The BEAVER DEFENDERS

July 2003



Hope Sawyer Buyukmihci swimming with a baby beaver at Unexpected

They shall never be trapped anymore.

The BEAVER DEFENDERS



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July 2003

GOOD NEWS FROM UNEXPECTED

By Sarah Summerville

Talk about the Weather

Everyone seems to be doing just that. After the searing heat and terrific drought last year, this spring weather has been unbelievable. It has been very cool and wet, and I was lighting an evening fire in the woodstove as late as May 23. Because of the chill, the bugs were slow to appear in April, making a rough start for those depending upon insects for food. Bluebirds, tree swallows and purple martins struggled to "make ends meet", facing the overwhelming task of building homes and starting families. Also affected by the cooler temperatures, the reptiles and amphibians were slow to warm and mate, with no spring sunshine.

Fearing another drought, I decided not to plant any vegetables in the large garden out near the poplar patch. After hours of hard work last year, I watched helplessly as the plants withered and died in the hot, dry summer sun. This year I tilled the plot and planted soybeans and sorghum for the deer and rabbits to enjoy. What they do not eat will be tilled back into the ground to build up the soil for next year's garden.

In April I planted tomatoes and peppers in the butterfly garden next to the cabin where it would be easy to water them, if necessary. I also planted lettuce to go to seed for the goldfinches, however, I forgot to tell the rabbits just for whom the lettuce was planted When I began to expand the planting area to put in cucumbers, beets and carrots, I discovered that I was about to turn over a plot of soil containing about twenty spadefoot toads, all

hunkered down in the cool soil waiting to be warmed into action. Their tiny brown faces watched me with trepidation. Needless to say, there will be no cucumbers in that garden this summer.



A female wood duck took up residence in the owl box

that is mounted on a pole over the cabin. She entered the box faithfully every night. I do not know if she was successful in raising her brood, but I saw a female wood duck on Main Pond with eight ducklings in tow. It must be quite a job protecting these babies from raptors above and snappers below.

The Refuge is cut in half by Main Lake Branch and associated wetlands. With all the rain, the wetlands have swelled into a lush green haven, and most of the trails are under water. The bogs and swamps have swelled to two and three times their usual size. In May we heard the male Pine Barrens tree frogs serenading their sweethearts on the warmer evenings, along with four other distinct frog songs. There is love among the lily pads.

It rained every day in May, except for eight, and so far, June is no different. Water is flowing over the dike boardwalk in three places, and rushing over most of the dam.

Beaver Maneuvers

It would appear that the family of beavers that I befriended two years ago have finally split up. I guess it was time for the yearlings that I met as kits in 2001 to say goodbye to Unexpected and move downstream. Perhaps with the water levels back to normal, or rather above normal, some of them ventured upstream. There are peeled sticks, evidence of beaver dining, all through the watershed, so it is hard to venture a guess as to where they wound up homesteading.

When I explored Miller Pond in my kayak, I found that there are now two pair of beavers residing there. A very large beaver and a very small beaver have rehabbed one of the old beaver lodges far upstream in Miller Pond, and have constructed a new lodge adjacent to it. Another pair of beavers, roughly matched in size, have been seen hanging around two old lodges even further upstream toward the Main Pond. They have fixed them up by

placing fresh peeled sticks and mud on the walls. Although I did not seen any kittens, one beaver tried to divert my attention and lure me out of the lodge area. She swam very near the boat and circled close, constantly moving toward the exit. After exploring a little more, I dropped off a small token of poplar and followed the decoy. She took me out to the mouth of the channel in the middle of the pond. When I appeared to be well on my way the teasing beaver dove and disappeared completely, leaving me alone and heading for the door.

Spring House Cleaning

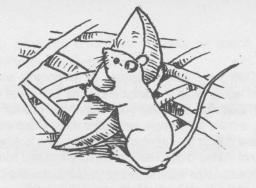
We did two Unexpected roadway cleanups this spring. First, some friendly faces from the Outdoor Club of South Jersey came again this year to pick up all the trash along Piney Hollow Road. It was not quite as bad as last year, but we still pulled about 18 trash bags full from the shoulders and embankments. Sadly, three quarters of this discarded garbage was recyclable plastic, glass and metal. The rest seemed to be from fast food establishments and convenience marts. A portion of our trail hugs the easterly side of Piney Hollow Road, and it is nice to hike it without having to look at all that litter.

Unexpected Road was spruced up when the neighbor girls and my nieces came over and spent the afternoon fetching cans and bottles that landed along the driveway and Unexpected Road. It is hard to believe that people actually still throw trash from their cars. The whole place looks much better thanks to the litter patrols.

We weren't the only ones cleaning house around here. Madam Phoebe returned to the old nest in the shed again this year. She turned the bedraggled mess of grass and plaster into a tidy little cup, and now she is contentedly nestled on top of her second clutch of eggs.

The bluebird couple also returned to the Cove box after Prince Charming showed his Lady their prospective castle. She accepted it as home, and after fending off a persistent and obnoxious neighboring house wren, they set to the task of constructing a nest. They worked hard for a week, building and defending their dream home. They lost their first clutch of eggs to that nasty house wren, but we cleaned out the box, and they are giving it another try.

We have given a corner of the new outhouse to the Mouses. They have constructed a nice fluffy nest from some borrowed tissue paper, and will be residing there until the youngsters move out.



Madam Mouse has made a nest beside the privy seat; if you choose to use this house, please try to be discreet; a gentle knock will send her out, she'll have you as her guest; but be a friendly neighbor, and do not touch her nest!

