

The BEAVER DEFENDERS

October 2003



The Summer of Orphans

They shall never be trapped anymore.

The BEAVER DEFENDERS



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October 2003

GOOD NEWS FROM UNEXPECTED

By Sarah Summerville

Here We Grow Again - WE DID IT!

Unexpected went to settlement on August 15th, and the whole transaction went off without a hitch. At 1 PM we all sat down at the table, and forty minutes later we all shook hands. Our wonderful attorney, William Gilson, was there, as was our President, Helga Tacreiter and myself. Although settlement itself seemed rather anticlimactic, when I got back to the Refuge all the old posting signs came down in a flurry of yellow paper and bright green and white Refuge signs replaced them with great joy and fanfare. White signs now line both sides of Unexpected Road like artwork in a gallery. Since the land was always hunted, it will be a lot of work to patrol and protect it for several years.

This project required a lot of work, hope, faith and cash. **Thanks to everyone who helped to make this purchase possible; your support was unbelievable.** NJDEP Green Acres gave us a grant of \$80,000 and you all provided the rest. Most donations came in checks for \$25 - \$50 so you can imagine the number of people out there who care about and support what we are doing. In addition to individual donors, Audubon Wildlife Society, Humane Society of the U.S., Friends of Animals and PeTA all contributed generously to our acquisition.

The new land is located on the north side of Unexpected Road and abuts a triangle of land that Hope had previously purchased. The common property line between these two parcels includes over 1500 linear feet of Main Lake Branch, downstream from Miller Pond; prime beaver habitat. The Refuge now protects 610 acres of undisturbed land in the Pine Barrens.

According to my *Oxford American Dictionary*, that is sanctuary - **sanctuary** (sangk-choo-er-ee) *n.* 1. an area where birds or wild animals are protected and encouraged to breed. 2. refuge, a place of refuge.



It is important to keep in mind that many sanctuaries and refuges fail to provide any sanctuary at all. Most public owned refuges are run by government agencies that regularly lock out the public to allow deer and fowl hunting. They call it *Wildlife Management* and actually encourage hunting, trapping and fishing on lands that are purchased with our money.

Just remember that thanks to you and others like you, Unexpected Wildlife Refuge will continue to grow and provide an *inviolate sanctuary* for all indigenous wild animals - forever.

Getting the Word Out

Unexpected set up an information table at the Second Annual Purple Martin Festival in Port Elizabeth, Cumberland County. In August, at the height of the purple martin migration, thousands of birds roost every evening along the Maurice River marshes. The Cumberland County Planning Department decided to make something of this spectacular event with a day of seminars, booths, food and boat rides out on the river to see these marvelous birds.

After speaking to hundreds of interested people and handing out beaver literature, we now have seven new Beaver Defenders! Thanks for joining us!

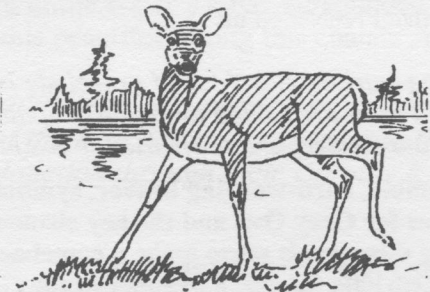
Look for our booth at the New Jersey Animal Rights Alliance 20th Anniversary Conference on Saturday, October 25th in Somerville, New Jersey. For more information on the event, contact Amy at (732) 446-6808.

Rain, Heat and Bugs

It was difficult to get a lot of outside work done this summer. Between rain, heat and bugs, the going was rough and, at times, miserable. On a positive note, we got all the firewood split and stacked for the coming winter. Although we did not get to work together, Helga Tacreiter came to the Refuge on several occasions and worked on the perimeter trail; she mowed, and then later I worked on the edging and clipping. We are pretty much ready for patrol this hunting season, which incidentally, began with bow season on September 6th. The inner trails need some more attention, but with cooler fall temperatures, it should be a pleasure to get out there and work in the crisp cool air.

Hunting Season is Upon Us

The NJ Fish and Game Commission has pushed our bow hunting season from September 28th to September 6th. Not only are they giving the hunters three more weeks of deer bow hunting, they have increased the "bag" limit (body count) for beavers for the coming spring trapping season. In addition to these changes, they have given the go-ahead to a bear hunt in Northern New Jersey for our "sportsmen". Anyone who is alarmed by these types of policy decisions should be aware of a bill that could change the face of the NJ Fish and Game Council.



Bill S2603 and A3764 (<http://www.njleg.state.nj.us> for the complete bill.), if passed, will expand the Fish and Game Council from 11 to 19 members, adding seven new members from the public; "the seven new members would be members of the public with experience in environmental protection or other fields relevant to animal welfare and with a background in the conservation of fish and game." The proposed legislation would also place the Fish and Wildlife Council within The Department of Environmental Protection, as well as provide that the Commissioner of Environmental Protection select the Director of the Division of Fish and Wildlife. Under current law, the Director of the Division of Fish and Wildlife is selected by the Fish and Game Council, subject

to the approval of the Governor and serves at the pleasure of the council.

Please contact Assemblyman Reed Gusciora and tell him that you appreciate his sponsorship of A3764 (609) 292-0500, AsmGusciora@njleg.org or reednj15@aol.com.

Here at Unexpected, it will be business as usual. Anyone who wishes to participate in patrol should contact me and set up a date. We patrol in the early morning and late evening, walking around the perimeter, enjoying the wild scenery. Of course, if you want to bring a pair of loppers, I could direct you to a conveniently located trail that needs some attention. The work is never done regardless of season.

Baffled by Beavers

Well, I just do not know *what* the beavers are up to. We had two pair in the spring, both working hard on their respective lodges in Miller Pond, but with no sign of beaver kittens. As summer wore on, the nightly interaction with our little neighbors at the cove never did develop. I would provide apples and poplar and sit quietly for hours, retiring when I could no longer stand the bugs. In the morning, some or all of the poplar would be gone; occasionally, none would be taken. In mid-August, one of the beavers surprised me by coming in the middle of the day while I was doing book work. I looked out the window across the hazy pond to see a poplar treetop moving toward the dike like a solitary float in a lonely parade.

