

# The BEAVER DEFENDERS

October 2004



**The Outdoor Club of South Jersey explores the  
Mullica River in search of beavers**

*They shall never be trapped anymore.*

# The BEAVER DEFENDERS



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Editor: Sarah Summerville

October 2004

## GOOD NEWS FROM UNEXPECTED

By Sarah Summerville

### Meanwhile, Back at the Lodge.....

In mid-July, some funny business was taking place in the Main Pond, and I am still perplexed by it. I was on my way to clear the dike trail, and found a small pile of beaver peeled sticks on the concrete boardwalk. I scooped up the handful of left-overs and tossed them into the water and then got to work.

The next day, the pile of sticks was back, but much larger, with a few high bush blueberry branches this time. The pile was blocking access to the boardwalk, so I cleaned up sticks, again tossing them into the stream. They dipped and rolled in the foamy brown water, disappearing around the bend into the lush vegetation.

On the third day, it was back; however, this time it was more than a messy pile of sticks - it was a lodge. Or rather, it was the beginning of a lodge. The sticks were laced together and there were more bright green blueberry bushes interwoven, giving the structure a festive air. I got down on my hands and knees and listened to the lodge. I rustled the bushes around, and after a moment, determined that no one was home. I pulled the side of the lodge apart and peered inside the opening. They were using the earthen dike as a chamber, after having dug out a very small room. They were entering the structure by swimming under the boardwalk section and climbing the small bank to access their "bowl" of a room.

I remembered the story Hope told of tearing out the dam beavers installed at the Piney Hollow Road crossing. The dam was backing the stream up and flooding Joe D'Alesandro's field. Each morning Hope would tear out the dam, and each night the beavers would rebuild it, with each reconstruction bigger and harder to remove. Ultimately, the flooding problem was easily resolved when Hope and some volunteers installed flow pipes through the dam.

When I inspected the boardwalk area the next day, I discovered that the lodge had doubled in size over night, removing all evidence of my previous breaking and entering. There were several large logs incorporated into the structure, which now completely blocked access to the boardwalk. On either side of the lodge two packed ramps came up from the water where the beavers arrived and departed from the construction site. These long muddy slides made it easier for the beavers to drag logs and branches along the concrete boardwalk and up the side of the house.

Well now this was something. To access the boardwalk, everyone would have to climb over the lodge, as well as navigate the slippery ramps; a precarious and somewhat dangerous proposition. On the other hand, the opportunity to observe the construction of a new beaver lodge from such a convenient and accessible location seemed too good to be true. Of course, there was the "stubborn factor". How many times would I have to tear the lodge down before the beavers decided to give up and move on, if they ever would. Hope's old pile of unused construction debris at Piney Hollow kept coming to mind.

I climbed over the mass of old and new vegetation pondering my dilemma. Beside me, I heard a gurgle from inside the lodge and then saw that old familiar movement of water; that gentle rolling motion that a beaver causes when swimming under water.

Fifteen feet upstream in the calm, glassy pond, a large beaver surfaced. Agitated, he swam parallel with the dike. He turned to face me, turned away, and with a mighty whack of his tail on the water, he dove and reentered the lodge. We had a tenant.

That night, I packed up my bag with a book, notebook, pen and apples. I bundled a stack of poplar branches under one arm, a cushion under the other, and





set off for the lodge. No one came to visit me except the mosquitoes.

A few nights and many insect bites later, a large beaver appeared. Uninterested in my apples and poplar, the beaver swam to the cove and returned with his own poplar. He dove and swam beneath me, resurfacing inside the lodge. He ate inside the dark room next to me as I watched the sun set on two Canada geese in the quiet pond; they were standing close like handsome bookends. I packed up my things and headed home in the darkness with muffled munching behind me.

I returned the next evening and sat beside the lodge. I do not know what possessed the beavers to construct a new lodge right there on one of the busiest trails in the Refuge. In the Spring, I had observed that they had successfully rehabilitated an old lodge 75 feet downstream from the dike, so why the new digs?

As I sat alone pondering the question, two adult beavers approached and took poplar and apples from me like we were old friends. The next evening, the couple had two kittens in their company. The kits were about nine inches long, and old enough to dive into the new lodge while gripping small poplar branches. The adults made low moaning noises, and the kits dove, entered the lodge and remained perfectly silent. The adults looked long and hard at me, then turned and swam upstream.

Since those amazing interactions, the beavers have again been avoiding contact, while I sit and wait. Although I have not seen them since August, they continue to raid the cove for gifts of poplar and apples long after I have abandoned my observation post for a comfortable bed.

### **Buena Vista Loves Beavers!**

Richard Calareso, the Township Public Works director called me to tell me that they had finally found time to install the flow devices at the Jackson Road crossing (*Beaversprite* Winter 2003). I was so excited, I hurried to the Jackson Road site and found two 8" PVC pipes installed through the culvert about 36" above the stream bed. The water was lower, and the flooding problem was solved humanely, with no loss of beaver-life.