Land Acquisition Update

It is hard to believe that Unexpected initiated the land acquisition project over 15 months ago. During that time, we have raised quite a bit of money toward the purchase. We have been awarded a grant from New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Green Acres Program for \$80,000, and we have signed an agreement of sale with the land owners to settle no later than mid-August. We have submitted all the required deliverables to the NJDEP, and are currently waiting to sign a contract with the State.

If you made a contribution to the land fund, thank you so much for your help! If you made a pledge and just haven't gotten around to writing that check, please take a moment to do so. We need your help.



There is still time!

If you want to make a tax deductible donation toward the preservation of an additional 67 acres of New Jersey Pine Barrens habitat, just make a note of it on your check. Lets make Unexpected Wildlife Refuge over 600 acres of wilderness for wildlife. Hi Sarah,

During my walk yesterday, to temporarily escape our plasticized world, I had a chance encounter with some wonderful birds that I wanted to share with you - I saw a pair of black and white warblers, a male and female, near otter dam. There were 5 wild turkeys near marker 9 – I wouldn't have even been looking for them had they not started to call. There was a ruby-throated hummingbird making repeated trips to the large tree (couldn't i.d. a tree to save my life) at the east side of blue bird field – most likely building a nest. And there were several male scarlet tanagers in the woods between the pond and blue bird field - great stuff.

With my batteries recharged, I am once again ready to face the hustle-bustle of "modern" life.

See you soon, Steve Greer, NJ

Dear Sarah,

A National Geographic video titled "Rocky Mountain Beaver Pond" has come to my attention. In case you haven't heard of it, it can be ordered by calling National Geographic Video, (800) 627-5162; P.O. Box 5049, Clifton, N.J. 07015. The cost is \$23.90. Unfortunately I missed a chance to vew it, but I assume (from

other National Geographic videos I have seen) it's top quality. It was presented as "an award-winning documentary on a most admirable creature: the beaver. Tireless worker, exceptional parent and highly skilled builder, the beaver has earned its reputation as nature's great architect and engineer. Surrounded by the majestic wilderness of the Rockies, a family of these industrious creatures creates and maintains a serene pond that supports an entire community of plants and animals."

I think you should have a copy. Otherwise, use the enclosed check for the Refuge.

I much enjoyed the New Beaver Defenders and particularly what you had to say about WWF. Right on! Cordially,

Eleanor, PA

Dear Sarah,

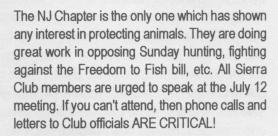
I wanted to thank you so much for the book you sent me, "Lily Pond". I have so enjoyed reading it, and have shared it with my neighbor, co-workers, and a number of children who are learning to love and respect all wildlife.

So far so good with the beavers in our Delaware canal. I do what I can to sing the praises of their industrious lives. Thank you again,

Nancy Holland

Sierra Club Members needed to express opposition to the NJ Bear Hunt. The NJ Chapter of Sierra Club will meet on July 12 to decide its position on the proposed Black Bear hunt in New Jersey. The Conservation Committee meeting will start around 10am in New Brunswick. The Black Bear issue will dominate the agenda until about 1pm when the Executive Committee meeting starts and the Conservation Committee meeting ends. These meetings are open to all Club members; however, the format may prevent members who have NOT pre-registered from speaking.

What most people do not know is that Sierra Club was founded by an animal rights advocate---John Muir---and that it has strayed from his ideals. Sierra Club takes money directly from the hunting industry and complies with their wishes.



To preregister to speak, or for information about calling or writing Sierra Club, please contact Steve Ember sehiker@yahoo.com.



Dear Animal Advocates:

Re: Fish and Wildlife Council Reform / Bill A3764

While the Center believes that parts of present legislation to add members to the council and transfer certain authority to the Department of Environmental Protection must be strengthened, we want to urge those of like mind to contact their Assemblypersons in support of reforming the Fish and Game Council into a democratic board whose real mission is to preserve our valuable landscape, vital ecosystems and precious wildlife.

If the Assembly *does not* hear from you -- and members are now hearing from hunters --reform efforts will lose credibility. Again, please don't contact the sponsor -- he asks that you contact your assemblypersons. E-mail is good but fax, letter and phone are still better. Keep your message brief and succinct: **Reform the Council.**

Thank you.

Center for Animal Protection
mail@centerforanimalprotection.org

Dammed by beavers, Knowlton goes with the flow. By Sheila Hotchkin, Associated Press

Knowlton, N.J., After 15 years of persecution, beavers suddenly have won exalted status here in the shadow of the Kittatinny Mountains.

Children sing beaver songs and write essays on ways Knowlton's beavers and humans can live in harmony. At the Town Hall, a beaver that had the ill fortune to be stuffed and mounted before this golden age nevertheless holds court. A smaller beaver watches over the council chambers.

Another is pinned to the shirt of the mayor, the man at the center of this benevolent madness.

"The state actually told us we've got some of the smartest beavers in the world," Mayor Frank Van Horn declares, daring anyone to challenge this statement.

From schoolchildren to elected leaders, the sharpest minds in this town of 2,800 in Warren County have failed to find a way to stop the flooding and clogged pipes caused by the beavers' single-minded upkeep of their dams and ponds.

Graceful in defeat, the town now celebrates the creature's perseverance with the same enthusiasm, beginning with its first-ever Beaver Day this Saturday.

