

The BEAVER DEFENDERS

July 2004



Hope Sawyer-Buyukmihci feeds a Beaver at Unexpected

They shall never be trapped anymore.

The BEAVER DEFENDERS



Published Quarterly by
Unexpected Wildlife Refuge, Inc.
PO Box 765, Newfield, NJ 08344
Telephone (856) 697-3541
Fax (856) 697-5182
www.animalplace.org/uwr/uwr_frame.html
Annual subscription: \$20 - Due each July

July 2004

GOOD NEWS FROM UNEXPECTED

By Sarah Summerville

Bugs, Birds and Beavers

Summer is off to a lovely start here, albeit a little buggy. According to Gene Murtha, our nest box monitor, by the end of May, five young bluebirds fledged at Blueberry Patch, three at Bluebird Field and four at the Dike. The



bluebird couple that was so valiantly defending the box in the cove finally lost out to a pair of very persistent little chickadees. After the chickadees fledged their young and abandoned the box, the bluebird couple returned and are now preparing a suitable nest. We

also have several prothonotary warblers nesting throughout the Refuge, and I have heard a male call early from the Dike, dressed in his brilliant yellow plumage competing with the bright morning sun. The phoebe came back to the barn again this year and successfully fledged two broods. At dawn, the most beautiful birdsong alarm clock begins to sing everyone awake at Unexpected.

Some good sightings here this Spring include ospreys, otters and owls. A particularly spectacular moment was so unexpected that we were left standing with our mouths hanging open. A Refuge volunteer and I had just returned to the cabin and were chatting next to the cove. We turned to see a bald eagle circle the pond, dive and rise with a huge fish. This incredible raptor circled twice, headed north and was gone.

The beavers arrive most evenings for poplar and apples, though they are still quite wild. In April, they refurbished an old abandoned lodge just downstream from the Dike with newly peeled sticks and a little bit of mud. I am still awaiting the arrival of kittens at the cove,

however, I have only observed the large beavers coming for cuttings.



The beavers usually visit individually, with one hanging back to troll the pond while the other gets the branches, however in May I was watching the pond when the water began to move with a very large, but calm, wake. There were three adult beavers heading into the cove with stoic determination. Each beaver selected a branch in order of arrival, then the short furry convoy banked through the cove and headed straight back from whence it came. The branches floated one after the other to the Dike, briskly elevated and disappeared into the lower pond.

There's Nothing You Can Do About the Weather

Like last year, spring was cool and very wet. The trails were flooded for months, and hiking was part walking, part wading; trail clearing was slow and sloppy, and now that warm sunny weather has arrived, the Refuge looks like a jungle in many places. We want to thank Laurel Lawnmowers for all the help they have given with equipment maintenance. They service big landscaping/lawn maintenance companies, and we really appreciate their tending to our small tattered fleet.

While we are giving thanks, we must include the Outdoor Club of South Jersey for the third annual Piney Hollow Road Cleanup in April. Fourteen members pulled tires, trash and truck parts from the berms and adjacent wetlands of Piney Hollow Road. After we finished there, we reassembled at the cabin to feast on Maureen Koplow's vegan delights. Fortified, we tackled Unexpected Road all the way to Lake Ann Estates.

Cultivation

In the garden, we turned all the sorghum and soybeans into the soil, and prepared the ground for planting. Helga Tacreiter, showed up with two truck loads of hay, and we proceeded to spread it across the entire garden; my first exposure to "mulch gardening". The concept allows for moisture retention, weed retardation and soil building. So far, the garden is doing very well, rainfall has been favorable and we have already canned 23 pints of pickles.



Not only did we cultivate the garden, we cultivated some people as well. Unexpected tabled three community events and signed up quite a few new Beaver Defenders. Beavers are nocturnal and are rather unobtrusive during the day, so many people were thrilled to find out that beavers not only live in New Jersey, but probably live closer than they think. A lot of interested people were rather dismayed to learn that this keystone species is considered a "fur bearer" and is trapped for their luxurious fur. We provided displays and literature explaining the importance of beavers and the vital habitat they create. Some of this literature is found on page 15 of this issue and is free for the asking if you send us a self-addressed, stamped #10 envelope.

We gave a slide show about the Refuge at the American Vegan Society picnic in Malaga, NJ. AVS had a fantastic turnout this year and provided some delicious vegan food as well as a very interesting speaker, Dr. Joel Fuhrman. Dr. Fuhrman spoke about his latest book, *Eat to Live*, in which he promotes a high nutrient, plant based diet as a means of attaining proper weight, good health and high energy.

Frog Log

As I mentioned in the last issue, I attended a class given by NJDEP on vernal pool assessment.

Unfortunately the field trip to a local vernal pool was cancelled due to ice. The rescheduled field trip conflicted with my schedule, but that turned out to be a bonus, not



a bummer. Fred Akers, from the Great Egg Harbor Watershed Association, volunteered to lead a vernal pool field trip right here at Unexpected. On April Fools Day, five willing participants pulled on waders, applied bug repellent and hiked off into the evening mist with flashlights, nets and field guides. Fred proved to be a most competent field guide, and as we visited bog after bog, we observed and identified the following residents: spring peeper, leopard frog, northern gray tree frog, Pine Barrens tree frog, wood frog, fowlers toad, green frog, carpenter frog and bull frog. At 11 PM, we had gathered at the bumper of Fred's van, stowed our equipment and compared notes. Moments later, we heard a frog calling from the cove, 20 feet away. We grabbed boots, lights and books and waded out into the shallows to discover cricket frogs, making the total inventory for the night ten different amphibians.