Sometimes an entire week will pass without a sign of beaver visits, the poplar dries to a deep brown, waiting in the cove. Upon my visiting their lodge area in the kayak, it appeared that there has been little lodge maintenance, with no newly peeled sticks or new mud applied. When discussing the actions (or inactions) of beavers, Hope always said, "You can't know what they are thinking." Meanwhile, the water is rushing over the dam and the vegetation is starting to become very thick in the Main Pond. Perhaps they don't feel repairing the dam is necessary because Miller Pond is deep enough.

Beavers certainly do turn wilderness into happiness. If they did decide to go downstream for whatever reason, I hope they only traveled 1500 linear feet.

RE: April's "*The Benefits of Beavers*" by Todd Wilkinson
Dear Sarah,

Everyone is enjoying your current issue with all your good news, and another great shot of Hope. What a treat!

The author gave a misleadingly rosy description of the work of USDA APHIS Wildlife Services, formerly called Animal Damage Control. The name change was reportedly done to clean up their image as "the federal eradication agency." The U.S. GAO had complained in '95 report about this agency's predator literature that lists many control methods, whereas in the field very little except killing occurred. It's encouraging that WS now does some research on nonlethal beaver methods, but probably a major reason so much WS killing continues is that the public is being kept in the dark.

For example, in WS literature they include many methods of beaver management, including flow devices as well as trapping. This gives the public impression that they do much nonlethal work (as did that article). In reality, their agents almost exclusively kill beavers; for example, I spoke with the head of the North Carolina WS program this month, and in 2002 they killed 5,021 beavers while installing only 14 Clemson Levelers statewide (about 98% lethal). A few years ago I asked the same question of the head of VA WS and he'd installed no devices in Virginia at all. They've ignored the more effective, modern devices of the last decades (Clemsons only work well in smaller drainages). In the meantime, many people think that a federal agency must be up on the latest methods etc., and it's not unusual for one govt. agency to support another in their magazines.

What-is-more, WS has been attempting to start new beaver trapping programs in states, such as Florida and Alabama, that do not have a formal arrangement with that agency. Often they get this going on the county level first and then expand to the entire state. BWV and other wildlife groups were able to stop such an effort in Bay County, FL last year and this summer that county is installing several flow devices, according to the advice given by Skip Hilliker of the Fund for Animals who visited there.

Feel free to call if you've any questions, and I hope this explains the concerns about WS and how they are portrayed by the media. It would be a small matter except that there's been a purposeful pattern and it's up to us to give the other side.

Best, Sharon

(Sharon Brown is on the Board of *Beavers: Wetlands & Wildlife*, 146 Van Dyke Road, Dolgeville, New York 13329 (518) 568-2077 (www.beaversww.org))

LETTERS



RE: April's "*The Beaver Towns are Filling up Again*" by Henrietta Smyth

Dear Sarah,

Thank you so much for sending me a copy of *The Beaver Defenders*, with my article in it. I am very glad you managed to fit the whole thing in, and I do like the half-tone sketch of the child and beaver behind the text. I was a little puzzled, though, why you chose not to indicate at the top of the article that I was writing about beavers in the UK as I feel some readers might wonder (at least until they've read quite a long way) why I am talking about beavers set to make a comeback when there are already so many beavers in the USA and Canada!

I am delighted to say that, all being well with the people I am traveling with I shall be going to Canada next weekend, to Toronto initially and then flying on with Margaret Charko (nee Winters) to Saskatoon to see Grey Owl's cabin in Prince Albert National Park. Margaret is one of the few people still around who actually knew Grey Owl (she typed up Grey Owl's last book for him in his cabin) and I feel very honoured to be making this first visit with her. We also hope to visit some Native American Indian reservations and join in some of their activities while we are there.

Well done again for another excellent newsletter - always very interesting to read other people's comments about wildlife from that part of the world.

With best wishes,
Henrietta Smyth, Honeycomb Cottage, Sarratt, Rickmansworth Hertfordshire. WD36AY, England
(email) hsmyth@FreeNet.co.uk

(The following introduction I failed to include in July BD's "*The Beaver Towns are Filling up Again*" - apologies for the confusion to our readers and to Henrietta! S.S.)

"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 in Great Britain. Henrietta Smyth, a member of the Grey Owl Society in England and a keen amateur naturalist, summarises the progress of British attempts to restore the European beaver to its former habitat."

Congratulations to Terry and JoAnn Gleeson on their June wedding. Terry has been patrolling at Unexpected during deer season for many years.

His generosity continues even when he is not out here walking the perimeter. At his request, we received several donations in honor of this wonderful union.



Best wishes for a long, healthy, happy marriage!

Big World - Little Creek - by August Sexauer

From somewhere deep in the swamps of Central and South America "yellow over white" has returned for the third straight year to site #2, where a nest box is waiting on a tributary of Little Creek in Bear Swamp, Medford, New Jersey.

"Yellow over white" denotes the two colored bands on the left leg of this male Prothonotary warbler which was banded in the year 2000 near the same spot. Different color combinations are used to help us recognize individual birds, which are also banded with a Fish and Wildlife band on the right leg.

"Yellow over white" has roughly covered 12,000 miles with three round trips between two hemispheres. Driven by natural forces from within and remarkable stamina, this small living spirit, weighing only 0.56 ounces, has accomplished a feat beyond our comprehension. For a small passerine to survive a journey of this magnitude is truly remarkable.

We all know about migration, but to actually stand on the bank of Little Creek and witness first hand the arrival of this individual back to this tiny spot on this vast planet, well that is something else again. I cannot describe the feeling I experienced at that moment except to softly say, "Welcome back my old friend."

Two other previously banded birds also returned to Bear Swamp along with three newly arrived males that were banded for the first time this spring. When males arrive they are busy courting females with their song, which are also recorded by tape and later printed on a sonogram. These recordings are later crossed checked with the banded birds.

After a cold and very rainy spring the first Prothonotary appeared on April 28th, later than usual. Upon arrival no time is lost; nest building begins immediately and eggs are laid soon after. **With 11 nest boxes out this year there were 9 nest starts, 33 eggs laid and 16 young fledged.**

All this information is sent to Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, thanks to Doris McGovern who does the banding and Don Jones who does the recordings.