Last year, Knowlton made its surrender official in a document that is equal parts peace treaty, fish story, and excuse for a town-wide party.

According to the resolution, the beavers are "long standing residents of the Township of Knowlton," and "it has been demonstrated on numerous occasions over the past year that the Beavers of Knowlton Township are both clever and cunning, having thwarted all

attempts to dislodge them from their preferred lodge."

The resolution designates the beaver as the town's official animal and gives the mayor the authority to annually proclaim Knowlton Township Beaver Day, "at which time the Deputy Mayor shall dress in the likeness of a beaver during all official functions." The inaugural Beaver Day falls the same day as the deputy mayor's wedding. Van Horn, who will perform the ceremony, eventually waived the costume requirement for this year.

Actually, Beaver Day was timed for the longest day of the

year to give the oversized rodents as much time as possible to enjoy themselves.

Living among an estimated 100 or more beavers isn't all fun. Each morning, the mayor goes to the same woman's home to unblock her pipes.

Beavers follow, diligently plugging them up.

In less enlightened times, dams were torn down; in fact, the deputy mayor and his wife-to-be were rumored to don hip-waders on dates. The beavers simply rebuilt. Engineers proposed beaver-proof pipes, supposedly with too many holes for the critters to clog. Guess again.

Students from Knowlton Township Elementary School offered *Poppy and Rye*, a children's book in which deer mice and a porcupine overcome the arrogant beavers who flooded their home.

Whether Knowlton's latest gambit will end its beaverrelated problems remains to be seen.

And if the beavers don't cooperate?

"I think we'll have to go back in negotiations with them," Van Horn said.



When the town of Knowlton broke this story to the nation back in March, we contacted Mayor Van Horn immediately. He put us in touch with Mark Miller, school superintendent, and Unexpected was able to provide packets of beaver literature and information on how to coexist with these wonderful creatures. We also gave them some of Hope's coloring sheets, reading lists, beaver songs and other beaver contacts.

Bravo Knowlton!

THE BEAVER TOWNS ARE FILLING UP AGAIN

The humble, hard-working beaver, symbol of the wilderness for Grey Owl and the key element of his conservation message, is set to make a comeback.

"One hundred thousand square miles of country in Ontario was dry of beaver, and save for their deserted works it was as if there never had been any.......The beaver were going fast; in large areas they were already gone. Was this, then, to be the end? Beaver stood for something vital, something essential in this wilderness, were a component part of it; they were the wilderness." [Pilgrims of the Wild, pp.47-48]

When Grey Owl wrote these words, he was describing a crucial moment in his life. Returning to Canada after fighting in the First World War, and anxious to escape the horrors he had experienced, he had hoped to immerse himself once more in the carefree, independent life of the trapper and woodsman on which he had embarked many years before. Instead, he discovered that the world he had taken for granted was already disappearing: rogue trappers and greedy entrepreneurs had ransacked his precious hunting grounds and cut into his forests, and instead of respecting the natural laws of the forest they were treating the wilderness purely as a commodity to be exploited for profit.

At first Grey Owl reacted as most people would, fleeing the desolate wastes of his former territories and seeking out new hunting grounds where he hoped to find the old way of life still possible, but he was to be disappointed – everywhere he went the story was the same. In the midst of this despair, however, a new way was opening before him in the shape of two small furry individuals: the kitten beavers he and Anahareo had decided to adopt after his own trap had killed their mother. The intelligence, ingenuity and affection demonstrated by these small, defenceless creatures, combined with his own growing revulsion for killing and Anahareo's persuasive influence, brought about his final transformation from hunter to conservationist. Grey Owl's new career was launched and, as champion of the beavers, he spoke up for the wilderness way of life and fought for the protection of all wild things.

Today, more than sixty years later and at the start of another century, Grey Owl's conservation message has been taken up by people from all walks of life and from all over the world, and appropriately enough the beaver itself, chosen by Grey Owl as the symbol of the wilderness way of life, is once more centre stage in the battle for preservation of our natural environment.

Many people are still unaware that the European species of the beaver (*castor fiber*) was once native to the British Isles, dying out in England and Wales in about the 12th century and in Scotland as late as the 16th century. Demand for the beavers' thick fur, both for making hats and for garments, and for its scent (castoreum) used in the manufacture of perfumes and medicine, meant that the supply in Europe was already running short by the 15th century, and commercial traders were quick to exploit the fresh sources they discovered in the New World.

Human greed would probably have put paid to the North American beaver (castor Canadensis) also, but thanks to some last-minute legislation and to Grey Owl's own efforts, the beaver is now well established once more both in Canada and the United States. Initiatives to reintroduce the beaver to Europe in the last century have also been largely successful and there are now viable populations in Germany, Poland, Scandinavia, Austria, Switzerland, France, Belgium, the Netherlands, and some of the former Soviet countries, with a more recent introduction of a small number into Denmark.

The proposed reintroduction of the European beaver to Britain, however, has been met with rather more opposition, mainly because many people remain ignorant about the lifestyle of the beaver and are convinced that, in a heavily populated country like ours, the beaver's activities would be incompatible with those of modern Man. It is now generally recognized, however, that beavers can have a very beneficial effect on the environment, controlling water levels and creating perfect wetland habitat for a number of other species.