A Deer Story

In early June, I got a call from a Refuge volunteer who found a fawn on her sidewalk. We determined that, not only was he truly abandoned, for what ever reason, he was also dazed and infested with maggots. Everyone Three people began frantically calling veterinary offices for help at 5:45 on a Saturday afternoon. I arrived at Cologne Animal Hospital and was met by Kim, Joan and Diana. These three angels worked on the baby for over an hour to remove the maggots and then gave him fluids. We estimated that he was about two days old; he was about the size of a large cat.



After the little guy stabilized, he was taken to a certified, licensed deer rehabilitator, and will be able to rejoin the deer population in due time.

Membership

Thanks so much to all of you who have re-joined the Beaver Defenders! To make membership tracking easier, we are collecting membership dues each July. If you have not renewed your membership, please do! If you are not a member, and have received this as a complementary issue, please consider filling out the membership form on page 15 and join today. We need your support!

Dear friends,

Two extremely important bills have been introduced into the NJ Legislature; one that will ban bear hunting, and one that will forever change the NJ Fish and Game Council.

Are you ready to fight back for our wild animals? Because this is it! Start contacting your two state Assembly people and your state Senator today. You can find out who represents you on this webpage: <http://www.njleg.state.nj.us/members/legsearch.asp>

It is also very important to tell them the specific bill numbers, as there are a few other similar bills out there, but none as good as these two. The bear bill is A 2704, and the Council Bill is A 2852.

The hunters are preparing to fight these bills, so we must overcome them with political might. Get your friends and neighbors to sign on to this cause and that will help push your legislators in the right direction.

A2704: Prohibits black bear hunting, creates black bear study commission, authorizes sale of NJ Black Bear Stamp, establishes NJ Black Bear Stamp Account.

A 2852: Changes composition and revises authority of Fish and Game Council; creates nonlethal alternative committee within council. Partial Statement of the bill:

This bill would change the composition and increase the membership of the council from 11 members to 13 members. The new membership is as follows: the Commissioner of Environmental Protection, ex officio, or a designated representative; the chairperson, ex officio, of the committee established pursuant to "The Endangered and Nongame Species Conservation Act"; two farmers; two sportsmen; two individuals with experience in environmental protection, recommended to the Governor for appointment to the council by the New Jersey Environmental Federation; and five individuals with experience in environmental protection or other fields relevant to animal welfare and with a background in the preservation of wildlife, recommended to the Governor for appointment to the council by the New Jersey Animal Rights Alliance, The Bear Education and Resource Group, and the Humane Society of the United States.

The bill also would create a nonlethal alternatives committee within the council charged with investigating, recommending and expediting the use of non-lethal alternatives for dealing with

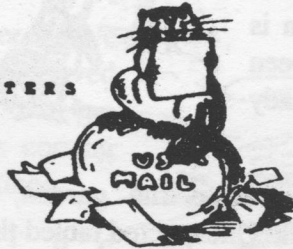
wildlife conflicts, developing an integrated and biologically sound approach to white-tailed deer reproductivity and lowering fertility rates; studying single-species management and propagation of game species on State and private lands; and promoting public outreach and education.

Assemblyman Anthony Chiappone, the prime sponsor of both bills, deserves our sincere appreciation. Please thank him on behalf of our wildlife: AsmChiappone@njleg.org or call him at (201) 437-2442

We all know how nasty hunters get in these situations, so don't forget to send him a note and let him know that the majority of people in this state side with him.

Stu Chaifetz

LETTERS



Dear Sarah,

I want to tell you how much I enjoyed Wednesday morning at the refuge. The new scope allowed me to watch some interactions in beautiful sharp detail. I observed a female wood duck with only two young; the snappers must be having a feast.

Most interesting was a non-breeding adult male wood duck swimming from one spatterdock bloom to another nibbling at the center of the blossom. I wondered if he was feeding on insets or tender parts of the flower. This male then swam over to a log where there was a full grown adult male wood duck and a sunning red bellied turtle. Both males preened side by side.

After feeding, a cormorant sunned himself on a log, wings open, throat patch quivering to cool off with bill open. Every so often he would stretch his neck and make swallowing motions (must have had a hardy breakfast). A great blue heron perched in a pine tree and preened, then ended up squabbling with a great egret that wandered into his territory.

Saw or heard many other birds like the prothonotary warbler, yellow billed cuckoo and flicker. A red bellied woodpecker called below the dike, kingbird, tree swallows, a barn swallow, little green heron, wood thrush, ovenbirds, northern oriole, house wrens, goldfinch and a yellow throat warbler. A female bluebird carried nesting material to box in the cove while the male buluebird kept a close eye on me.

It was quiet, peaceful laid back experience. Good for the soul.

Keep in touch, Augie Sexauer

Wildlife Services Poses a Deadly Threat to Golden Eagles, from Animal Welfare Institute, Spring, 2004

The golden eagle struggled to escape the leghold trap, but his foot was held fast by the trap's steel jaws, and the trap was staked firmly to the ground by a long chain. The large, majestic raptor tried to fly away repeatedly, carrying the heavy trap and chain, but when he reached the end of the length of chain he was violently jerked back to the ground. The trap that caught the eagle had been set to catch coyotes and a dead fox had been placed alongside the trap as bait.

The poor victim was discovered by a group of teenagers and their field instructor who were hiking along a trail in the Henry Mountains of Utah. The group had been enjoying the day as part of a wilderness therapy program for at-risk adolescents. However, they ended up severely shaken by the pitiful scene they encountered. The field instructor contacted the Division of Wildlife Resources who conducted an investigation into the incident including a search of the trapper's home. Evidence at the scene included the fox carcass, some eagle feathers and a small pool of blood. Government issued signs were in the area warning pet owners that traps were set in the vicinity.