Walking silently in the deep woods of Bear Swamp, one never knows what one may find. Like the early morning of April 22nd, when I chanced upon a pair of newly arrived Louisiana Waterthrush copulating on a moss covered log at the water's edge, surrounded with fiddle heads coming up and other new growth sprouting into life.

In this beautiful setting this chance encounter is beyond my power to tell you of. The rewards are great.

(Augie Sexauer was instrumental in preserving the Bear Swamp parcel by the Audubon Wildlife Society and the donation of the Bear Swamp properties to the NJ Natural Lands Trust. This spring, AWS gave Unexpected a very generous donation through their Dorothy K. Ingersoll Memorial Fund for our recent land purchase.)



What Bluebirds Like - Our Fellow Animals by Hope Sawyer Buyukmihci, February 1975

Bluebirds nest in rural areas, though they may still cling to the fringes of suburbia. Ideal habitat is open fields with scattered trees or bushes. They like sparse vegetation or short grass, as their method of feeding is to sit on a perch, like a weed or dry branch, and drop down to the ground to pick up insects. They must have a cavity in which to nest, and often like swampy territory with dead trees. Orchards are perhaps their favorite places, and abandoned orchards are ideal habitat, since the decaying trees provide nesting holes.

A special bird house is available. It has the following features: natural log of firm dry wood with ample room inside; looks like a woodpecker hole, inside and out; drain holes and ports to ensure dryness and ventilation, with removable top for easy cleaning and inspection; good insulation provided by thick top slab and plug; mounts on a pipe, for safety's sake, or will adapt to tree or post mounting.

This type of house is possible through a machine called a "woodpecker lathe" which in three minutes hollows out any kind of log to the desired size. It can be adjusted to make larger houses for owls, wood ducks or sparrow hawks.

(Established in 1972 by Lawrence and Adelaide Sawyer, this wonderful family company is still going strong.)

For more information on these fabulous nest boxes, or to put in an order for spring, contact:
Bluebird Housing, PO Box 207, East Ellijay, GA 30530, 888-835-1207, bluebirdhousing@ellijay.com

A Bill to End the Use of Steel Jaw Leghold Traps

The steel jaw leghold trap is barbaric. Furbearing animals are caught with these cruel devices to obtain their fur. People's pets, endangered species, birds, and children also fall prey to the trap's vicious bite.

In 1991, the European Union (E.U.) banned use of the steel jaw leghold trap and import of furs from countries that still allow them. In 1997, after threats of a WTO challenge by the U.S., the U.S. Trade Representative reached an "Understanding" with the E.U., agreeing to end use of "all jaw-type leghold restraining traps" by 2002 on muskrat and nutria and to phase out "conventional steel-jawed leghold restraining traps" by 2004.

To implement this agreement and uphold our international obligations, Congresswoman Nita Lowey (D-NY) has introduced H.R. 1800, to stop the use of steel jaw leghold traps in the U.S. It's high time that the U.S. join the 88 other countries that prohibit this awful trap.

Urge your Representative to cosponsor H.R. 1647, the House version of the Crane Conservation Act; and H.R. 1800, a bill to end the use of steel jaw leghold traps.

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Population: Pressure of Necessity

The relationship between population growth and the environmental crises ravaging in biosphere - our earth - seem too obvious to need further explanation and yet, so critical and fundamental is the link that we have to return to the issue again and again if we ever hope to stop the ecological meltdown building momentum each day.

We have doubled our numbers since 1950. We continue today to add to the planet each year the equivalent of 11 cities of 7 million people each. Just imagine the infrastructure, from sewers to clean water to food distribution facilities, that are necessary if we are to adequately provide for each of those cities and then 11 more, year after year. But of course we don't provide many of these things and, in fact, most of the world's population growth occurs in undeveloped countries in which none of these requirements are provided.

Hundreds of millions of people now live in absolute poverty and without access to clean water. Like you and me, these people must eat, drink, bathe, clothe, and house themselves. And like us, they want these things for their children. As with you and me, they do what they have to do to survive. Faced with this necessity, they clear and burn the rainforests, let their livestock graze and erode fragile lands and hillsides, kill and eat whatever they can catch, use rivers and streams for washing and toileting, and burn for cooking every scrap of wood within a day's walk.

It is easy to forget these people as we concern ourselves with our own definition of what we think

we need to survive. Yet their impact on our lives grows with each passing month. As with our sprawl culture here in the U.S., their ever-expanding activities continue to devour land and habitat at astounding rates (7.5 million acres of tropical forest per year), fueling the extinction of species, the loss of biodiversity, the spread of new diseases and epidemics, desertification and global warming; overwhelming the earth's capacity to sustain them, and inevitably, ourselves.

In our own self-interest, the welfare of the world's poor, desperate people must become an issue of the highest priority, for us as individuals, as an organization, and as a nation.

A proven route to stabilizing a country's population is through programs that provide assistance for sustainable development, literacy, and education (especially of women), and most importantly, access to reproductive technologies. The U.S. provides the smallest percentage of GNP to these programs of any country in the developed world. The U.S. recently cut back its support for reproductive assistance programs of the United Nations.

-By Jack Flatley,
Wildlife/Biodiversity Chair,
Sierra Club, Pennsylvania Chapter
reprinted from The Sylvanian,
Summer 2003, Vol. 21, No. 3

To learn more about these subjects,
visit www.populationinstitute.org



The Faith - By Patti Irvin

I sat huddled against the rain, listening, watching, and wondering at the miracles of thunderstorms. I was on the edge of the boardwalk where we fed the beavers, in the middle of a beautifully dreary swamp. Dusk was just seeping in like the rain, and I draped my jacket over my head. Maryland yellow-throats called back and forth, determined to leave a few last notes of sunshine despite the rain. Quail called for a while, but their spirits were dampened by the rain. A whippoorwill took over for a moment, then gave up.