If it had not been for Grey Owl my own knowledge and understanding of beavers would have remained as sketchy as that of most people in this country today. It was only through reading *The Adventures of Sajo and Her Beaver People* as a child that I became captivated by these fascinating animals and later, as an adult, intrigued by the mystery surrounding Grey Owl himself. Convinced that this remarkable man's conservation message should be brought to a new generation of children and adults, I embarked on a mission to use the beaver as the focal point of Grey Owl's message, and my first project (partly sponsored by the Grey Owl Society) resulted in a full-size replica of his log cabin being built in the beaver enclosure at Drusillas Zoo Park in East Sussex.

In tandem with my own activities, the much wider and more ambitious reintroduction campaign was growing, but what struck me as I carried out my research was that many people were – and still are – surprisingly ignorant about this remarkable animal that was once as much at home in our rivers and streams as the otter. I realized that the public needed educating about the beaver and its lifestyle so that the idea of a reintroduction would be more acceptable, and I have since steered my own conservation campaign in that direction, focusing particularly on children by giving regular talks to the Beaver Scout Movement.

It was my involvement with Wildwood Woodland Discovery Park in Kent, however, that brought me to the heart of the reintroduction campaign. I think it is fair to say that the project manager there, Derek Gow, has really been the mastermind behind the recent attempts to reintroduce the European beaver to England. Derek's aim is to set up breeding colonies of the animals in captivity prior to a possible reintroduction into the wild and, with the support of other individuals and organizations such as English Nature (and not forgetting a donation from the Grey Owl Society!), he has succeeded so well that he now has several groups of breeding European beavers at Wildwood, some imported from Poland in 2000 and several pairs brought from Norway in the Spring of 2001. "Beavers are delightful creatures," says Derek, "and they are extremely important from an ecological stand-point. It is a disgrace that Britain should be lagging so far behind other European nations in restoring beaver to our wetlands."

In response to this challenge the Kent Wildlife Trust has earmarked some of Wildwood's Norwegian beavers to take part in a very exciting beaver management scheme, the first of its kind in Britain. The beavers will be released into one of the last remaining fenland areas of Kent, where they will be studied to assess their viability and effectiveness as a natural management tool for conservation of the local wetland environment. John McAllister, the Trust's project manager, sees the project as a very important pilot scheme which, if successful, could encourage other wildlife groups and societies to establish similar colonies of beavers around Britain.

Perhaps the most widely publicised and ambitious scheme, however, is that being promoted in Scotland by the government agency, Scottish Natural Heritage. A public consultation concerning the plan to reintroduce the European beaver into selected areas met with general approval and, if final permission is granted by the Scottish Secretary of State, the intention is to fly in some 50 beavers over a period of five years. These will be established in carefully chosen spots in the Highlands, where they will be radio-tagged in order to monitor their movements and activity.

In his last published book, *Tales of an Empty Cabin*, Grey Owl wrote that he hoped that his own efforts to awaken our sense of responsibility for the natural world would be echoed by later generations: "I hope to assist, even if only in a minor role, in laying the foundation on which abler hands and better heads may later build." I have been able to mention here only a few of the dedicated individuals and organizations who are each striving in their own way to pursue Grey Owl's dream, but I certainly hope that during my lifetime I will have the pleasure of seeing those "beaver towns filling up again" here in the wild in Britain.

To others it may not seem overwhelmingly important that one small animal should be restored to a landscape from which it vanished several hundred years ago, but such a gesture surely acknowledges our debt to Nature, a debt which Grey Owl so evocatively recalled to us all those years ago.

SUNDAY HUNTING BILL KILLED OF FOR A YEAR

Bangor, ME - Sunday hunting will have to wait at least one more year. The Legislature's Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Committee decided this week to all but kill a broad Sunday hunting bill and postpone action on several suggestions for compromise. For the first time, the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife had spoken in favor of a limited Sunday hunting program, citing the extra revenue an additional hunting day could provide.

Rep. Monica McGlocklin, D-Embden, had proposed a bill, favored by the department as well as the Sportsman's Alliance of Maine, to permit Sunday hunting for a fee only in unorganized territories and only for small game such as rabbits and some birds.

Opponents feared that McGlocklin's bill was a first step toward legalizing Sunday hunting statewide. Several rural residents testified that they feared walking in the woods during hunting season, and they limited their outdoor recreation to Sundays.

McGlocklin's bill was carried over to next session, as was a bill sponsored by Rep. Troy Jackson, I-Fort Kent, which would allow people to carry hunting rifles on Sunday as protection while baiting bears or checking traps.

A third bill allowing Sunday hunting for Maine residents was given a unanimous ought- not-to-pass vote.

Bangor Daily News April 4, 2003

LEAVE YOUNG WILDLIFE ALONE

Every year, especially during the spring and early summer, the lives of many young animals are disrupted. Well intentioned people may attempt to 'save' these animals, and more often than not, the mother is nearby witnessing her young being taken.



Potential acts of kindness often have the opposite effect. Instead of being left to learn how to survive, young animals will be denied their natural learning experiences. They often become attached to their caregivers and cannot be returned to the wild. In addition, nearly all wild birds and mammals are protected under the law and may not be legally taken from the wild or kept. Only when they are found injured or with their dead mother is there reason to do something and only under these circumstances can an animal be legally kept while it is being transferred to a licensed wildlife rehabilitator. Above all, individuals should never consider wild animals as possible pets.



Comments From NJF&W Council Public Hearing

The proposed 2003-2004 Game Code states when and under what circumstances, in what location, by what means, what amounts and numbers, game birds, game animals and fur bearing animals may be pursued, taken, killed or had in possession. Tonight we are addressing the game code and the proposal to add a six day bear hunt.

