

UNEXPECTED HELP FOR BEAVERS:

Trapped and persecuted nearly everywhere else, beavers have found unexpected sanctuary for 29 years at Hope Sawyer Buyukmihci's Unexpected Wildlife Refuge, about a mile off Unexpected Road in Newfield, New Jersey.

Halfway between Philadelphia and Atlantic City, on the edge of the fast-vanishing Pine Barrens, the refuge is surrounded by heavily hunted farm woodlots and increasingly heavily populated housing developments.

Hope and her late husband Cavit may have acted just in time to save this one piece of the region for wildlife. They came to southern New Jersey in 1954, simply seeking a quiet, economical place to raise their children. Starting a wildlife refuge hadn't ever occurred to either Hope, a freelance writer from New York, or Cavit, a Turkish-born metallurgical engineer. But as Hope recalls, it wasn't long after they acquired a three-acre homesite that they began wishing it were larger. Neighbors shot deer and hung the carcasses up in plain view, the better to show them off. Some, Hope recalls, "even shot rabbits right in our garden and made the children cry."

In 1961 the Buyukmihcis purchased an 85-acre former cranberry swamp for \$40 an acre. Abandoned since the 1930s, the human-made dikes had been breached by ice—and repaired by beavers, whose work had created habitat for otters, muskrats, and countless birds as well.

"The simplest formula I've seen for how to start a wildlife refuge," Hope wrote recently in *The A-V*, "is 'Put out food and water, and scare away the cat.'" Cats, however, were and are the least of the Buyukmihcis' problems.

"We found out what hunting is when we

started the refuge," Hope explains. "Some of our neighbors were hunters, trappers, and just plain vandals." When the Buyukmihcis posted the refuge against hunting, fishing, and trapping, the posting signs were torn down repeatedly, and often shot full of holes. On one occasion when the family was away, they returned to find someone had blown the lock off the

door of their house and riddled a collection of paintings by Hope's father with birdshot. Hope had been working as a secretary, but quit because "Someone had to look after the place, all the time."

In the years since, she's rarely left. She did guest lectures in local schools when she was younger, and journeyed twice to the late

Dorothy Richards' Beaversprite sanctuary in New York in 1975-1977, while collaborating on Rich-



photo by
August
Sexauer

HOPE SAWYER BUYUKMIHCI

ards' book *Beaversprite*. Otherwise Hope has concentrated on protecting and encouraging the Unexpected multitude of animals—including a large colony of immigrant Norway rats in the crawlspace beneath her house. The rats are amply fed on sunflower seeds to keep them away from birds' nests, plentiful in over 100 birdhouses posted about the property and in ground sites along the shores of the swamp.

The original 85 acres have gradually expanded to 400. The Buyukmihcis bought up several adjoining parcels themselves, and have had help from others since the Unexpected Wildlife refuge was incorporated. But land acquisition has become much harder. Three years ago Hope and the Unexpected trustees raised \$90,000, thinking they had closed a deal on 70 acres.

At the last minute the owner reneged, and is now asking \$140,000. Unexpected stands ready to buy any other adjacent land it can afford.

At incorporation, Hope and Cavit were made Unexpected's caretakers-for-life. Cavit retired in 1987, planning to increase his activity on behalf of the refuge and animals generally. He had become a vegetarian in his forties, and an award-winning marathon runner in his fifties. But, healthy as he seemed, he died suddenly that July, leaving Hope to carry on the refuge and a companion organization called The Beaver Defenders with the aid of volunteers. The Beaver Defenders work against trapping and to protect beavers wherever they are.

Besides inspiring generations of visitors, the Unexpected Wildlife

Refuge inspired a second generation of Buyukmihcis to devote their lives to animal protection. All Hope and Cavit's three children are involved; son Nedim, a professor of veterinary medicine at the University of California's Davis campus, has sued the university after being suspended for refusing to have his students practice surgery on dogs who didn't need it. Nedim also cofounded the Assn. of Veterinarians for Animal Rights. He and his wife, Kim Sturla, of the Peninsula Humane Society, have recently started their own sanctuary, Animal Place, housing over 100 formerly stray or abused farm animals.

—M.C.

A journal of refuge activities up to Dorothy Richards' death in 1985 is available for \$10 plus \$2 shipping/handling from the Unexpected Wildlife Refuge Inc., Newfield, NJ 08344.

STOP THE SUFFERING

JOIN THOUSANDS OF YOUR FELLOW ACTIVISTS IN MEMORIALIZING THE SIX BILLION INNOCENT, FEELING ANIMALS LANGUISHING AND DYING EACH YEAR IN U.S. FACTORY FARMS AND SLAUGHTERHOUSES. PLAN NOW FOR YOUR OBSERVANCE OF

WORLD FARM ANIMALS DAY

ON OCTOBER 2nd (GANDHI'S BIRTHDAY).

SEND COUPON BELOW OR CALL 301/530-1737

FARM ANIMAL REFORM MOVEMENT

Box 30654

Bethesda, MD 20824



Yes, I want to be part of World Farm Animals Day!

☐ Send Action Kit; ☐ I enclose a contribution of \$ _____

Name _____ Tel _____

Address _____ Zip _____

SIX BILLIONS PER YEAR... BUT ONE AT A TIME



Get a free sample of one of the oldest cruelty - free cosmetic lines

Naturel

made with the purest essential oils,
...no dyes, no artificial fragrances.

O'Naturel carries the Beauty Without Cruelty seal of approval.
For your free sample and a brochure, write to...

O'Naturel, 2601 Adeline Street, Ste. 133, Oakland, CA 94607