### **Canoeing with the Beavers**

Leona and George Fluck are avid paddlers as well as members of the Outdoor Club of South Jersey. While

canoeing the Mullica River earlier in the year, they spotted evidence of beavers in the area. Curious about what they were seeing, they coordinated two canoe trips, inviting me along to talk about beavers and their habitats. We shoved off early one morning in mid-July to enjoy one of the most beautiful rivers in New Jersey. Within the hour we encountered our first lodge, abandoned and in disrepair. The next two lodges were caving in, also abandoned. I began to get a bad feeling when we encountered dam after dam, neglected and under water. By the time we stopped for lunch, I was convinced that the beavers had all been trapped out. There was plenty of food, and not a peeled stick to be found. George and Leona mentioned that they had encountered trappers on the river during a previous trip.

It was very sad, and most of the paddlers were outraged that this was *allowed* to happen. I explained that with a permit from NJDEP, it is perfectly legal to trap and kill just about anything. I provided everyone with information about **Bill A-2852 that would expand the State's Fish and Game Council from 11 to 13 members and would require the governor to appoint five animal rights activists to the agency responsible for regulating and managing hunting, trapping and fishing in New Jersey.**

The second trip was scheduled for mid-August. We assembled around our boats, and I prepared everyone for the worst, empty lodges and broken dams. As we paddled past the first three lodges, I explained how beavers build their lodges and raise their families, what they like to eat and why they build dams. As we approached the fourth lodge my heart soared; I found a peeled stick! There was a large lodge with fresh mud and branches. We all inspected the lodge and left the area cheered. We then found another smaller lodge being rehabilitated, and one of lower dams repaired well enough that we had to get out of the canoe to cross it.

We stopped for lunch, happy for the beavers. But it is a bittersweet happiness, because the trappers will be back in just a few months and the lodges will be silent again.



Dear Assemblyman Chiappone:

We are very appreciative to you for sponsoring bills A2704 and A2852. Thank you for standing up for our black bears and to end the bias in the Fish & Game Council.

We are active canoeists and enjoy the outdoors. We have led canoe trips for the Outdoor Club of South Jersey and other clubs on the Mullica River for many years. This past Saturday 20 of us were joined by Sarah Summerville, Director of the Unexpected Wildlife Refuge, to learn about Pinelands beavers.

As we canoed past the many beaver lodges, Sarah explained that the lodges were no longer in use. We were saddened to find out the beavers were all gone in the 14 miles of the Mullica. These special gentle creatures were all trapped out by hunters this winter. The dozens of beaver lodges stand silent and collapsing. The beaver dams that contributed to wonderful watering areas for other creatures are in decline too.

Today I called the Wharton State Forest Office and the ranger said it's a multiple use park and seemed annoyed with my call of concern and complaint that the beavers were all gone due to trapping. The ranger said there was a lot of hunting activity this winter. I think it's a disgrace that our Park system defends hunting which has decimated creatures that add to the enjoyment and quality of life for the majority of New Jersey residents.

It is not acceptable to obliterate wildlife by a small percentage of the NJ population. The Fish & Game Council needs to represent a balance, not just hunters. Thank you again for sponsoring these bills.

Leona & George Fluck

#### LETTERS



Dear Leona and George,

I want to thank you for your kind letter. I am saddened to hear about the beavers. There has to come a time when we have to learn to live with animals and not choose to hunt and kill them when we've determined that their numbers have become "excessive". Is it possible that we've become excessive instead?

You mentioned canoeing. This is certainly something I would like to try one day. Sounds like a very exhilarating and harmonious with nature activity.

As for the makeup of the Fish and Game Council, it seems ludicrous that a consistency of a board could be so lopsided and biased in espousing a philosophy- in this case hunting. I'm glad to say, while I have been bombarded with faxes and letters from hunters, that the most meaningful letters, emails, and calls have been from compassionate people like yourselves.

Sincerely yours, Assemblyman Anthony Chiappone

Dear Fellow Beaver Defenders,

I want to thank you, **yes you**, for renewing your membership to the Beaver Defenders. I hope you enjoy reading the newsletter, but I guess since you chose to remain a Beaver Defender, you must.

When I edit the newsletter, I try to keep the news positive and up-beat, which sometimes can be a struggle. There are good things happening out there that deserve recognition, and it is a pleasure to pass it on to you.

Those disturbing articles, however, should not be ignored. If you feel passionately about something, seize the moment and write that letter. Get involved. Let the offender know that you are not going to just stand by and let them get away with murder. It only takes a little time out of your day, and you will feel so much better for it. And remember, *you are not alone*, we're writing too! Every letter counts, every voice is heard.

Thanks again for all your support!  
Sarah Summerville, Editor and Beaver Defender





## Selectmen Approve Great Brook Beaver Dam

**Solution** From the Bolton Common, MA, By Corinne Green

Monday, August 16, 2004

Last week, the Board of Selectmen approved a request by the Conservation Commission to install beaver flow pipes on town land in Great Brook to control water levels impacted by beaver dams. A public hearing was held as required by the Water Resource Protection District (WRPD); no one opposed the installation of the pipes to be located in an area south of Main Street. The selectmen, rather than Conservation Commission, conducted the hearing and granted the special permit since the commission was the applicant and could not grant its own permit. Work will be done by Beaver Solutions of Hadley following a 20-day appeal period.