Unfortunately for the bears I have my doubts as to whether this hunt can be stopped at his time. However, I believe it is only a matter of time before the people of the state of New Jersey will come to realize that human overpopulation, over-development and the loss of habitat and open space are the real problems in New Jersey and not bears.

I look forward to the time when we no longer treat bears, so called "game animals," and other animals as property under the law to be pursued, taken, killed or had in possession, and in the case of bears to have to experience the searing, exploding pain of shotgun slugs or "buck shot," the disabling injuries, loss of mates, and in the case of bear cubs, their parents.

Animal Rights Activists of New Jersey is opposed to the proposed bear hunt and Game Code.

-David Sauder, Coordinator

Animal Rights Activists of New Jersey

Species Worth Defending: Habitat and Military have Common Ground

-By William H. Schlesinger Last week, after only a couple hours of debate, the House Resources Committee rewrote the Endangered Species Act and the Marine Mammal Protection Act, then tucked the changes into the Defense Department's annual authorization bill. The proposed legislation exempts not only the military from these two keystone environmental protections, but also

In effect, the bill now lets the entire federal government off the hook, even through it manages 625 million acres that provide habitat for many of this nation's threatened and endangered species. The bill conceivably allows bombing and shelling, mining, drilling, road building, and other disruptions of critical habitat, without regard to the consequences.

This legislation should make us question our values. We

seem to have forgotten that our government and its military are supposed to protect our land and its natural resources. The diversity of plants and animals is part of our natural heritage and until now stewardship of them had been a cardinal part of our American way of life.

other federal agencies.

Species have more than aesthetic value to enhance our weekend walk in a local forest. We depend on a rich diversity of plants and animals for the food, fuel, and fiber in our daily lives. This

newspaper was once a tree. Roughly one-third of the medicines now in use are derived from natural sources. To understand the consequences of eliminating a species, we need only look at the lost civilization of Easter Island. Scientists theorize that deforestation by its inhabitants brought down an entire culture.

Drive any species to extinction and its role or function in nature is gone forever. White-tailed deer overgraze our local forests, so that no young trees can survive. At one time, wolves fed on white-tailed deer, keeping their numbers in check. With wolves now gone from the ecosystem, their role as predators of deer has been lost, and forests are slowly dying because deer feed on saplings.

When the Taliban destroyed the massive Buddhist statues in Afghanistan, many Americans were outraged at the loss of such treasures. Yet the extinction of a living creature is even more serious. With the disappearance of each native species, we lose its role in nature. A simple analogy makes the point. Aeronautical engineers can calculate how many rivets an aircraft wing can lose before the plane will crash. Ecologists, unfortunately, don't know exactly how many species are essential for nature to function properly. Prudence says that we must try to save all we can.

Ironically, the armed forces and other federal agencies have shown they are quite capable of environmental stewardship with no demonstrable harm to their mission. The Marine Corps base in Hawaii annually plows mudflats to improve nesting and feeding habitat for an endangered bird, the Hawaiian stilt. In North Carolina, Marine Corps officers, managers of Croatan National Forest, and state officials entered into an agreement to ensure the preservation of the

endangered red cockaded woodpecker. Training at Camp Lejeune goes on as usual despite restrictions in a few areas to protect the bird's habitat.

The timing of the Pentagon's request is as clever as it is suspect. Rather than opening the matter to rational debate in a time of peace, Congress was asked to act during the recent war in Iraq. Under such a cloud, representatives and senators were reluctant to vote against something that - on the surface - seemed beneficial to our men and women in uniform.

Although the military campaign is now over, the U.S. House and Senate are rushing to pass a bill they made much worse.

Putting our endangered species at further risk will not make our armed forces any better prepared or protect them from harm on the battlefield. An impoverished natural world, however, will be less productive, just as it is less beautiful and less interesting to us. Someone must speak for the species that may be lost forever - a grave wound to the natural world that sustains all of us.

William H. Schlesinger is dean of the Nicholas School of the Environment and Earth Sciences at Duke University and president-elect of the Ecological Society of America.

BLOODY PLATES

Virginia's Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) is now accepting orders for its newest "special plate in development," which endorses foxhunting. This archaic bloodsport continues in Virginia even though it is just as cruel as other forms of "entertainment" that have been outlawed, such as bearbaiting and cockfighting.

Hounds, who are starved before the hunt, often chase foxes for miles before catching them and ripping the exhausted animals apart.

Once this license plate's sponsor receives 350 paid applications, it will go into production. Please contact the Virginia DMV and ask that it cancel production plans:

Bonnie Hutchinson, Special Plates Group Department of Motor Vehicles P.O. Box 26668, Richmond, VA 23261

Delegate Thomas C. Wright, Jr. Virginia House of Delegates P.O. Box 1323, Victoria, VA 23974

Delegate William R. Janis Virginia House of Delegates P.O. Box 306, Oilville, VA 23129

BE AWARE OF BEARS IN THE WOODS

In light of the rising frequency of human conflicts with bears in the field, the Department of Fish and Game is advising hikers, hunters, and fishermen to take extra precautions and be observant. They advise that outdoorsmen wear noisy little bells on their clothing, so as not to startle bears that aren't expecting them. They also advise outdoorsmen to carry pepper spray with them in case of an encounter with a bear.

It is also a good idea to watch out for fresh signs of bear activity. Outdoorsmen should recognize the difference between black bear and grizzly bear dung. Black bear dung is smaller and contains lots of berries and squirrel fur. Grizzly bear dung has little bells in it and smells like pepper spray.