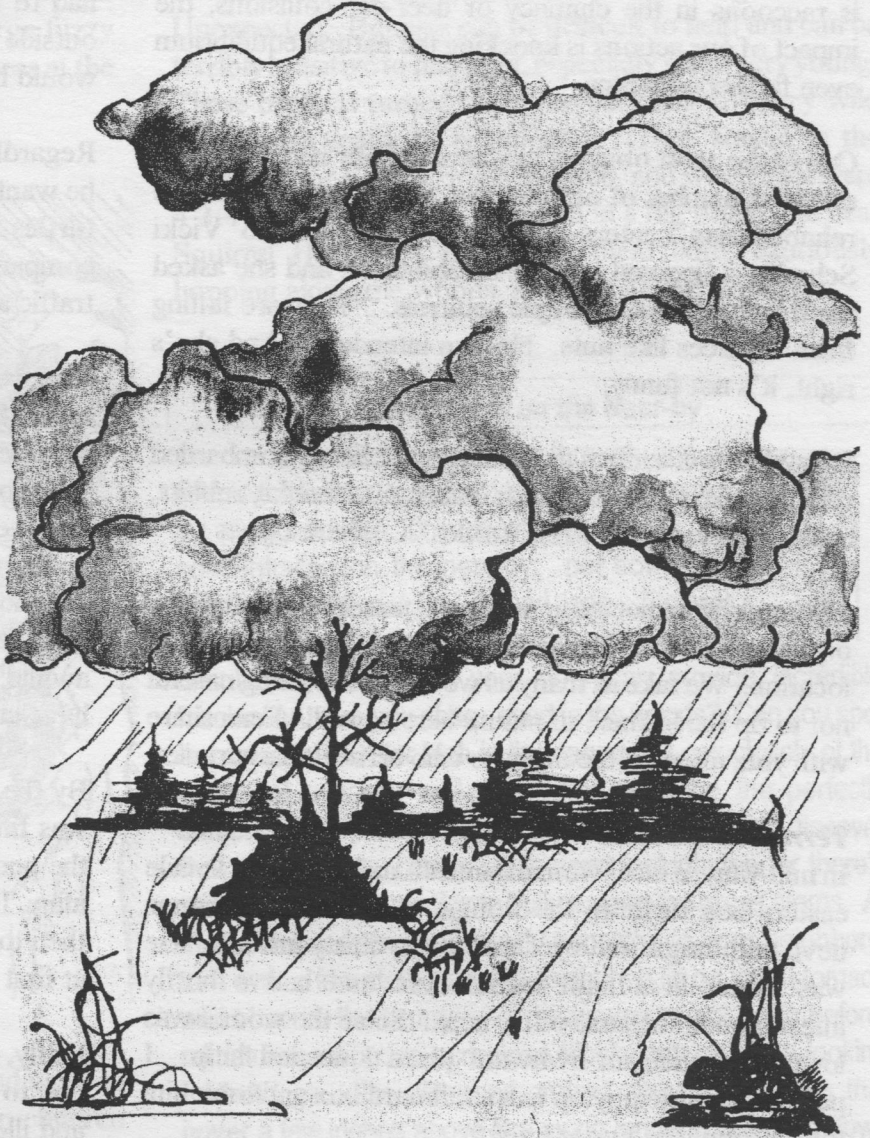
P.S. had left, but October lay out of sight still chewing on poplar. The sky lit up orange and pink and the thunder rippled off in the distance. Down came the rain, spreading bubbles across the water, sweet and cool. A strange beaver whom P.S. had greeted earlier with a nuzzle, swam cautiously by, then dived. A minute later he appeared farther off like a ghost, silent, and then disappeared again for good. October still munched away, faithfully unconcerned.

Faith. Was that the secret of this night? The peace that October held in the middle of a thunderstorm. The secret that brought a little red squirrel to eat from my hand, or that gave a baby woodcock the courage to live after his mother had been killed on the highway. Who brought that bird to me, who knew that I had learned compassion for animals, but that four weeks ago I too was eating the flesh of animals, the flesh of God.

I think of the words of one man: "Come to me, all that are weary, and that suffer in strife and affliction! For my peace will strengthen you and comfort you. For my peace is exceeding full of joy. And then will you find peace also among yourselves, for the kingdom of God is within you."

Perhaps it is the God I see in all nature that gives the animals this peace. The faith that has helped the beavers survive all these years despite man, the faith that some day man will awaken to the God within himself, the faith that some day the steel jaws of men's traps will stop closing in on innocent lives.

The Faith.



Patti Irvin
For The Beaver Defenders

(Reprinted from *The Beaver Defenders*, 1973)

With all the building and development going on in Southern New Jersey, and everywhere else for that matter, there is an assault taking place by developers, contractors and homeowners. As we encroach upon the farms, wood lots and forests, on pastures and along creeks with ever increasing development, we are literally stealing the homes from our fellow wild creatures as their habitats are being fragmented and destroyed. Whether it is raccoons in the chimney or deer-car collisions, the impact of our actions is knocking the natural equilibrium even further off kilter.

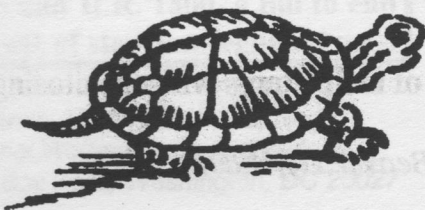
One of the most obvious indicators of our invasion is the elevated number of orphans that keep turning up at the rehabilitation centers. Yesterday, I spoke to Vicki Schmidt, a licensed wildlife rehabilitator, and she asked me if I could take a couple squirrels. "They are falling from the trees like nuts. No pun intended." And she's right, it's not funny.

Rehabilitation centers and Refuges are being bombarded with homeless babies. Birds, raccoons, skunks, rabbits, owls, opossums, squirrels, turtles.....the list goes on.

Although Unexpected is not yet licensed to rehabilitate orphaned wildlife, we certainly do have a fine final release location. We take as many as we can, while being careful not to tip the balance of nature here as well. I can share with you, a few of the orphans who arrived this summer.

Terrapene carolina

In mid-May, a local woman named Laurie brought a male eastern box turtle to the Refuge. He was a handsome devil with bright red eyes and a very feisty attitude. He was found in a high traffic area and had a botfly infestation at the base of his neck. Since the wound was located in such an awkward place I needed help. I packed the little guy up in a cardboard box and took him to see Coni, the Turtle Lady.



Coni has been working with sick and injured turtles for decades, and she is an expert at handling and healing them.