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### Beaver Solutions -your resource for resolving beaver-related conflicts

**Who We Are** - Beaver Solutions specializes in resolving human/beaver conflicts. Our highly successful flow devices usually offer the most cost-effective and long-lasting solution to beaver-related flooding problems.

**Experience** - Since 1998 we have solved hundreds of beaver problems throughout Massachusetts, as well as central New England and New York. Beaver Solutions is the unsurpassed leader in the nation for the number and variety of long term successful beaver interventions. We are proud of the reputation we have earned working for major railroads, highway departments, public utilities, state and federal agencies, private businesses, conservation groups, and private landowners.

**What We Do** - Combining an understanding of beaver behavior and abilities with the latest advances in design, enables Beaver Solutions to create effective, low maintenance flow devices that prevent damaging flooding. Flow devices are either protective fences designed to keep culverts open, or pipe systems installed through beaver dams to limit the size of the ponds. Our experience in this field can help communities with permitting issues, and explain the variety of options available to resolve beaver problems. Our consultative services include the development of comprehensive beaver management plans for towns.

**How to Reach Us** - Beaver Solutions, 98 Bay Road, Hadley, MA 01035, 413-

585-9145 or [www.beaversolutions.com](http://www.beaversolutions.com)



## Raccoons in the Attic, By Anne Dinshah

We had a mom and babies in the attic. They seemed to be nested in the vaulted ceiling area above my bedroom. I installed a 24-hour light in the attic, and I put tubing around the cord so it would be less likely to get chewed. I plugged the cord in the room and snaked the light into the attic and hung it from a rafter.

It was a week before July 4th weekend when I installed the light. I soon found myself monitoring Mama's return each morning between 3 and 5 AM. It was like having roommates roll into the top bunk after partying all night.

The night of the fireworks, at 4 am I heard lots of squealing and bumping in the ceiling. I lay awake listening and realized it **MUST** be moving night! Mama guided the babies down the second-floor bedroom ceiling, behind the bathroom, down the pipes like a firepole to the top of the basement stairs, and down the stairs.

Mama carried babies one or two at a time (her mouth on the back of baby necks). She traveled up the wooden plank ramp I had purposely left leading up to the window, out the window, across the yard and under my truck. I peered out the window of the front door and could see her leave with babies and return empty mouthed. She was gone for what seemed like ten minutes per trip. I couldn't see where she went past the truck, and she made about four trips.

When she headed out on one trip I peeked into the basement from far up the stairs to see how many little squeakers remained. I snapped a photo of two darlings and left them undisturbed. Mama returned for them and disappeared into the night. It was after 5 AM.

I was unsure if she would return, so I sprinkled flour on the basement steps so I would know if she returned while I was at work. When I returned home, the flour remained untouched. I put the new sturdy ventilation window in place, with wire on the outside and screen on the inside.

I don't know if it was the light, the fireworks or the babies were finally big enough. I haven't seen a raccoon since.

*(Note: Anne is the little girl feeding the beaver on the April issue of Beaver Defenders. She is now the Asst. Rowing Coach at Mercyhurst College.)*

## Beavers: America's National Mammal by William Ingram

Beavers are the most important mammals on this planet. We have a world-wide shortage of wetlands, and beavers will create them for free, no cost to the taxpayer, at least in North America, Europe and northern Asia.

Beavers cut down only enough trees for a dam, and a lodge and a winter food cache. The colony consists of a father and mother, the current year's young and the previous year's offspring. The adults are monogamous and are partners for life. They are good family people.

Their dams help control flooding. The wetlands created by the dams provide habitat for ducks and fish, and drinking water for all animals. Some of their ponds are big enough to stop forest fires. The backed-up water recharges the ground water level, including our rural wells.

If there is conflict between humans and beavers, it is because we built on the flood plain, too close to beaver habitats. If you're already there, you can keep beavers away from your trees with wire fences around each tree or around an area of trees.

Beavers deserve to be our national mammal and to be fully protected from lethal trapping. So how do we get this idea across to the general public? And in this election year, to the voters?

Here's how to reach the average American and get our points across:

For several years now, the appearances of our monies have been changing. The states have been getting their own quarters. This will continue until every state has been included. One group wants Ronald Reagan on half the \$10 bills and/or dimes. The reverse of some nickels honor the Lewis

and Clark expedition (1804-1806). Beavers were nearly exterminated during the 1800's. As a result, lethal traps are illegal in many areas, and should be made illegal everywhere. Canada has a beaver nickel, and I suggest that the United States produce a nickel with a beaver facing in the opposite direction, so the two beavers will be kissing.

Copy this article and mail it to friends, relatives and politicians.



### THE KISSING BEAVERS

Subscribe to all the beaver magazines and encourage others to do the same.