West Milford Man Cited for Shooting Bear

TRENTON - The Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) Division of Fish and Wildlife today cited a West Milford Township man for unlawfully shooting a black bear that entered his yard last week.

As a result of an investigation that included a review of necropsy reports, the DEP cited Patrick P. Flynn Jr. of North Kushaqua Trail in West Milford for unlawfully injuring a black bear. The summons carries a minimum fine of \$100 and a maximum fine of \$300.

Flynn shot and wounded the 400-pound, male black bear on the evening of June 5. The following morning, division officers located the bear 400 yards from the house. They were forced to euthanize the animal due to its injuries.

Although Flynn indicated at the time that he shot the bear in self-defense, the division's necropsy report indicated otherwise. The bear was shot in the rear at a range of about 15 yards, indicating it was retreating when Flynn pulled the trigger.

"Communities need to understand that shooting bears is unlawful," said DEP Commissioner Bradley M. Campbell. "While there may be circumstances in which an immediate threat to safety would excuse a killing, that justification was not presented by the facts in this case."

Residents who encounter a bear on their property should call police and not confront the animal. The DEP has trained hundreds of local police officers to respond to bear incidents.

Making loud noises, such as banging pans together, will usually get a bear to leave the area. Keeping garbage, pet foods and bird feeders secured from bears can reduce the number of problem incidents in a neighborhood.

West Milford Municipal Court is scheduled to hear the case Tuesday, July 1.



In late March the female wood duck started nesting in the birdhouse on the island. From my window I have seen her each evening as she enters the house. Her mate accompanies her, flying on by to alight in the water while she goes inside. When he stops coming with her we will know that her clutch of eggs is complete and she will brood them for 28 to 30 days

Then the ten to fifteen youngsters, fluffy and new-hatched, will leap from the entrance hole to land upside down either on the water or among the grass at its edge, to join their mother. She will lead them swiftly away to the sheltered, wooded stream, where they will eat duckweed, other plants, and a

host of insects, including mosquito wrigglers by the thousands.

The male wood duck is the most highly colored of North American ducks. His iridescent plumage glows in tints of blue, green, brown and buff, with vivid white markings. His long silky crest rises and falls and is shaken as he expresses various emotions. The female is a blend of soft brown and gray, with white markings, mainly a striking elliptical patch around her eye.

I have heard these ducks talking with one another on several occasions. One day a male sat in the

branches of a tree next to the house where his mate brooded eggs, and talked to here with many inflections in an un-ducklike voice. But it is the female who is most apt to be heard by man, as she takes off in flight with a hysterical cry.

The wood duck breeds in most of the United States and in the southern provinces of Canada, rarely further north. He winters from southern British Columbia to southern Virginia, Michigan or Massachusetts, and south to central Mexico, Jamaica and sometimes Bermuda.

The wood ducks' habits are peaceful and beneficial; his beauty is unparalleled. Some have

suggested the wood duck as our national bird. He would be an ideal to live up to in a nation where our original symbol, the bald eagle has been slaughtered almost to extinction, and were the wood duck himself is still on the shooting list. It is ironic that a community will spend thousands of dollars on mosquito control, yet encourage the killing of these beautiful birds who make mosquito larvae their food. If these ducks were fully protected, and a few thousand dollars spent on making and erecting suitable birdhouses along our streams and lakes, we would have natural mosquito control of the best kind.

Wood ducks usually nest in tree holes, though they have been known to nest on the

ground. By making birdhouses and erecting them near water, people have helped in the duck's housing problems. The diameter of a wood duck house should be about 8 inches inside, and the depth from the entrance about 14 inches. The diameter of the entrance hole should be 4½ inches. The house should be mounted on a pole between 10 and 20 feet from the ground.

Another tree-nesting duck is the hooded merganser, who may be attracted to a similar house. This duck is slightly smaller than the wood duck. The male is spectacular, with a black head on

which a with patch runs back from his eye in a broad fan. Hooded mergansers feed mostly on small fish, but also eat some vegetable matter, as well as frogs, tadpoles and insects. They are skillful swimmers and rise powerfully from the water.

New Jersey is within the breeding range of this duck, and it may be that one will nest in a manmade house along South Jersey streams. Like the wood duck, the hooded merganser may begin nesting in March. A pair has been frequently seen on our pond, but we have not observed signs of their nesting.

NJDA Humane Standards Promote Cruelty

Six years behind schedule and after receiving tens of thousands of letters from concerned citizens, the New Jersey Department of Agriculture has finally released draft standards for the "humane" treatment of farm animals.

Shockingly, the department explicitly allows cruel factory farming practices. Rather than developing "standards for humane raising, keeping, care, treatment, marketing, and sale of domestic livestock" as required by law, the New Jersey Department of Agriculture (NJDA) endorses the agribusiness status quo, codifying the inhumane exploitation of animals on industrialized farms.

For example, the NJDA adopts the guidelines of the American Veal Association, promoting the inhumane

practice of tethering and confining calves in crates for their entire lives, while feeding them an iron and fiber-deficient diet to produce veal. It also endorses the use of gestation crates for breeding sows and allows laying hens to be force molted.

The New Jersey Department of Agriculture is now accepting public comments on its "humane" standards, and it is critical for them to hear from concerned citizens.

Please write today: Dr. Nancy Halpern, Director Division of Animal Health, NJDA. P.O. Box 330 Trenton, NJ 08625-0330 (or e-mail her at: humane.standards@ag.state.nj.us). For more information see: http://www.njfarms.org.