We got the patient to extend his head all the way out of his shell, and Coni extracted the parasites from his neck with a pair of tweezers. We disinfected the wound and then plugged it with Neosporin. After a week of recuperation in a terrarium, this fellow was back on his feet with a healthy appetite and a strong desire to leave me. Since turtles' systems work very slowly, any infection would not be apparent for several months, so I had to keep him under observation. Relocated to the outside fence enclosure, he had access to all the foods he would be encountering in the wild.

Regardless of how well I cared for him, it was Spring and he wanted to go out and do what comes naturally to boy turtles in May. Luckily for him, Coni came up with a companion female who was taken from another very high traffic area.

I enjoyed watching these two new-found friends and their antics for weeks. One day when I was working in the storage room, adjacent to the outdoor pen, I heard a commotion of rustling leaves and breaking twigs only to discover a "highspeed" chase under-way around the mulberry tree. When the Lady grew tired she would stop and close up her shell completely, leaving him to knock relentlessly on her door. She would torment him for awhile, but then she would acquiesce. Turtles and rabbits have at least one thing in common, and it is not pace.

By the end of July, it was apparent that the male turtle was fine and free of infection. I put them both outside the pen with lots of provisions, and watched them from afar. They both looked around in delighted disbelief and then took off - in opposite directions. So much for love at first sight!

Sadly, eastern box turtle populations are on the decline due to habitat loss, roadway and lawnmower accidents and illegal collection.

Procyon lotor

The turtles left just in time, because the next day three juvenile raccoons arrived. I dug out a pit inside the enclosure and installed a plastic wash basin filled with fresh water. The foster moms arrived with two large crates; one containing a large female and the other, two smaller male siblings. We released them within the enclosure, and they went straight to the top of the old

mulberry tree that is located inside the fence. I put out cat food, nuts, seeds and fruit and left them to their own devices. At dusk the female came slowly down the tree, head first, followed by the boys. She made a b-line to the basin and sank in up to her shoulders. Then with her front paws, washed her hands and face while looking around with alert curiosity. She drank deeply and ate some cat food, leaving the slightly muddy water for the boys. The boys did basically the same thing, except they pushed and shoved each other and spilled most of the water out of the basin before they were finished. They all had their fill and went back up the tree like a large fuzzy caterpillar in the dim twilight leaving a muddy mess at the base of the tree.

During the day they would nap and play and occasionally visit the feeding area. They nibbled on the mulberry tree and rained bark and twigs on the ground below, cooing and chattering together like they all had a special secret. They would wrestle, pushing, shoving and biting on each other. The girl was an instigator and usually started the commotion while positioned between the two boys.

They never slipped or fell from the branches and were as comfortable rolling around up there as human children playing on the living room floor.

This routine went on for four days, but on the fourth night they were gone. They did not return that evening, nor the next. However, on the third night they returned to the tree and were chattering away up there until dusk like they had never left. Then around 3 AM they came down to eat. This on again, off again visiting continued for about two weeks, and then they were gone from my circle of care, able to make it on their own.



Sylvilagus floridanus

Our neighbor, Larry, and his three children showed up in early August with two bunnies that they found on Main Street in Landisville. It



was impossible for him to locate the nest since the little runaways were heading through town via the storm gutter, perhaps flushed from the nest by a dog or nearby lawnmower. He scooped them up and brought them to Unexpected. Bunnies can be difficult to help and can be terribly sensitive to handling, especially when very young. These orphans turned out to be very healthy, very wild and almost ready to be released. They stayed in the terrarium for a week or so, ate well, and when they were 4 3/4 inches long, were released in a big brush pile near Squirrel Haven. I have seen them both, cautiously hopping along the woods, nibbling of soft grasses.

Concentrate on the Near-by

Once the migration is through and it's time to think about working around the yard again, try giving up the long view occasionally and concentrating on the near-by: put down your binoculars and pick up a hand lens. Flowers, leaves and insects are everywhere and just a few minutes spent outside your door can provide incredible fascination. Are you sharp-eyed in the woods? Can you spot the smallest warbler high in the canopy? Look closely at the center of a flower and see if you can find the perfectly camouflaged spider lurking there. Pressing on, you'll discover that no ant or fly, bee or wasp need feel inferior, for there's always a smaller species to bully among the grass stems. At the risk of seeming hopelessly eccentric to your neighbors, turn over a few shovels-full of earth then lie on your stomach and observe the scurrying of things you've not seen before: miniature centipedes, scorpions, blocky ants as tough-looking as bulldogs. The disturbed ground attracts tiny bees that hover a few inches above like moon landers, dropping down now and then to explore among the clods. The hand lens has another unexpected benefit. It so thoroughly focuses your attention you'll find that the cares of the larger world have disappeared and though you may spend only a few minutes looking, you'll feel like you've been away along time.



-By Pat Brundage, President
Audubon Wildlife Society
PO Box 34, Audubon, NJ 08106

* Introducing: The Center for Animal Protection

In late June, before we were anywhere near "ready," the newly-formed Center for Animal Protection hit the ground running. We had no choice: USDA was in the process of gassing a planned 2,700 geese in Union County, New Jersey. Elsewhere in the state, geese were being gassed by the hundreds.

In a heartbeat, the Center filed a Temporary Restraining Order, commissioned a public opinion poll of New Jersey registered voters; garnered extensive state and national publicity; launched a state, then national, political campaign to initiate a statewide GeesePeace non-lethal program. That's when we weren't ready. Nonsense. High quality. Effective.

Union County immediately halted the gassing -- sparing about 1700 lives, but not before nearly 1,000 birds were killed. GeesePeace pilot projects are now underway in Monmouth County. The steadily-expanded project is backed by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection. (To its credit, GeesePeace had actually contacted the DEP 8 months ago, but talks stalled.) Effecting change for geese even within the state engenders formidable opposition. There will be wins and losses; we will stay with it.

The Center will initially focus on firearms industry control of U.S. wildlife policy, on the trifecta of agencies (USDA, USF&WS, state game agencies) partnered with industry, and on species now persecuted, by definition, under current U.S. wildlife diaspora and euphemistic "community based management" programs.

Because we are the Center for Animal -- not Wildlife -- Protection, we are free to ultimately become involved in farm animal and other non-wildlife issues. The Center will network with effective national and state groups sharing common goals. We will be fair, bestowing credit where credit is due, acknowledging the successful efforts of other groups and individuals.