*Beaversprite*, at 146 Van Dyke Road, Dolgeville, NY 13329;

*Beaver Defenders* at PO Box 765, Newfield, NJ 08344; and

*Wildlife 2000* at 4905 West Lakeridge, Denver, CO 80219.

Write polite letters to newspaper and magazine editors and elected representatives. We must continue with this movement until we get results. We will eventually see the day when beavers are America's National Mammal, fully protected against lethal trapping.

*(You can reach your Representative c/o the House of Representatives, Washington, DC 20515, and your Senator c/o the US Senate, Washington, DC 20515.)*



## Small Wonders - The Hummingbirds by Claire Gerber

Showers bring flowers and flowers bring hummers. Yes, the rubythroats are breeding among us and by the time you read this, they will have become polite birds.

This ornithological phenomenon has a mere five-inch wingspan but, oh what those wings can do for its four-inch long body. What other bird can fly backwards and upside down?

As for their breeding, you may have watched this seasonal extra activity. Since the males arrive from migration before the females they practice showing off for courtship. Then, when the she's meet the he's, the couples fly back and forth in a perfect arc. Wingbeats at this time are up to 200 per second, as opposed to the usual 90 (Somebody counted.)

Nectar gathering is doubly important. The long bill is just right for sipping from flowers while the mini-bird is getting dusted with pollen. Like a bug with a beak, he flits from flower to flower (preferably red) and sometimes from insect to insect.

Weighing about as much as a postage stamp, he may hum because he doesn't know the words, but no words could express his magic qualities (or hers).

The simplest truths often meet the sternest resistance.

-Frederick Douglass



## I'll Be Dammed!

By Doug Stewart from TIME March 2004

Put yourself in William Patrick's soggy shoes for a moment. When he bought a 1677 farmhouse in Ipswich, MA, two years ago, the neighborhood's thriving beaver colony seemed part of its charm. Since then the beavers have been busy damming everything that flows. Now two of Patrick's four acres - farmland for three centuries - are underwater, and towering pines next to the house have begun crashing to earth. "The beavers are turning our whole yard into a swamp," says Patrick, 52.

Once driven nearly to extinction by rampant fur trapping and forest clearing, beavers are colonizing large swaths of North America where people don't remember seeing them. From Maine to Alaska, California to the Carolinas, the beaver's numbers are growing. So too are complaints from property owners, many of them ardent environmentalists.

The *Castor canadensis* spends 80% of its life in water, where it's as agile as a 50-pound minnow. Dam building is its way of making the world a safer and more convenient place. Only humans alter their environment more drastically. But humans aren't aquatic. In fact, flooding tops the list of human grievances against the beaver. By raising water levels, the beaver's unkempt but admirably watertight dams can flood basements and swamp sewer systems. Complaint No. 2 is the beaver's devotion to felling trees, which provide it with food and building material. An adult can gnaw through a tree six inches in diameter in 15 minutes.



Keeping beavers at bay isn't as simple as it was 40 or 50 years ago, when trapping was a popular hobby and wetlands were disdained as swamps. Most state wildlife agencies have declared themselves out of the beaver-control business. If you're a property owner vexed by beavers you'll probably have to pay for the remedy yourself - provided you get the proper permits. Most communities frown on tearing up dams, dynamiting lodges or stocking beaver ponds with hungry alligators (a ploy tried in Mississippi without success in the late 1970's).

A civilized approach is to install clandestine pipes - known as Beaver Deceivers - to lower a pond's level without disturbing the dam. Another is coating tree trunks with a paint-and-sand mixture to deter gnawing. These measures can cost between \$50 and \$1000, or more.

The most enlightened perspective - if you're a beaver - is to acknowledge that beavers occupied North America's floodplains long before people started building near creeks and streams. According to John Hadidian, director of urban wildlife for The Humane Society of the U.S. in Gaithersburg, MD, many colonial farms were sited on the fertile bottomlands of beaver wetlands. "From the viewpoint of the beaver," says Bruce Baker of the U.S. Geological Society in Fort Collins, CO, "there are no problem beavers; just problem people."

## WE'LL WONDER

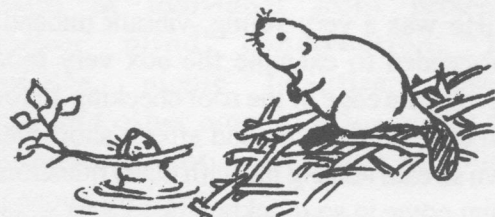
By Hope Sawyer Buyukmihci

There are little elf-like creatures  
Who love and laugh and play,  
And move in shimmering fold of fur  
In a happy elf-like way.

Cruel traps are set to catch them,  
Where they swim, and dive and slide,  
Their elfin ways not measured-  
Just the value of their hide.

These little elf-like creatures,  
Who bring health to our streams,  
Are doomed unless we help them,  
With actions, and not dreams.

When once the streams are empty  
Of these vital, joyous elves,  
We'll wonder why we wiped them out,  
And so deprived ourselves.