Dioxin in Milk from Robert Cohen

The Department of Environmental Protection is now in its ninth year of sitting on a dioxin report that would result in the banning of milk and dairy products for human consumption. From one administration to another, from Democrat to Republican, EPA recognizes that telling Americans the truth about the dangers of milk consumption would not make for good politics.

More than twelve years ago (April 1991), EPA announced that it would conduct a scientific assessment of the health risks of dioxins. EPA finally got around to publishing an incomplete document three years later. That initial 1994 draft resulted in the publication of an incomplete final report published in 1995 (EPA-SAB-EC-95-021).

New Jersey has appropriately borne the brunt of a generation of dioxin jokes. Stop me if you've heard the one about the New Jersey Turnpike. You know...the scratch and sniff maps, exit 16, dioxins, exit 15, PCBs, exit 14, sulfur, hydrogen, iodine, titanium. We who live in the Garden State

sent our governor, Christie Whitman, to Washington where she presided over the mis-named Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Ex-governor Whitman happens to be a breast cancer survivor.

While Whitman was taking medication for her breast cancer, the October 1998 issue of Chemosphere reported: "The primary source of dioxins (PCDDs), dibenzofurans (PCDFs) and coplanar PCBs for the general population is food, especially meat, fish, and dairy products." Nearly two decades ago (March 11, 1983), United Press International reported one of the worst-kept industrial secrets: "Dioxins are the most deadly substances ever assembled by man...170,000 times as deadly as cyanide..." The European community has established safe (and unsafe) dioxin standards. European journals have been more forthcoming

about dioxin news than American journals. The Polish journal (1999, 50:3), Rocz Panstw Zakl Hig, reported: "Dioxins are highly toxic by-products of many industrial processes e.g. chemical and municipal waste incineration or production of chlorophenols. These compounds penetrate the environment via air,

water and soil and are then incorporated into food chains. The major source of human exposure (90% of total exposition) is consumption of a wide variety of common foods (meat, fish and dairy products) containing small amounts of dioxins. Food contamination with dioxins leads to enhanced accumulation of these compounds in human tissues to the extent of exceeding acceptable level."

The 1995 American dioxin report was just a delaying tactic. The report recommended that further studies be undertaken to establish new toxicity standards for dioxin compounds. What has EPA been doing for nine years? EPA's Dioxin Reassessment Review Subcommittee (DRRS) met on November 1 and 2, 2000 to review their 1995 report. Extensive written comments were submitted to that committee. It's been thirty months, and DRRS continues to ignore those comments, and has issued no response. Pressures from the meat and dairy industry and strong lobbying efforts have resulted in an internal committee gridlock. Disagreements among panel members suggest that Americans will never learn the truth about dioxin levels in cheese and ice cream.

Despite enormous scientific support suggesting that dioxins pose a risk to human safety, only one third of the EPA panel members support classifying dioxin as a human carcinogen. Noted environmentalist, Ben Cohen (Ben & Jerry's Ice Cream) said: "The only safe level of dioxin exposure is no exposure at all." One American citizen, Steve

Milloy, spent thousands of his own dollars to test Ben's vanilla ice cream for dioxins and found: "The level of dioxin in a single serving of the Ben & Jerry's World's Best Vanilla Ice Cream tested was almost 200 times greater than the 'virtually safe [daily] dose' determined by the Environmental Protection Agency." Milloy then issued a press release to America's newspapers. On November 8, 1999, the Detroit Free Press became the only major newspaper to report this story.

SONAR ISSUE HEADS FOR FEDERAL COURT SHOWDOWN June 16, 2003 Washington, DC

A long awaited courtroom battle will begin June 30 to determine whether the U.S. Navy can deploy its Low Frequency Active sonar system, a new technology that scientists say blasts ocean habitat with noise so intense it can maim, deafen and even kill marine mammals. The National Resources Defense Council (NRDC) is taking the Bush administration to court over the sonar system.

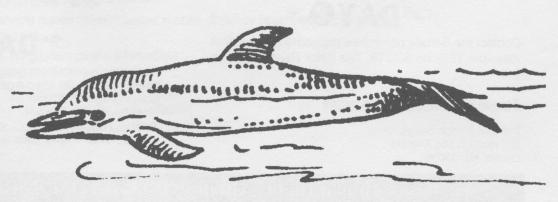
Last year the National Marine Fisheries Service issued the Navy a permit to deploy the Surveillance Towed Array Sensor System (SURTASS) Low Frequency Active (LFA) Low Frequency sonar over 75 percent of the world's oceans. The NRDC says deployment of the sonar will harass or injure up to 12 percent of every single marine mammal species. Whales, dolphins and seals have been using sonar for thousands of years for communication purposes and echolocation. Echolocation works by the animals sending sonar clicks to find their favorite prey species.

The U.S. Navy says the low frequency sonar booms are necessary to protect American ships and coastlines. Submarines are hard to detect, and the benefits include the ability to locate enemy submarines before they are able to launch any sort of attack. Low

Frequency Active sonar sends waves of low frequency sound or pings into the ocean waters. If these pings intersect an enemy submarine, they will rebound back to the source ship. The ship that carries the sonar system will also have a towed passive sonar system to detect rebounding signals from submarines.