According to those included in the case, Phillip Taylor, the man who set the trap and ultimately killed the bird, is an employee of the US Department of Agriculture's Wildlife Services (WS) and has worked for them for decades. In apparent violation of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA), Mr. Taylor failed to report the incident to authorities. Further, it appears that he did not possess a permit from the US Fish and Wildlife Service for the taking of a golden eagle and therefore may have violated the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (BGEPA) too. In addition, baiting a trap is a violation of Utah state law. Although the incident occurred in the fall, no charges have been filed yet. The case is currently being evaluated by the US Attorney's office.

This is not an isolated apparent violation of the MBTA and BGEPA by WS. Another WS employee is believed to have destroyed a golden eagle nest by setting it on fire. The individual is still working for WS, and no action was ever taken against him.

As we have long known, WS field personnel are under extreme pressure to address wildlife damage related problems reported by some farmers and ranchers by killing as many members of the offending species as possible—regardless of cost, humaneness, and the law. At the same time, WS has been criticized by animal protection organizations including the Animal Welfare Institute for its capture and killing of non-target animals, thus they are loath to report such incidents. "An epidemic of overzealous predator control, wanton killing of animals, and lax attention to the law, all hidden from the public eye," was a recent account given by a state wildlife law enforcement officer.

WS personnel must be held accountable. All instances of capture of non-target animals must be reported, and WS needs to deal very strongly with employees who fail to comply with all applicable laws and/or who fail to report every single non-target capture, whether or not it results in the death of the animal caught. And we would hope that the US Attorney's office will proceed with the prosecution of both of these individuals to the fullest extent of the law.

Tell Nick Lachey to Lay Off the Fur, from American Anti-Vivisection Society, June, 2004

A recent edition of *Details* magazine featured Nick Lachey, pop singer and star of MTV's reality show the *Newlyweds*, sporting a full length fur coat.

Although the cruelties involved in the fur industry have been reported time and again, some, including several celebrities, choose to turn a blind eye to animal suffering.

Please contact Nick Lachey and tell him that fur is not cool. Ask him to show some compassion by never wearing fur again. Nick Lachey, c/o Colton Gramm, Original Film, 2045 Barrington Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90025 or email him at colton@originalfilm.com.

I am only one, but I am one, I cannot do everything, but I can still do something.

- Helen Keller

Beavers can live without trees. They can burrow into mud banks and make a lodge without logs and branches. They can make a dam of mud, rocks and grass. They can live off roots and plants. But most beavers prefer to live with trees. They are equipped to harvest them and use them for lodges, dams and food. But, to many people's frustration, they only use the inner bark, the cambium layer, for food. They never eat the whole thing, leaving huge trees dead on the ground, or completely girdled, dead standing.

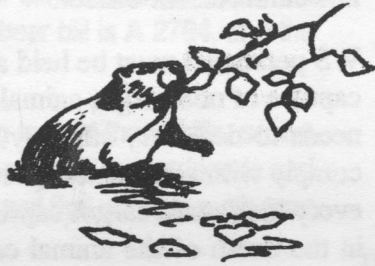
The felling of a tree excites a primal anxiety in humans. Very likely a tree was our first ancestral home to climb into and hang around. A tree remains our symbol of stability, longevity and continuity. We all place ourselves in our family tree. In a tree we see knowledge and the embodiment of good. To wantonly bring a tree down to earth is one of our ideas of evil. We don't enjoy having the glorious crown of a sugar maple brought down to our level by a beaver.

To be sure humans have cut more trees than beavers, but generally we go about it in an orderly fashion for good reasons, and try to restore trees as best we can. To most humans beavers seem to cut far more trees than they need for their dams, lodges and belly.

Many books about beavers give the encouraging impression that beavers prefer softwoods like aspen and willow. Indeed some books suggest that when those trees are gone beavers will move on. That's true in part. But the truth of the matter is that they are likely to move back, and dispatch ash, red oak, white oak, cherry, ironwood, hophornbeam, elm, bitternut hickory, shagbark hickory, cedar, and pine.

As puzzling as the beavers apparent waste of trees, is the apparent waste of time in felling them. Many times I have seen two cuts when one would do the trick.; At times beavers leave evidence not of foraging but of demonic obsession with gnawing on trees.

Of course, I am being unfair to the beaver, and humans in general are unfair to them. To begin with what we generally scorn, they adore. Have you ever seen a human deal intently with a twig? We can't get over the huge trunks left lying and ungnawed, and don't appreciate



the hundreds of little sticks lovingly devoured by the beavers. And most of the branches are used both for food and to make lodges and dams. And while I will admit that the beavers leave many trunks under utilized, some are completely stripped of bark.

Beavers don't have very good eyesight. I think many of them are virtually blind. They can't see a tree's glorious crown and its stately beauty. The inner bark of the large standing trees is the same as the bark of the small curved tree that had been brought to the ground.

Perhaps, their poor eyesight also explains their dogged determination when felling trees. If they could see how likely it was that the tree they were cutting was going to get hung up on another tree, would they even try?

Can you see the beaver still working on a rather large red oak that might have easily crushed the beaver had the tree not been entangled and held up by an even larger red oak? Indeed, generally beavers don't continue working on a tree when it is being held up by a thin column of heart wood. A tree can stand hung up for a week or so before a strong wind will blow it over, allowing the beavers to get to its bark and branches. Every time I've watched a beaver cut a middling sized tree, say over six inches in diameter, the tree didn't fall without further effort. When the beaver cuts a tree and it falls into other trees the beaver may cut it again, and if it remains hung up, the beaver will push and pull and bring it down to the pond so it can feast on its leaves. Sometimes the beavers resort to a second cut in vain, especially with larger trees that they can't push and shove.