And we intend on setting definite standards for actual achievement. Taking on the opposition means tightening standards at home. This includes encouraging

those who support animal work with their efforts and funds to become more discriminating and demanding. In the corporate world, non-producers don't last long. No CEO would long suffer an executive who *talked* about making sales, even presumed to instruct others how to do it, but never closed a deal. Among non-profits and in volunteer settings animal work sets few measurable markers. The result can be an unsettling admixture of smoke, mirrors, coattail riding -- and stasis. (This in no way reflects on some remarkable work going on around the country: remarkable work is still the exception.)

Animals can't hire us, and they sure can't fire us. In a vacuum or at the state level they are vulnerable to the self-satisfied: cruisers, well-funded sinecures, bloviators, experts without portfolios or the simply ineffective.

For any asserting leadership, skill must be demonstrated, providing tangible animal relief, on a *regular basis*. Reasonable expectations of success should be set: with perhaps a few exceptions, five years of funded activism with no *measurable* gains for animals -- meaning, (spearheading, not riding coattails) a bill *enacted* into law, a referendum *passed*, is problematic.

So expect no rhetoric, no preaching, from us. The Center will specialize in first quality research, educational materials and publications. We will unapologetically work for the strongest, most protective, most progressive laws and solutions possible, avoiding toothless or weak laws and referendums.

Our Goals

- Educate the public about the true nature of wildlife management in New Jersey.
- Promote legislation to reform the Fish and Game Council into a democratic board whose real mission is to preserve our valuable landscape, vital ecosystems and precious wildlife.
- Change the Division from an agency dependent and focused on hunting into one that promotes co-existence between New Jersey's wildlife and people.



Who We Are

The Center is a working board of top-flight activists, professionals, and experts. In alphabetical order:

Betty W. Butler, Rumson, NJ

Majoring in Botany and Zoology at Rutgers, environmentalist Butler has lived on the Shrewsbury River in Rumson for 30 years, officially testing for non-point source pollution, among other peninsula and watershed projects. A waterbird enthusiast and lover, Betty founded the New Jersey Chapter of the Coalition to Prevent the Destruction of Canada Geese in 1997. She also organized and hosted the first non-lethal Canada goose symposium in 1998. Betty is a founding member of the Center and teamed with Sue Russell in managing the Center's response to USDA's gassings.



Gregg Feigelson, Ph.D., Pearl River, NY

Gregg is a founding member and successive president of the Coalition to Prevent the Destruction of Canada Geese, which he runs with his wife, Abby Wolf. The Coalition was instrumental in halting the infamous Clarkstown, New York round-ups. Gregg is a national spokesperson for Canadas, appearing on NPR and CBS Evening News. (Because of Gregg's tip, the news crew interrupted a Union County gassing, probably saving 1,000 geese.) His award-winning Coalition website (www.canadageese.org) and extensive, scholarly knowledge are the gold standard for up-to-date, factual information on Canada management, USDA, health and round-up issues.

Melissa Jacobs, Neptune, NJ

Melissa has served as a board member of the New Jersey Wildlife Rehabilitators for six years. She has been a licensed rehabilitator since 1995. She is also an active member of the Marine Mammal Stranding Center. Melissa was instrumental in halting a recent Sunday Hunting Bill in the New Jersey Legislature by applying grassroots pressure to a co-prime sponsor. Her outreach capabilities unite individuals from all over the state.

Sue Russell, Little Silver, NJ

Recognition of Sue's unusual ability and success comes from others, including both Senate and Assembly

sponsors of New Jersey's leghold and wild bird laws. Christine Stevens wrote: "The author of the two most significant animal protective bills passed by New Jersey Legislators, the Honorable Bennett Mazur, wrote us: 'I am particularly pleased to have the opportunity of working again with Sue Russell. She is a consummate professional who really knows how to get a job done.' Such unstinting praise from a successful legislator is virtually unheard of and reflects her untiring efforts and skill in obtaining enactment of legislation banning steel-jaw, leghold traps in New Jersey." In a letter to the Governor, Bennett Mazur praised Sue's work in obtaining Senate president sponsorship, resuscitating and shepherding the Wild Bird Bill into law. Recent projects include the Union County gassing and halting legislation requiring a deer

"management plan" (read, hunting) for Green Acres lands. A former VP of Friends of Animals (then, New York and New Jersey) and legislative advisor for the Society for Animal Protective Legislation, (Washington, D.C.), she is co-founder of the Center. Sue has national and international (CITES) credentials and is also an accomplished wildlife researcher and writer. She was chairwoman of Boycott Disney to prevent development of Virginia's historic Piedmont region into a Disney theme park.

(NJ Leghold Law was a project of Friends of Animals. Wild Bird Law a project of the Society for Animal Protective Legislation (SAPL), as part of the Coalition to End the Wild Bird Trade: ASPCA, Defenders of Wildlife, HSUS, SAPL; special mention to Dr. Rosemary Gnam, now with the Museum of Natural History.)

It's time to bring New Jersey wildlife policy into the 21st century. The Center for Animal Protection is committed to helping the citizens of New Jersey reclaim their rights to stewardship of our wildlife and its habitat.

Please consider contributing to our work.

Center for Animal Protection

PO Box 161, Bradley Beach, NJ 07720

732.842.7166 / mail@centerforanimalprotection.org

www.orgcenterforanimalprotection.org

Playing Russian Roulette with Wildlife Imports

Jeffrey Doth of International Exotic Wildlife in Houston, Texas is in trouble again. In April, Doth shipped approximately 800 small mammals of nine different species from Ghana to the United States. A number of these animals were carriers of monkeypox.

Follow the trail.... According to the analysis of Dr. Ostroff of the Centers for Disease Control and others, Gambian giant rats were imported legally from Ghana to Texas and then sold to a distributor in Iowa who, in turn, sold them to a distributor in Chicago (Phil's Pocket Pets of Villa Park). There, the Gambian giant rats were housed with prairie dogs and apparently transmitted the disease to them. These prairie dogs were ultimately sold as pets. The disease spread could be enormously vast, however, as Dr. Ostroff notes: "These animals were then widely distributed within the United States and some were even re-exported to Japan."