Since sound travels extremely well in water, these pings at the sound level of 235 decibels will travel across entire ocean basins. They are louder than the noise made by a jet takeoff which measures 150 decibels at 25 meters distance, enough to rupture a human eardrum. According to U.S. Navy documents, marine mammals will suffer harm when subjected to a sound louder than 180 decibels. Conservationists and some scientists are warning that LFA sonar may threaten the very survival of entire populations of whales. At close range, the system's shock waves are so intense they can destroy a whale's eardrums, cause its lungs to hemorrhage, and even cause death. Two years ago, testing of a lower intensity Navy sonar in a midfrequency range caused a mass stranding of whales in the Bahamas. Whales from three different species died, their inner ears bleeding from the explosive power of the sonar signal. Last month, a group of biologists off the coast of Washington state witnessed a "stampede" of distressed marine mammals as a U.S. destroyer operating a powerful mid-frequency sonar system passed. Over the next several days, 10 porpoises were discovered stranded on nearby beaches.

The NRDC went to court on this issue last fall, and a federal judge blocked global deployment of the SURTASS sonar system until a full trial could be held. "Just why is this LFA system being deployed? It is only useful in nuclear submarine warfare," said Paul Watson, founder of the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society, and an early member of Greenpeace. "The Soviets are not a threat anymore," Watson said. "Terrorists do not deploy submarines. None of the so-called axis of evil nations have submarines. This is simply one of those pork barrel, waste the taxpayers money schemes, but this time with the potential for serious global destruction to the world's whales and dolphins."





DAYS OF ACTION

There are two bills in NJ that would make black bears a protected species and safe from the hunters' guns. They are S.1219 and A.479. First, those bills must pass through a respective Senate or Assembly committee and then each bill must be voted on by the full Senate and Assembly. After it passes those steps, it then goes to the Governor for his signature. We need YOU to take the following steps to insure the passage of The Black Bear Protection Bill!

Please choose FOUR DAYS to take action to save the bears.



Please contact the Assembly committee members and ask that they vote YES! on A.479, *The Black Bear Protection Bill.*

Assembly Agriculture & Nat'l Resources Committee

Assemblyman Robert J. Smith, Chair 110-F Greentree Road Turnersville, NJ 08012 856-232-6700 / Fax: 856-232-6844 AsmRSmith@njleg.org

Assemblyman Douglas H. Fisher, Vice-Chair 14 East Commerce Street 3rd Floor Bridgeton, NJ 08302 856-455-1011 / Fax: 856-455-2853 AsmFisher@njleg.org

Assemblyman Herbert C. Conaway, Jr. Delran Professional Center, Suite 125 8008 Route 130 North Delran, NJ 08075 856-461-3997 / Fax: 856-461-3823 AsmConaway@njleg.org

Assemblyman Mike Doherty 127 Belvidere Avenue, 2nd Floor Washington, NJ 07882 908-835-0552 / Fax: 908-835-8570 AsmDoherty@njleg.org

Assemblyman Ronald S. Dancer 2110 West County Line Road Jackson NJ 08527 732-901-0702 / Fax: 732-901-0587 AsmDancer@njleg.org

SDAY2

Contact the Senate committee members and ask that they vote YES! on S.1219, *The Black Bear Protection Bill.*

Senate Environment Committee

Senator Joseph Suliga, Chair 222 North Wood Avenue Linden, NJ 07036 908-587-0805 / Fax: 908-587-0201 SenSuliga@njleg.org

Senator Henry P. McNamara, Chair PO Box 68 Wyckoff, NJ 07481 201-848-9600 / Fax: 201-848-0378 SenMcnamara@njleg.org

Senator John H. Adler 231 Route 70 East Cherry Hill, NJ 08034-2421 856-428-3343 / Fax: 856-428-1358 SenAdler@njleg.org

Senator Andrew R. Ciesla 852 Highway 70 Brick, NJ 08724 732-840-9028 / Fax: 732-840-9757 SenCiesla@njleg.org

Senator Leonard Lance 119 Main Street Flemington, NJ 08822 908-788-6900 / Fax: 908-788-0416 SenLance@njleg.org

Senator Bob Smith 216 Stelton Road, #E-5 Piscataway, NJ 08854 732-752-0770 / Fax: 732-752-1590 SenBSmith@njleg.org

SDAY3

Call your 2 Assembly Members and 1 Senator and ask them to vote YES on the Black Bear Protection Bill when it comes before them for a vote. Don't know who your individual legislators are? Contact us at 732-446-6808 or visit www.njleg.state.nj.us. Click on Municipalities under the Districts heading on the left side of the page.

SDAY4 S

And finally, contact the governor and ask that he sign the Black Bear Protection Bill when it gets to his desk.

Governor James McGreevey

State House PO Box 001

Trenton NJ 08625

609-292-6000 / www.state.nj.us/governor/govmail.html

New Jersey Animal Rights Alliance, PO Box 174, Englishtown, NJ 07726 732/446-6808 www.NJ-ARA.org

The New Beaver Defenders Membership Application

Name:	Email:	
Address:	Comments:	
Phone/fax:		

Membership/subscription is \$20 annually. 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! (Please include an additional \$3 for shipping and handling of merchandise orders) Books: Hoofmarks.... \$18.00 \$ 8.00 T-shirts: Hunter green, on the front - our logo; on the back - I support the \$20 (100% cotton) Mugs: Light brown mug with green logo, very tasteful \$5.00 \$ 1.00 \$1.00 (colorable!) Cards: 12 custom beaver block prints with poems written by Beaver Defenders. \$4.00 \$ 1.00 \$ 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.