Yet I think it is a mistake to mock beavers for cutting trees that can't fall to the ground. While the beavers fail to bring the crown of the tree down, with all its delicious twigs and leaves, once the tree dies more light comes to the ground increasing the likelihood that saplings will sprout up that the beaver can, in time, eat. It is not uncommon with sugar maples especially to find a central stump or trunk of an old dead tree surrounded by a half dozen or more smaller trees growing from the old trees roots.

When trees of roughly the same size, so close to each other, have such varying fates after being cut, better the beavers not worry about the science of getting a tree down. Better that they cut all they can and take their chances.

Perhaps I am giving too much of an impression that beavers are indiscriminate, almost inanely mechanical in the harvesting of trees. Once the tree is down and completely accessible to the beavers, they begin dealing with it in terms we can all understand. Generally they cut the branches first and often use them as a kind of carry-out meal, dragging them to the lodge or the dam.

Needless to add, the branch will often have a dual use. I've seen beavers push up leafy branch on the lodge, eat its leaves, and then move on. In the fall branches will be sunk in front of the lodge to form a larder of food for the winter.

But now, I am making beavers sound too sensible. Beavers will often cut the branch and segment it into small logs and then leave the logs behind, for years. Putting the best light on it, I think of these left behind logs and trees as a kind of unconscious insurance policy. Like beavers, I cut and collect wood on some land, only I cut dead or dying trees and then cut them into long logs, carry them to a central saw pit by the road, cut them into small logs, split them and take them home to burn in the wood stove. I find that I almost always leave logs behind! The obvious reason is that as I hike around I get distracted by other dead trees that for various reasons I gave higher priority for harvesting. But there is also a comfort in rediscovering work I had left half done -- and I often stumble upon these piles a year later. That way I can look at my piles of split wood and think that's just the half of it.

Beavers seem to make a system of being unsystematic. I would not be surprised if scientific studies prove that beavers vary their foraging to optimize the nutritional value of what they eat, so that, say, ironwood in the spring, cherry in the summer and sugar maple in the fall makes perfect sense. Further, there is probably a formula to be discovered that can show how the diameter of the tree taken depends on the distance from the pond where the tree is to be taken. I wish I could diagram or illustrate a beaver colony's foraging pattern in a way that communicates my constant surprise as I discover where the beavers go and inspect what they take and what they leave behind.

The beavers in this colony seemed to dislike white birch, until the winter when they stripped and sculpted one. In general they range farther to get trees in the late spring and early summer when the ponds are most full. They seem to save many trees nearer their lodge in case drought

constricts their ability to forage and transport logs. That said, some colonies go rather far from the pond in winter when the pond is frozen. Then the colony over the hill will prefer coming out from the under ice and taking the shagbark hickory right next to the hole rather than get ash a little ways up a snowy slope. Personally, I think the real key to foraging patterns, and the best predictor of what trees beavers will take, is the culture of the colony in question. The colony that feasted on shagbark hickory went on to fell some the next spring and summer. They developed a taste for it. Meanwhile, a colony that died out was surrounded by small shagbark hickories that they never even tasted. Once I noticed one colony taking out every red oak, while another left red oak and took ash.

Beavers also kill many tree by building dams and flooding a valley. Of course, they don't lose interest in a tree just because the pond water starts rising around it.

A beaver may recognize a flooded ash as an excellent tree to pull bark off. Evidently beavers use long strips of bark as bedding in the lodge. So just because there are many dead tree trunks in a pond without any sign of being gnawed, that doesn't mean the beavers didn't use them.

I suppose it might be possible to estimate how many trees beavers have to take in order to survive, but it bears remembering that beavers can go a long time without taking any trees. A telltale sign that beavers are interested in other things is when you see a very muddy pond. Those beavers are probably feasting on roots and grasses under the water. One year a colony fed on grasses for all of July and August and I was about to conclude that they swore off trees. Then in September they headed for the ridge and took down over a dozen large poplars and a half dozen large red oaks. Another colony seemed to subsist on ferns for a few weeks. And for all the heavy lumbering beavers might do. They seem most content to me when they are hunkered down in a shallow pond nibbling a small twig.



(Bob is a writer and beaver enthusiast; his website is geocities.com/bobarnebeck/beaverreality.html)

FBI Targets 'Terrorism' by Animal, Eco-Activists

The federal indictment unveiled yesterday against Stop Huntingdon Animal Cruelty is only part of a larger assault federal authorities have launched against alleged animal rights extremists and others behind what the FBI dubbed "special interest terrorism."

"The FBI has made the prevention and investigation of animal rights extremists (and) eco-terrorism ... a domestic terrorism investigative priority," said John E. Lewis, a deputy assistant FBI director in counterterrorism.

His remarks were made last week before the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee, which was told that a special federal task force has delved into 190 investigations involving extremists in the animal rights and environmental movements.

"The extremists' efforts have broadened to include a multinational campaign of harassment, intimidation and coercion against animal testing companies and any companies or individuals doing business with those targeted companies," Lewis said.

"The harassment is designed to inflict increasing economic damage until the company is forced to cancel its contracts or business relationship with the original target," he added.

Lewis said the extremists have committed more than 1,100 criminal acts in the United States since 1976, resulting in damages conservatively estimated at \$110 million. But he said it was just two years ago that some animal rights activists abandoned a pledge of nonviolence and began a series of arsons, bombings, assaults and harassment campaigns.

Lewis named SHAC along with the Animal Liberation Front and the Earth onen Front in describing the tactics.

People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, however, questioned yesterday whether legitimate

BY Brian T. Murray, Star-Ledger Staff, 6/27/04
activism was under attack.

"Some of the names being bandied about in this instance are longtime activists and well respected," said PETA spokeswoman Lisa Lange, referring to the SHAC indictment.