### In Memory of Lisa Bakley, The Squirrel Lady

This issue of Beaver Defenders is dedicated to the memory of Lieselotte (Lisa) Bakley, who passed away on July 17, 2004 at the age of 68 years. Dearly beloved wife of Dick Bakley and loving



mother of the late Richie. Lisa was a true friend of animals, who always made herself available for an animal that needed help. For years she has been known as "the squirrel lady of Blackwood".

### **Highlights from the 2004 Bear Swamp Journal by Augie Sexauer**

If we but take the time the flow of life in Bear Swamp can delight us in many ways. The first couple of weeks in April were spent clearing trails and checking conditions of nest boxes before the highly anticipated arrival of the Prothonotary Warblers. This is the time of year when I get overly anxious for the first sight of this beautiful migrant that travels from so far.

On April 10<sup>th</sup>, Don Jones, Al Driscoll and I encountered a flock of Rusty Blackbirds at the bridge where we meet. On April 17<sup>th</sup>, Emily Kingsbury and Susan Slim heard the first Prothonotary of the season. On the same day, while checking more boxes, we found that Box #4's pole had rusted and the box was laying in the mud quite water-logged, but intact. It was cleaned and laid out on the bank to dry out.

On April 21<sup>st</sup>, after placing Box #4 on a new pole, I climbed up on the bank and looked back. Immediately there was a beautiful male Golden Swamp Warbler perched on the roof of the box less than 10 feet away. I sometimes use the name Golden Swamp Warbler as it is the only way to describe the brilliant color of the male. This bird may have been watching me as I erected the box. As he was not singing, I did not know he was in the area, which made his sudden appearance on the box all the more striking.

He was a very young, vibrant unbanded male who proceeded to examine the box very thoroughly, leaning over the edge of the roof checking all four sides. He then entered the box, and after a short while, flew off down stream leaving me with many questions. What made him come in so quickly when I was so close?

Was he a bird fledged from one of our boxes last year? I like to think so! Note this box did not show any signs of a nest this year. Such is the flow of life.

As the season progressed, and we monitored the boxes each week, we delighted in many memorable sightings as the stream and life within the wooded swamp flowed steadily on, always changing. On a club trip, we caught sight of black and white warbler carrying deer hair which led to the discovery of his nest on the ground beside the trail. Another time we enjoyed a close look at a yellow-billed cuckoo preening in the early morning sunlight. Also a hooded warbler's nest with four young was found. There were many more sightings too numerous to mention.

July 7<sup>th</sup> was our last check of the 12 nest boxes. Final results: 10 nest starts, 2 were second broods; 43 eggs laid, 30 young fledged. This was much better than the past three years.



We were fortunate the nesting season was over when the thousand year storm hit this area on July 12<sup>th</sup>. There was very little damage along Little Creek and Miry Run thanks to the vast 3000 acre heavily wooded forest that comprises Bear Swamp. This area was able to absorb the sudden impact of 13 inches of rain in one day. Bear Swamp

is a great living example of why we need to protect the natural environment. The water did flow very high on both streams, but only one box was lost on Little Creek, and one box on Miry Run was lifted off it's pole and was recovered downstream. I estimated the water to be 5 feet higher than normal.

I want to thank Susan Slim and Emily Kingsbury for their help and support this year. It is not easy to walk long distances in hip boots and wade into deep mud checking the contents of the boxes each week. I especially enjoyed their companionship as we walked along making new discoveries and discussing our love for the environment.. It is fun and the rewards are great.

**EVERY EIGHT MONTHS, NEARLY 11 MILLION GALLONS OF OIL RUN OFF PAVEMENT IN THE US AND INTO THE OCEANS. THAT'S MORE OIL THAN WAS SPILLED BY THE EXXON VALDEZ.**

**(US NEWS & WORLD REPORT)**



## Major Temperature Rise Recorded in Arctic

From ABC News, August 28, 2004

German scientists probing global warming say they have detected a major temperature rise in the Arctic Ocean this year and linked it to a progressive shrinking of the region's sea ice.

Temperatures recorded this year in the upper 500 metres of sea in the Fram Strait - the gap between Greenland and the Norwegian island of Spitsbergen - were up to 0.6 C higher than in 2003, they said. The rise was detectable to a water depth of 2,000 metres, "representing an exceptionally strong signal by ocean standards," it said.

The experts, from the Alfred Wegener Institute for Polar and Marine Research in Bremerhaven, have been recording temperatures aboard a specialised vessel, Polarstern (Pole Star), for the past six weeks. The sampling has been taking place in the West Spitsbergen Current, which carries warm water from the Atlantic into the Arctic Ocean.

The institute said water in the Fram Strait has been warming steadily since 1990 and over the past three years, satellite images had documented "a clear recession" of sea ice edges, both in the strait and the Barents Sea. The latest data "point towards a further warming tendency," the institute said.