In addition to the monkeypox debacle, Doth's rap sheet includes getting caught twice for illegal international smuggling of wildlife in a two year period. Then, while supposedly under house arrest in Texas, he went to Florida to receive a wildlife shipment, but he didn't have the proper state license or permits—and the transport boxes happened to contain cocaine in addition to reptiles (see Winter 2002 AWI Quarterly).

One wonders what trouble Doth will get into next.

-Summer 2003, Volume 52, No. 3, Animal Welfare Institute Quarterly, PO Box 3650, Washington, DC 20027

Help Stop Lord and Taylor from Selling Fur

Lord and Taylor's flagship store in New York City is considering opening a fur department. Its parent company, The May Company, established an anti-fur department policy close to ten years ago. Opening one fur department could lead to similar departments in other Lord and Taylor locations and other department stores owned by The May Company, including Hecht's, Filene's, and Robinsons May.

- Fund for Animals, 200 W. 57th Street, NY, NY 10019

Please write to the responsible CEO's and express your opinion on selling fur. Fur should be worn on those it was born on!

Jane Elfers, CEO
Lord and Taylor
424 Fifth Avenue
New York, NY 10018

Gene Kahn, CEO
The May Company
611 Olive Street
St. Louis, MO 63101

DIRTY SECRETS

-by Osha Gray Davidson, Mother Jones Magazine

IN THE EARLY 1980's you didn't need to be a member of EarthFirst! to know that Ronald Reagan was bad for the environment. You didn't even have to be especially politically aware. Here was a man who had, after all, publicly stated that most air pollution was caused by plants. And then there was Reagan's secretary of the Interior, James Watt, who saw no need to protect the environment because Jesus was returning any day, and who, in a pique of reactionary feng shui, suggested that the buffalo on Interior's seal be flipped to face right instead of left.

By contrast, while George W. Bush gets low marks on the environment from a majority of Americans, few fully appreciate the scope and fury of this administration's anti-environmental agenda. "What they're doing makes the Reagan administration look innocent," says Buck Parker, executive director of Earthjustice, a nonprofit environmental law firm. The Bush administration has been gutting key sections of the Clean Water and Clean Air acts, laws that have traditionally had bipartisan support and have done more to protect the health of Americans than any other environmental legislation. It has crippled the Superfund program, which is charged with cleaning up millions of pounds of toxic industrial wastes such as arsenic, lead, mercury, and vinyl chloride in more than 1,000 neighborhoods in 48 states. It has sought to cut the EPA's enforcement division by nearly one-fifth, to its lowest level on record; fines assessed for environmental violations dropped by nearly two-thirds in the administration's first two years; and criminal prosecutions—the government's weapon of last resort against the worst polluters—are down by nearly one-third.

The administration has abdicated the decades-old federal responsibility to protect native animals and plants from extinction, becoming the first not to voluntarily add a single species to the endangered species list. It has opened millions of acres of wilderness—including some of the nation's most environmentally sensitive public lands—to logging, mining, and oil and gas drilling. Under one plan, loggers could take 10 percent of the trees in California's Giant Sequoia National Monument; many of the Monument's old-growth sequoias, 200 years old and more, could be felled to make roof shingles. Other national treasures that have been opened for development include the million-acre Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument in Arizona, the 2,000-foot red-rock spires at Fisher Towers, Utah, and dozens of others.

And then, of course, the White House has all but denied the existence of what may be the most serious environmental problem of our time, global warming. After campaigning on a promise to reduce emissions of the greenhouse gas carbon dioxide, Bush made an abrupt about-face once elected, calling his earlier pledge "a mistake" and announcing that he would not regulate CO2 emissions from power plants—even though the United States accounts for a fourth of the world's total industrial CO2 emissions. Since then, the White

House has censored scientific reports that mentioned the subject, walked away from the Kyoto agreement to reduce greenhouse-gas emissions, and even, at the behest of ExxonMobil, engineered the ouster of the scientist who chaired the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

So why aren't more people aware that George W. Bush is compiling what is arguably the worst environmental record of any president in recent history? The easy explanations-that environmental issues are complex, that war and terrorism push most other concerns off the front pages-are only part of the story. The real reason may be far simpler: Few people know the magnitude of the administration's attacks on the environment because the administration has been working very hard to keep it that way.

Like any successful commander in chief, Bush knows that putting the right person in the right place is the key to winning any war. This isn't just a matter of choosing business-friendly appointees for top positions. That's pretty much standard operating procedure for Republican administrations. What makes this administration different is the fact that it is filled with anti-regulatory zealots deep into its rank and file-and these bureaucrats, unlike James Watt, are politically savvy and come from the very industries they're charged with regulating. The result is an administration uniquely effective at implementing its ambitious pro-industry agenda-with a minimum of public notice.

Take the case of mountaintop-removal coal mining. As the name implies, this method-the predominant form of strip mining in much of Appalachia-involves blasting away entire mountaintops to get at coal seams below and dumping the resulting rubble, called "spoil," into adjacent valleys. In some cases, valleys two miles long have been completely filled with spoil. Opponents had hoped that a court-ordered Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) would crack down on the practice, which has buried at least 1,000 miles of Appalachian streams and destroyed tens of thousands of acres of woodland that the EPA describes as "unique in the world" for their biological diversity. But when the Bush administration released the EIS this spring, it not only gave mountaintop removal a clean bill of health; it also relaxed what few meaningful environmental protections existed and focused on how to help mining companies obtain permits more easily.

So how did a process mandated by a federal judge "to minimize, to the maximum extent practicable, the adverse environmental effects" from mountaintop removal become a vehicle for industry? Two words: Steven Griles. Never heard of him? You're not supposed to. Steven Griles is one of industry's moles within the Bush administration. Before coming to work as deputy secretary of the Interior, Griles was one of the most powerful lobbyists in Washington, with a long list of energy-industry clients, including the National Mining Association and several of the country's largest coal companies. On August 1, 2001, Griles signed a "statement of

disqualification," promising to stay clear of issues involving his former clients. Despite that promise, according to his own appointment calendar (obtained by environmental groups through the Freedom of Information Act), Griles met repeatedly with coal companies while the administration worked on the mountaintop-removal issue. Griles has denied discussing the "fill rule" in any of those meetings. But on August 4, 2001-three days after signing his recusal letter-he gave a speech before the West Virginia Coal Association, reassuring members that "we will fix the federal rules very soon on water and spoil placement." Two months later, Griles sent a letter to the EPA and other agencies drafting the EIS, complaining that they were not doing enough to safeguard the future of mountaintop removal and instructing them to "focus on centralizing and streamlining coal mine permitting." Griles is now the subject of an Interior Department investigation for possible ethics violations.