Scientific researchers and corporations affected by the alleged extremists also are going before the Senate committee, supporting FBI reports that animal rights extremists have turned to campaigns of violence.

"It has gone beyond mere activism and protests," said David Martosko, research director for the Center for Consumer Freedom, a nonprofit group supporting the food industry and animal researchers.

"It's about total animal liberation, and the view of many of these people that anything is justified, even violence, to stop the rest of us from eating meat or continuing to conduct research that cured polio and many other diseases," he added.

The center joined representatives from Kentucky Fried Chicken in asserting before the Senate committee that PETA supports violent tactics, a claim PETA denies.

PETA responded yesterday with its own statement to the Senate committee by quoting John F. Kennedy.

"Those who make peaceful change impossible make violent revolution inevitable," said PETA.

The group added that, "KFC is attempting to create the very frustrations that would compel other factions of any movement to rise up against the impossibility of properly seeking change."

It is true - the fireflies cannot change night into day;
and yet - they use what light they have to mark their
way.
-Winston Abbott

GREENPEACE CLEARED IN SHIP-BOARDING

By Jim Loney, Reuters

May 19, 2004 Miami

A U.S. judge on Wednesday acquitted environmental protection group Greenpeace on charges it conspired to break the law by sending activists aboard a freighter carrying illegally felled mahogany two years ago. The politically charged case dusted off a law not used since 1890 to bring the first criminal prosecution by U.S. authorities of an advocacy group for civil disobedience.

U.S. District Judge Adalberto Jordan granted a Greenpeace motion to dismiss the charges after the prosecution rested on the third day of trial, ruling federal prosecutors had failed to prove their case, a Greenpeace lawyer said. "We're elated. This is a real victory for America's tradition of free speech," said John Passacantando, the executive director of Greenpeace U.S. "But our liberties are still in jeopardy, of course. The Bush administration is intent on stifling free speech."

The case stemmed from a day in April 2002 when two Greenpeace activists climbed onto the APL Jade freighter just off Miami to hang a sign reading: "President Bush: Stop Illegal Logging." Two Greenpeace members were charged and pleaded guilty after the incident. Fifteen months later, prosecutors targeted the entire organization with a grand jury indictment.

Civil rights advocates said the obscurity of the law used to take Greenpeace to court suggested the case was revenge for Greenpeace's criticism of President Bush's environmental policies. Passed in 1872 to prevent "sailor mongering," the law has been gathering dust since it was last prosecuted in 1890. Sailor mongering was common in the 19th century, when brothels sent whores onto ships before they had reached harbor to lure sailors ashore with booze and promises of warm beds. Greenpeace was accused of illegally boarding the APL Jade, as the 964-foot (294-meter) vessel "was about to arrive at the place of her destination." It also faces a charge of conspiring to commit that crime. U.S. prosecutors argued Greenpeace conspired to break the law by recruiting "climbers" for the seaborne protest and by using a Greenpeace corporate credit card to rent a boat. Greenpeace challenged the prosecution on the wording of the law, saying the ship was too far offshore when it was boarded to be considered "about to arrive" at its destination. Greenpeace general counsel Tom Wetterer said the statute failed to define what "about to arrive" meant and the judge agreed it was too vague. The boarding of the APL Jade was part of a global campaign to stop the illegal logging of

mahogany in Brazil's Amazon, a lucrative trade blamed for the destruction of vast swathes of rain forest. Advocacy groups had said a conviction would be a blow to Brazilian efforts to win more backing for its fight against the illegal mahogany trade from the United States, the biggest market for a wood so valuable it boasts fatter profit margins than cocaine. Reuters 2004. All Rights Reserved.

Petco to Settle Two Lawsuits

Asbury Park Press 5/28/04 (AP)

SAN DIEGO -- Petco Animal Supplies, Inc., the nation's No. 2 pet supply chain, will pay more than \$900,000 to settle two lawsuits that accused the company of mistreating animals and overcharging customers.

The settlements announced yesterday resolve both a lawsuit against the San Diego-based chain brought by district attorneys in four California counties along with a separate action filed in 2002 by San Francisco's city attorney.

In San Francisco, city inspectors and customers documented sick and dying animals kept in freezers; untreated animals with contagious diseases; animals in unclean enclosures with no water; freezers filled with dead birds; and reptiles and fish left dead in display tanks, according to City Attorney Dennis Herrera.

A four-year investigation by district attorneys in San Diego, Los Angeles, Marin and San Mateo counties found animals were kept in unclean cages and lacked proper nutrition and veterinary care, said Deputy District Attorney Tricia Pummill. The district attorneys' investigation also found Petco price scanners overcharged on certain items by an average of \$1.19, she said.

Petco, which admitted no wrongdoing as part of the settlements, agreed to pay fines totaling \$600,000. The company also will spend more than \$200,000 to install improved pricing accuracy equipment at all its California stores and more than \$101,000 to cover the costs of the district attorneys' investigation.

The company is still facing a boycott by PETA, over what the group alleges is the company's pattern of mistreating animals. Petco, which reported \$1.65 billion in sales for 12 months ending Jan. 31, has 670 stores in 44 states and Washington, D.C. © copyright 2004 The Associated Press

Toxic Chickens, Feed for Thought

From *Tadpole Times*, May 2004

A reader recently sent us a label from a bag of "Classic Layer Mash", feed given to laying chickens for optimum egg production. Since manufacturers must, by law list their ingredients, we want to pass this wealth of information along so that you can take appropriate actions. Take a look at what (non-organic) chickens are being fed, and through their eggs ultimately consumed by people. Among the many surprising ingredients, note that some are considered to be potentially hazardous. The following list is just one of the reasons we recommend a plant based diet in today's world.