In June, a UN organisation announced that American scientists had detected an "alarmingly rapid growth" this year in airborne concentrations of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), the fossil-fuel pollutant blamed for global warming. CO<sub>2</sub> levels recorded in March 2004 at Hawaii measured 379 parts per million (ppm), an increase of three ppm over the previous year. By comparison, there had been an annual increase of only 1.8 ppm over the past decade. Atmospheric concentrations of CO<sub>2</sub> before the Industrial Revolution were 280 ppm.

The June announcement was made at a conference on renewable energies in Bonn by Joke Waller-Hunter, executive secretary of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) - the United Nations' paramount environment accord. CO<sub>2</sub> is the most important of the six "greenhouse" gases blamed for driving changes to the world's delicate climate system.

These gases hang like an invisible shroud in the atmosphere, trapping the sun's heat and inflicting what many scientists predict will be serious changes to

icecaps, glaciers and weather patterns.

In the earth's distant past, climate change has occurred naturally, by emissions of CO<sub>2</sub> disgorged by volcanoes and other phenomena.

But the overwhelming majority of climate experts say CO<sub>2</sub> levels are rising fast today because of the unbridled burning of oil, gas and coal. Opinions differ, though, as to how fast the effects will occur and how bad they will be.

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"All the waste in a year from a nuclear power plant can fit under a desk"

- Ronald Reagan, 1980

*(the average nuclear plant yields 30 tons of waste per year.)*

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### Nonstop Flights, J.M. McCord

Scientists recently discovered that bar-tailed godwits, fly nonstop for six days during their yearly migrations. The godwits, which are slightly larger than pigeons, breed in the summer in western Alaska, where they put on more than half their weight as fat by gorging themselves on little clams and worms. "They look like flying boxes," says Robert Gill, a wildlife biologist with the US Geological Survey, who helped piece together proof of the long-distance prowess by using historical records of sightings flight simulations, and body weight/energy calculations. One to three days prior to their record breaking migration, the godwits absorb part of their digestive system to save on weight. In early autumn the birds hitch onto the tails of typhoons and fly for almost 8,000 miles to eastern Australia and New Zealand. On their own power, the godwits can reach 45 mph, but with the help of storm winds, they can accelerate to almost 100 mph. When the birds reach their final destination they practically fall down from exhaustion, says Gill. (From *Audubon*, October 2004)

Donations are being accepted to support Boy Scout Eagle Projects benefitting Unexpected Wildlife Refuge. Anyone wishing to fund activities that will result in individual scout projects like observation blind construction, habitat maintenance, picnic facilities, observation platforms and other amenities for public use and wildlife enhancement, please note in your check memo "scout projects".

The numbers of sufferers of brain diseases, including Alzheimer's, Parkinson's and motor neurone disease, have soared across the West in less than 20 years, scientists have discovered.

The alarming rise, which includes figures showing rates of dementia have trebled in men, has been linked to rises in levels of pesticides, industrial effluents, domestic waste, car exhausts and other pollutants, says a report in the journal *Public Health*.

In the late 1970s, there were around 3,000 deaths a year from these conditions in England and Wales. By the late 1990s, there were 10,000.

"This has really scared me," said Professor Colin Pritchard of Bournemouth University, one of the report's authors. "These are nasty diseases: people are getting more of them and they are starting earlier. We have to look at the environment and ask ourselves what we are doing."

The report, which Pritchard wrote with colleagues at Southampton University, covered the incidence of brain diseases in the UK, US, Japan, Australia, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Netherlands and Spain in 1979-1997. The researchers then compared death rates for the first three years of the study period with the last three, and discovered that dementias - mainly Alzheimer's, but including other forms of senility - more than trebled for men and rose nearly 90 percent among women in England and Wales. All the other countries were also affected.

For other ailments, such as Parkinson's and motor neurone disease, the group found there had been a rise of about 50 per cent in cases for both men and women in every country except Japan. The increases in neurological deaths mirror rises in cancer rates in the West.

The team stresses that its figures take account of the fact that people are living longer and it has also made allowances for the fact that diagnoses of such ailments have improved. It is comparing death rates, not numbers of cases, it says.

As to the cause of this disturbing rise, Pritchard said genetic causes could be ruled out because any changes to DNA would take hundreds of years to take effect. "It must be the environment," he said.

The causes were most likely to be chemicals, from car pollution to pesticides on crops and industrial chemicals used in almost every aspect of modern life, from processed food to packaging, from electrical goods to sofa covers.

By Juliette Jowit, Environment Editor, The Guardian (UK)

Food is also a major concern because it provides the most obvious explanation for the exclusion of Japan from many of these trends. Only when Japanese people move to the other countries do their disease rates increase.

"There's no one single cause...and most of the time we have no studies on all the multiple interactions of the combinations on the environment. I can only say there have been these major changes [in deaths]: it is suggested it's multiple pollution."

Pritchard's paper has been published amid growing fears about the chemical build-up in the environment. A number of studies have pointed to serious problems. TBT is being banned from marine paints after it was blamed for masculinising female molluscs, causing a dramatic decline in numbers. A US report linked neurological disorders to pesticides. And testing by WWF (formerly the World Wildlife Fund) found non-natural substances such as flame retardants in every person who took part.