With key positions in the hands of industry veterans, the administration has been able to pursue one of its most effective stealth tactics -- steering clear of legislative battles and working instead within the difficult-to-understand, yawn-producing realm of agency regulations. It's a strategy that has served Bush well, especially in his push to give the energy industry-which donated \$2.8 million to the 2000 Bush campaign-access to some of the nation's last wildlands.

(The preceding text is excerpted with permission from a longer article that introduces Mother Jones magazine's September/October cover package on the Bush administration's stealth attack on environmental regulations. To read the rest of Osha Gray Davidson's "Dirty Secrets" and other articles in this special issue, pick up a copy of Mother Jones or visit the magazine's Website at www.motherjones.com.)

It's not about bears, It's about Trophy Hunting

- ▶ The number of bear complaints were reduced by 33 % from 1999-2001.
- ▶ A bear hunt will not prevent unwanted bear encounters.
- ▶ People are 200 times more likely to be killed by a hunter than by a black bear.
- ▶ We can easily bearproof our property by being responsible with our garbage and birdfeeders.
- ▶ The Division of Fish & Wildlife makes 100% of their salaries by selling hunting licenses.

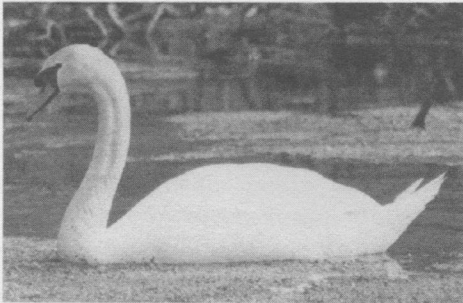
To help stop the hunt, please
contact the BEAR GROUP
PO Box 918, Hewitt, NJ 07421
(www.savenjbears.com)



District Court Issues Stay Of Execution For Maryland Mute Swans

In a decision handed down this morning, U.S. District Court Judge Emmet Sullivan granted a request by The Fund for Animals to preliminarily enjoin the State of Maryland from killing mute swans throughout the Chesapeake Bay. Earlier this month, The Fund for Animals, along with four citizen plaintiffs, filed suit against the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) and Secretary of the Interior Gale Norton charging that federal officials' decision to authorize the destruction of Maryland's mute swans violated the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and the National Environmental Policy Act. Federal officials have given approval for eastern states to kill up to 31,000 birds in the Atlantic Flyway over the next ten years.

"Today the court gave a voice to the mute swans and we are pleased with the decision," said Heidi Prescott, National Director of The Fund for Animals. "We hope that this will send a clear message to Governor Ehrlich to address the real problems affecting the Chesapeake Bay, such as run-off from the chickens raised in intensive confinement on the Eastern Shore."



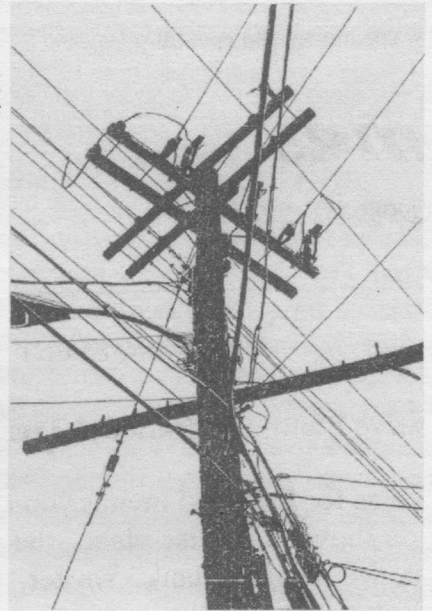
The Maryland mute swan population has been blamed for the long-term reduction in submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) in the Chesapeake Bay, a charge that The Fund disputes. As Judge Sullivan pointed out in granting the injunction, the State of Maryland's own experts have characterized "the 'bay wide' impact of mutes swans as 'negligible,'" and conceded that the relatively small population of mute swans in Maryland "consumes only 10% of the total annual Chesapeake Bay SAV biomass." Indeed, the waste run-off from chicken factory farms and the sewage treatment plants on the Chesapeake Bay kill dramatically more vegetation than the tiny population of swans. Moreover, Maryland's small population of mute swans has been declining without lethal control – from approximately 4,000 birds in 1999 to 3,600 in 2002.

-9/9/2003, *The Fund for Animals*

Wired! Telephone Poles Tell Story

by John R. Mulloy

Walking along the sidewalk, I peered to the sky to check out the day's canvas of clouds. Every day seems to have a different artist at work with a new interpretation of the heavens. But it was not the sky I saw on this day, it was hard black lines in all directions above my head - some thick, some thin, some in pairs, some alone. It



seemed as if the number was infinite. How was it that I hadn't noticed their numbers before? Am I so consumed by the end products of the wires, the lines themselves luring me into this stupor of humanity.

They appeared slowly over time, one by one or sometimes three at a time. But this is the day I finally see them for what they are. The above photo depicts the telephone pole in front of my house. This precarious pole is my soldier of energy, one of countless poles lined single file down the streets in all directions. They have become my supply line to my music and toast, lights and range, juicer, freezer, security, leisure, games and phone machines. Then there is the Prince of our homes, the Computer. And none more majestic or consuming than the King of all machines - the Television.

My Dad tells me stories about when he and his brother had to turn the family washing machine with hand cranks, or carry huge chunks of ice for the refrigerator and how they would wrap a hot iron with newspapers to shove under their covers for warmth in winter. In those days life was hard... but at least my father could look up and see a perfect sky.

Next time you plug in an appliance remember to be aware the price must be paid in more ways than money.

-reprinted from *Tadpole Times*
PO Box 873, Flemington, NJ 08822
(908) 782-1396

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)

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

Come and patrol the Unexpected!