grain products, processed grain by-products, plant protein products, ground limestone, pork meat meal, hydrolyzed poultry feathers, poultry by-product meal, calcium carbonate, ethoxyquin, dicalcium phosphate, methionine supplement, salt, sodium sesqui-carbonate, manganous oxide, manganese sulfate, zinc oxide, ferrous sulfate, copper sulfate, calcium iodate, cobalt carbonate, calcium pantothenate, menadione dimethylpyrimidinol bisulfite, sodium selenite, iron oxide, choline chloride, L-lysine, and the following supplements: niacin, riboflavin, vitamins A, D-3, E and B-12

Note:

- ethoxyquin was first used as a rubber stabilizer, then as an insecticide and now included as a preservative.
- dicalcium phosphate is composed of animal bones and could carry disease.
- workers exposed to manganese sulfate are advised to wear a respirator.
- copper sulfate is used in making pigments, germicides and electric batteries.
- cobalt carbonate contains arsenic and lead, and is considered harmful by Oxford University.
- sodium selenite is synthetic selenium, which the International Program on Chemical Safety warns that if spilled, "do not let this chemical enter the environment".

Beaver-Control Bill Makes Headway on Beacon Hill

By Erik Arvidson, Sentinel & Enterprise Statehouse Bureau

BOSTON – A bill that would lift voter-approved restrictions on the use of body-gripping traps to catch beaver advanced on Tuesday on Beacon Hill as lawmakers grapple with how to curb the recent explosion of the animals.

The legislation, which was backed by the Natural Resources Committee, would allow the state Division of Fisheries and Wildlife to use a broad array of methods to control beaver, including the use of the so-called Conibear trap.

Lawmakers said there is not enough support to pass legislation that would lift a ban on the steel leg-hold traps that were outlawed in 1975 and which animal rights activists have condemned as inhumane. The bill specifically states that those traps are still banned.

However, the provision allowing for the use of padded body-gripping traps marks a key change to the 1996 ballot measure approved by voters, which banned all leg-hold traps.

State Sen. Pamela Resor, D-Acton, the Senate chairwoman of the committee, did not support the committee's action.

The House chairman of the committee, Rep. William Greene, D-Billerica, supported the measure, and has advocated for limited use of the Conibear traps, which are considered less inhumane than the old steel leg-hold traps. Greene has said that the 1996 law did not contain enough safeguards to control the beaver population and protect property owners from flooding problems.

Critics of the 1996 law said that the ban on trapping has led to an explosion in the beaver population, from 20,000 before the traps were banned, to more than 70,000 today.

Animal rights groups dispute the claims that the ban led to an exponential increase in beaver, and note that state wildlife officials were repopulating parts of the state with the animal even while trapping was going on.

In 2000, lawmakers reached a compromise and allowed the use of the Conibear traps by special permit. However, the body-gripping traps are said to be so expensive and cumbersome that few trappers are motivated to use them.

The bill approved by the committee would allow the state Division of Fisheries and Wildlife to create a pilot program to help maintain a "healthy and balanced" population of beaver.

Resor noted that many of the reported beaver problems have occurred in suburban areas, which makes the use of the traps a risky proposition. "It endangers other pets and children to

have those traps out in suburban areas, which is where the problems are because of all the interface," Resor said.

"When there are human-beaver contacts, there are so many existing options to resolve those issues," said Kara Holmquist, a spokeswoman for the Massachusetts Society of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. "The public has spoken, and the traps are not something that the voters want to use. This bill will do nothing but open up the trapping season to trappers."

The bill now moves for consideration in the House and Senate, which are planning to recess for the year in late July.

Please contact Massachusetts Representatives at (617) 722-1120, State House, Boston, MA 02133

(See Beaver Defenders, January 2004, page 7.)

Baffling Beavers Is A "Dam" Good Thing, Says Fund for Animals

1/6/2004, The Fund for Animals

New Haven, CT—The Fund for Animals, a national animal protection organization, today released survey results on the success of its beaver baffling program, showing an 89 percent customer approval rating. Established in 1999 to help homeowners, city officials, and highway departments resolve problems caused by beavers, The Fund's program includes installation of pipe-based water flow control devices inserted through beaver dams or culverts to keep water at the desired level.

"Beavers have an instinctive response to block any spot where they hear the sound of running water, yet the device works through deception. It moves water silently so the beavers don't hear the sound of running water, and the water level can then be controlled unbeknownst to the beavers," stated Laura Simon, Urban Wildlife Director for The Fund for Animals.

When beavers build dams in culverts, streams, and other waterways, they often cause a backup in water flow that can flood roads, yards, and septic systems. "Fish and game agencies traditionally recommend trapping to solve beaver problems," said Simon. "Trapping, however, is not only cruel, but also doesn't work because beavers leave their natal lodge and strike out on their own when they're two years old, and these migrating beavers quickly fill any empty habitat niches

created by trapping."

State wildlife agencies often promote beaver trapping, claiming incorrectly that water control devices don't work because they frequently fail and are labor-intensive to maintain. "This survey proves that humane methods are effective and cannot simply be dismissed by trapping proponents," said Simon. "It shows a low failure rate with minimal maintenance requirements, and the vast majority of respondents found the maintenance to be well worth the effort."

"The effectiveness of water flow control devices is linked to proper installation," Simon continued. "We have repeatedly asked people to send us photos or video footage of devices that didn't work and invariably, the devices we observed were improperly installed."

Thirty-six people were interviewed for the survey, representing sixteen town or agency staff and twenty private homeowners. Because multiple devices were installed for some respondents, this survey assessed how a total of 54 devices were working.

