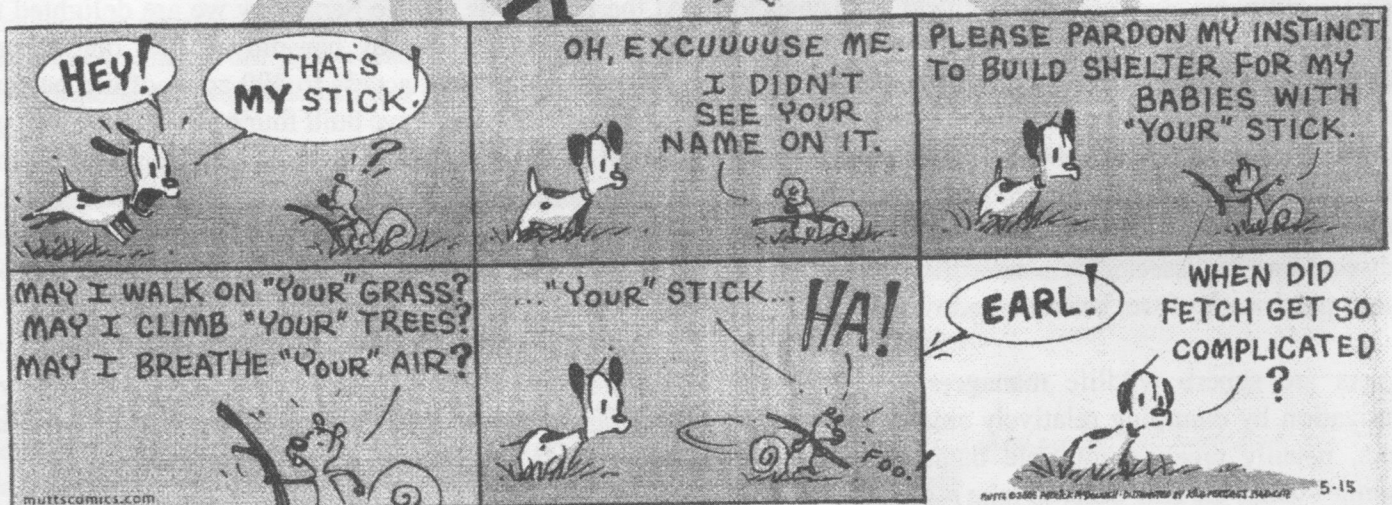
Please contact Governor Frank Murkowski and urge him to put an end to these practices; let him know that as long they remain legal in Alaska, you will not be spending your tourist dollars there. Write him at: Governor Frank Murkowski  
P.O. Box 110001, Juneau, AK 99811  
fax: 907-465-3532

*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 and environmental protection.

All artwork show in *The Beaver Defenders* was created by our co-founder, Hope Sawyer Buyukmihci, unless otherwise noted.

## MUTTS

BY PATRICK M'DONNELL



## The Beaver Defenders Membership Application

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone/fax: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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### In the Store!

(Please include an additional \$3 for shipping and handling of merchandise orders)

Books: Hoofmarks . . . . .	\$18.00
Beaversprite, My Years Building an Animal Sanctuary. . . . .	\$15.00
The Best of Beaver Defenders . . . . .	\$ 8.00
T-shirts: Hunter green, on the front - our logo; on the back - I support the Unexpected (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 created by fifth graders with poems written by Beaver Defenders, 24 pack, 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 (five 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)

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



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Please renew today and keep the Beaver Defenders  
going strong!**