WWF has named chemical pollution as one of the two great environmental threats to the world, alongside global warming, and is particularly worried about "persistent and accumulative" industrial chemicals and endocrine - hormone distorting - substances linked to changes in gender and behaviour among animals and even children.

"We've started seeing changes in fertility rates, the immune system, neurological changes [and] impacts on behaviour," said Matthew Wilkinson, the charity's toxics programme leader.

Pesticides and pharmaceutical chemicals must now undergo rigorous testing before they can be used. But there are an estimated 80,000 industrial chemicals and the "vast majority" do not need safety regulation or testing, said Wilkinson.

However, the chemical industry strongly rejects what it claims are often unproven fears. Just because chemicals are present does not mean they are at dangerous levels.

But critics are not reassured. "It is true that just because we find a chemical does not mean it is dangerous," said Wilkinson. "But it is equally true that for the vast majority of chemicals we have so little safety data that the regulatory authorities have no idea what a safe level is."

The Royal Society of Chemistry also said quantities of pesticides were declining. "Improvements in analytical chemistry mean that lower and lower levels of pesticides can be detected," said Brian Emsley, the society's spokesman. "[But] because you can detect something doesn't necessarily mean it is dangerous."



## Animal Rights Activist Released

Saturday, September 18, 2004

By Paul Shukovsky

SEATTLE POST-INTELLIGENCER

Gina Lynn, an animal rights activist imprisoned for three weeks on contempt charges for refusing to talk to a federal grand jury, was released yesterday by a federal judge.

Lynn, a vegan who has refused to eat solid food during her incarceration at the Federal Detention Center at SeaTac, has vowed never to cooperate with grand juries that she considers "corrupt and unconstitutional" tools of political repression. The grand jury is investigating a firebombing of a Thurston County timber company and the release of hundreds of chickens from a Skagit County farm.

U.S. District Judge Thomas Zilly, citing the legal requirement that incarceration for civil contempt be used only to coerce cooperation with grand juries and not for punishment, ordered Lynn "released forthwith" late yesterday afternoon. Zilly opened the proceedings, which initially had been secret, after hearing arguments from an attorney for the Seattle Post-Intelligencer.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Andrew Friedman could not convince Zilly that three weeks was insufficient time behind bars to coerce Lynn into talking. Instead, Zilly agreed with Lynn's attorney, Peter Camiel, who asserted: "She is steadfast in her beliefs. She is not going to cooperate with a grand jury." He noted that she was called before a grand jury in 1999 and refused to testify in that instance.

Zilly was apparently swayed, too, by the approximately 40 letters he received from Lynn's fellow activists, 10 of whom were in the gallery yesterday. The judge quoted from one letter that said Lynn "has stated publicly and privately that she will never cooperate with a grand jury. She believes the grand jury system is unjust."

Camiel glanced toward a noticeably slimmer Lynn and said: "Since the day she entered the federal detention center, she has not eaten any solid food. She has done that, in part, to show her resolve. This is a very strong-willed individual who is committed to her position."

The question that remains before the grand jury is whether Lynn's commitment to ending what she considers the exploitation of animals includes violence and other illegal acts. Lynn was identified in court yesterday as a target of the

same grand jury she refused to testify before, which is investigating arson, vandalism and the wholesale release of farm animals.

At about 2:30 a.m. on May 7, 2000, a fire devastated the headquarters of Holbrook Inc., a timber company near Olympia. Three weeks later, the Earth Liberation Front took credit for the firebombing on behalf of a previously unknown group called "Revenge of the Trees." The same night, the Dai-Zen Egg Farm in Burlington was broken into, and someone stole 228 chickens. The Animal Liberation Front issued a communiqué saying the chickens had been placed in "loving homes."



At 8:30 a.m. that day, a Penske rental truck with the same license as one rented by animal rights activist Allison Watson, a longtime friend of Lynn's, pulled into an AM/PM Mini Market south of Olympia, according to court records. Store employees told FBI agents from the domestic terrorism squad that "the occupants of the truck dumped a number of plastic bags containing clothes in a Dumpster behind the store."

The FBI examined footage from the store's surveillance camera and identified two people in the truck, Lynn and Joshua Trentor.

After Zilly ordered Lynn released, her activist friends were jubilant. Among them was Josh Harper, a member of the "SHAC 7" facing federal charges of conspiring to use illegal and coercive tactics to shut down a company that tests products on animals. SHAC, which stands for Stop Huntingdon Animal Cruelty, seeks to shut down Huntingdon Life Sciences, a New Jersey product-testing company they say commits "horrendous animal cruelty." In pursuit of that goal, activists have torched Huntingdon employees' cars, vandalized shareholders' homes and made threats against their families, according to an indictment.

Harper, who has been called to testify before grand juries on several occasions, yesterday slammed the juries as an assault on civil liberties.

"A person appearing before a grand jury has no right to hear testimony already given about them. Prosecutors have weeks before someone makes an appearance to prejudice the grand jury against them. And you don't have any right to legal representation in a grand jury room."