For more information on humanely solving beaver problems, contact The Fund for Animals' Urban Wildlife Hotline at 203-389-4411. A seven-minute video entitled "A New Way to Solve Beaver Problems" is also available by contacting The Fund for Animals' office at 301-585-2591

Friends of Animals ACT.IONLINE, Summer 2004

The World Wildlife Fund promoted several trips to Alaska throughout summer 2004 as part of "WWF Travel," an ecotourism program. When asked why they were sending their members to Alaska, effectively undermining efforts to save wolves in Alaska, the WWF travel desk representative stated that WWF did not consider the matter of wolf-killing a priority.

Contact: Kathryn S. Fuller, President, WWF, 1250 24th

Street, NW, Washington, DC 20037-1132, phone (888) 993-8687 or email at membertours@wwfus.org.



New Jersey has Fewer Hunters This Year

By Stu Chavifez (www.honorandnonviolence.com)

I just received an OPRA request on the number of resident NJ hunting licenses sold from 2000-2003. Here are the numbers per year: 2000 - 108,336; 2001 - 101,898; 2002 - 98,022; 2003 - 93,651. From 2000-03, there was a drop of 14,685 licenses.

The important thing to realize is that these numbers do not represent the actual number of hunters; hunters buy more than one license for different forms of hunting. An example would be a hunter who kills with both bow and shotgun - he would have bought a bow and arrow license and a hunting one as well. Therefore, far from there being 93,000 hunters in NJ, the true number is considerably less.

When you take into account that there are about 8,700,000 people in NJ, hunters make up only a fraction of the population, falling somewhere between .5% and 1%. Please note this, as some people still use very old data, and say that hunters make up 2% or 3% of the state.

Some exciting news is the decline of bow hunters. We know how many less bowhunters there are as they have to buy a specific license to bow hunt. In 2000 there were only 24,401, and just three years later there were 19,295, a decrease of 5,106. If they continue to fall at this rate, there will literally only be a handful left by the end of the decade.

The truly critical news, however, is that there are so few children hunting that the state does not even sell licenses for them any more. With no significant number of children to replenish their ranks, there is no question that hunters will, sooner than they might expect, be regulated to a thing of the past.

While this is a cause for rejoice, it does not mean that wild animals will suffer much less. Hunters and the Division of Fish and Game, having spent years demonizing deer and bears so people will allow their slaughter, have done too good of a job; many towns now pay people to shoot and kill their wildlife. This then is the irony of the hunter as the conservationist, for he will have doomed tens of thousands of lives to destruction even after he is gone.

Renewed Bear Hunt Underscores Need To Reform Wildlife Policy, New Jersey Law Journal

By Randall J. Peach 04/19/04

As spring returns, so does the debate over New Jersey's black bears. Only a few months after the state carried out its first bear hunt in 33 years, the state's Fish and Game Council voted on March 9 to authorize another hunt this year -- against the wishes of the governor.

Thus continues the state's haphazard and inept handling of this issue. Four years ago, Gov. Christine Whitman canceled a proposed bear hunt in response to widespread public opposition. Similarly, Gov. James E. McGreevey campaigned on a promise not to allow a hunt.

But McGreevey backtracked last year, refusing to stop the bear hunt carried out between Dec. 8 and 13. First, McGreevey said the hunt was necessary even though he was "personally opposed" to it; the administration later stated that it had no power to overrule the council, which has quasi-legislative authority to regulate wildlife.

The administration's latter position was recently vindicated, though embarrassingly. After Bradley Campbell, commissioner of the Department of Environmental Protection, asked the council not to authorize another hunt this year, the council voted 8 to 3 in favor of a renewed hunt. The odd scenario -- an agency ignoring the wishes of its commissioner -- became even sillier when Campbell responded that he still had the power not to issue hunting permits.

Although it now faces ridicule for its handling of the issue, the administration should be commended for finally taking the right position on the hunt. Campbell believes that a renewed hunt will drain resources from more humane proposals to manage the bear population.

More troubling is that the council has now proven to be an autonomous governing body. This might be a good thing if the council's decisions were solely objective ones, or ones in which democratic processes should play no role.

Unfortunately, neither assumption is valid. The

council clearly has a pro-hunting bent -- its core mission is to manage wild animals as "game." Six of its 11 members are required to be "sportsmen" [i.e., hunters] and three are required to be farmers [i.e., people who may perceive their livelihood as threatened by wildlife] -- not exactly the most objective people to be deciding the bears' fate.

The council's hunting mandate makes it ill-equipped to address the public's objections to the hunt. And those objections are not based simply on emotion, as hunters maintain. For example, one objection is that bears naturally regulate their numbers based on food availability, and that any "culling" of bears will simply result in an increase in the bears' birth rate.



Another objection is that hunting chases animals onto busy roads, causing collisions. The danger was illustrated during last December's hunt, when a wounded cub ran out onto traffic in West Milford. No drivers were hurt, though the closest ones had to sit in traffic and watch the cub suffer and die.

Still another objection is based on the evolution of society's views toward hunting. There is much less land for wildlife, and much of the public now views recreational hunting as unnecessary cruelty. Indeed, many people were shocked by reports of hunters' unsportsmanlike targeting of cubs and females during last year's hunt.

What can be done to make the council more responsive to the public's well-founded objections? First, the Legislature should make the council's decisions subject to the approval of the DEP commissioner and thus the governor. The governor must be allowed to act in response to public sentiment, and wildlife issues are simply too important to allow the council to be a law unto itself.

Second, the makeup of the council should be changed so that it is more representative of the public's views on wildlife issues. A bill introduced in the Senate last year would have expanded the council's members to 19, adding as new members seven people from the fields of environmental protection or animal welfare.

This sensible plan has been oddly denounced by some as a scheme to "pack" the council with members sympathetic to animal welfare [as if the council was not

already "packed" the other way]. If pro-hunting advocates believe that the council's decisions are truly objective, they should not fear the inclusion of all viewpoints. This will benefit not only the state's wildlife but its citizenry as well.

(Mr. Peach is a partner at Alpert Butler Norton Bearg & Peach in West Orange and practices primarily in the areas of commercial and employment litigation.)

Movie Review

LOS ANGELES (Reuters) - Michael Moore's red-hot documentary *Fahrenheit 9/11* earned more in its first three days of release across North America than his Oscar-winning *Bowling for Columbine* did in its entire run, the film's distributors said on Sunday.

Fahrenheit 9/11, in which Moore takes aim at President Bush and the war in Iraq, opened at No. 1 after selling about \$21.8 million worth of tickets in the U.S. and Canada since June 25.

The film opened in two theaters in New York on Wednesday to help build even more media buzz before expanding to a relatively modest 868 theaters two days later. (In contrast, most of the other movies in the top five were playing in more than 2,500 theaters.)

Including the sales from the head start in New York, the film's total stands at \$21.96 million. Moore's previous movie, *Bowling for Columbine*, grossed about \$21.5 million during its nine-month run, during which it peaked at about 250 theaters, according to Moore.

"This is a testament to Michael Moore. His voice resonates across the country in what I think we can all now fairly describe as America's movie," said Tom Ortenberg, the president of distribution at Lions Gate Films, which backed the movie.

He said in a conference call that the film played strongly in both Democrat and Republican states, even drawing sell-out crowds in Republican strongholds like Nassau County, New York and Fayetteville, N.C., home of Fort Bragg.

Lions Gate, a unit of Lions Gate Entertainment Corp., partnered on the film's distribution with IFC Films, a unit of Cablevision Systems Corp.'s Rainbow Media Holdings LLC, and Miramax co-chairmen Harvey and Bon Weinstein. The Weinsteins bought the movie's rights with their own money after Miramax parent Walt Disney Co. refused to let them release it under the Miramax banner.

The movie cost about \$6 million to make, according to Moore. Additionally, the distributors spent less than \$10 million -- a relatively modest sum -- to market the movie, said Ortenberg.

I have noticed that when I was a child in Western Pennsylvania there used to be a lot more bats in the warm night sky. When I walked in the evenings all those years ago, I could hear them flying through the air above me. I always liked bats and was never afraid that they would get in my hair or attack me, as some said they would. With a quick trip to the library, and I also found out that very few bat species are capable of transferring rabies to humans. Recently, a Refuge supporter mailed a large package of information about the plight of bats in today's world. I cannot print all of the material, as fascinating as I found it, but I can provide some information from the website and encourage you to "take a trip to the library" yourselves. -S.S.

About Bats (from Bat World Sanctuary)

Seventy percent of all bat species eat insects, most of the remaining 30% eat fruit, pollen and nectar. Less than one-half of one percent of bats contract rabies. However, a grounded bat should never be handled because it may bite in self-defense. Call a wildlife rehabilitator or an animal organization for help

Bats are vital to the ecosystem! Fruit bats bring us over 450 commercial products, including 80 medicines. The seed dispersal and pollination activities of fruit and nectar eating bats are vital to the survival of rain forests. Seeds dropped by tropical bats account for up to 95% of forest re-growth on cleared land. Night blooming plants and trees depend on nectar eating bats for pollination. Bats in the US eat millions of tons of insects annually. Alarmingly, bats are disappearing worldwide. They are now considered the most endangered land mammal in North America.

Like dolphins, most bats are extremely intelligent. Some bats have a highly complicated social structure that includes over 20 different vocalizations. Bat fossils have been found that date back approximately 50 million years. Surprisingly, the bats of that ancient period very closely resembled those we know today.

Bats are such unique mammals that scientists have placed them in a group of their own, the Chiroptera, which means hand-wing. Bats are of the grand order, Archonta, grouped together with monkeys and flying lemurs. Bats amount to approximately a quarter of all mammal species. They are found everywhere in the world except in the most extreme desert and polar regions.

Most bats navigate with high-frequency sounds. Using sound alone, they can detect obstacles as fine as a human hair in total darkness. The sophistication of their unique echolocation system surpasses current scientific knowledge! Bats carefully groom themselves. Bats are among the cleanest of animals and are also exceptionally resistant to disease.

Bats, for their size, are the slowest reproducing mammals on earth. On average mother bats rear only one young per year. Some do not give birth until they are two or more years old. Like humans, bats give birth to poorly developed young and nurse them from a pair of pectoral breasts. Mother bats have been known to adopt each other's young. Bats are exceptionally long-lived, some species can live up to 34 years!

Bat World Sanctuary was founded in 1994 and is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization with a mission of rescue, rehabilitation, release and sanctuary. Each year they rescue thousands of bats that might otherwise die. Lifetime sanctuary is given to non-releasable bats, including those that are orphaned, injured, confiscated from the illegal pet trade and retired from zoos and research facilities.

Become a Beaver Defender! Fill out the Membership Form on page 15 and join today!

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

The Beaver Defenders Membership Application

Name: _____

Email: _____

Address: _____

Comments: _____

Phone/fax: _____

Membership/subscription is \$20 annually, due each July. Please make checks payable to Unexpected Wildlife Refuge. All contributions are tax deductible, and 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* \$10.00
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

Mugs: Light brown mug with green logo, very tasteful \$ 5.00

Posters: Trapped beaver and baby \$ 1.00
Beavers Turn Wilderness into Happiness (colorable!) \$ 1.00

Cards: 12 custom beaver block prints created by 5th graders with
poems written by Beaver Defenders, 24 card 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 (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.



Unexpected Wildlife Refuge
PO Box 765
Newfield, NJ 08344

NONPROFIT
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
UNEXPECTED
WILDLIFE REFUGE

July is Membership Renewal Month