## Support Angi Metler's Legal Battle, from Steve Ember

A member of the NJ Animal Rights Alliance and The Bear Group spent part of the afternoon locked in a bear trap to bring attention to the plight of bears who are baited by Fish and Wildlife into barrel traps and subsequently killed. Their crime? Foraging for food and garbage left by irresponsible homeowners.

The trap set by Fish and Wildlife involved a Highland Lakes resident who refuses to bear proof his property and doesn't want to take any preventative action. As a result, a mother bear foraged right into his screened porch, attracted by food and garbage left inside.

While in the trap, the activist tried appealing to the homeowner to work with The Bear Group to resolve this without killing a mother bear, who is caring for cubs. The man refused all help, suggestions and continued to demand the death of the bear once she is trapped.

### Please Make Two Phone Calls Today:

1) Call Gary Sondermeyer, Chief of Staff in Bradley Campbell's office (direct: 609-633-1123) OR call the main number (609-292-2885) and ask to be transferred to Gary Sondermeyer. URGE him to spare the life of a bear they are trying to trap in Highland Lakes. The homeowners are 100% irresponsible and have refused to take preventative measures. Tell Sondermeyer that trapping and killing bears is not the answer. Killing a mother who has cubs will only exacerbate the situation. A scan of this particular neighborhood revealed all kinds of food sources left around that would attract bears.

2) Call Governor McGreevey (609-292-6000): Tell him to spare the life of this mother bear and force the homeowner to comply with the law. They should bear-proof their surroundings or be charged with the feeding ban law.

There is no mystery to living harmoniously with bears. People who choose to live in the heart of bear country can make a few simple adjustments in their lives that enable us to co-exist, respect and cherish NJ's majestic black bear.

### Help Angi in Her Defense

Angi Metler, our courageous activist colleague and friend, is still facing charges. Please contribute to her legal defense fund by sending a tax-deductible donation as follows: NJARA, New Jersey Animal Rights Alliance, PO Box 174, Englishtown, NJ 07726

Special Note: write "Angi Metler Legal Defense Fund" on the memo line of the check For all the checks that arrive based upon this email message, I will match them up to \$500. Please attach a separate note mentioning this matching challenge. Thanks!!!

BTW, one of the interesting points about what Angi did is that, instead of protesting AGAINST a bad law, she protested FOR a good law. How times have changed!!!

## Reminders:

**Hunting season began** in September and we are patrolling **Unexpected Wildlife Refuge** again. Please take some time to join us this fall when we walk the perimeter. Pack a lunch and bring your binoculars! Enjoy the lovely fall colors while doing your part to protect Unexpected wildlife. Call 856-697-3541 and make that appointment!

\*\*\*\*\*

If you haven't already done so, please contact your representatives in support of two extremely important bills that have been introduced into the NJ Legislature.

**Bill, A-2852**, will expand the state's Fish and Game Council from 11 to 13 members - and would require, for the first time, the governor to appoint five animal rights activists to the agency responsible for regulating and managing fishing and hunting in New Jersey.

**Bill A-2704**, prohibits black bear hunting, creates black bear study commission, authorizes issuance and sale of NJ Black Bear Stamp, establishes NJ Black Bear Stamp Account.

It is 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.

**Assemblyman Anthony Chiappone**, the prime sponsor of both bills, deserves our sincere appreciation. Please thank him on behalf of our wildlife: [AsmChiappone@njleg.org](mailto:AsmChiappone@njleg.org) or call him at: (201) 437-2442. Don't forget to send him a note and let him know that the majority of people in this state side with him.

\*\*\*\*\*

This school year, the **Student Animal Rights Alliance** will be organizing "Liberation Now!" national student animal rights conference in Berkeley, CA and "Demand Liberation" regional student animal rights action conferences in Austin, TX, Boston, MA, Gainesville, FL, Minneapolis, MN, and Philadelphia, PA.

For more information, contact S.A.R.A at PO Box 932, New York, NY 10013-0864 or visit them at [www.defendanimals.org](http://www.defendanimals.org).



## House GOP Blocks Effort to Obtain Cheney Energy Task Force Data

Environmental and government watchdog groups reacted angrily Thursday to a House committee vote rejecting a resolution that would have directed the Bush administration to release documents and information surrounding Vice President Dick Cheney's secret Energy Task Force meetings.

"The American people have a right to know what went on behind closed doors," Anna Aurilio, legislative director for U.S. PIRG, told BushGreenwatch. "We are extremely disappointed that the House committee voted to keep the public in the dark about the Bush administration's secret meetings with big corporations."

The Republican-controlled House Energy and Commerce Committee voted Wednesday against a "resolution of inquiry" that called upon the White House to release the names and affiliations of anyone who met with Vice President Cheney's National Energy Policy Development Group, which developed President Bush's energy plan. The task force plan provided the basis for the administration's energy bill, which is currently stalled in the Senate.

Environmental and government watchdog groups have been fighting to obtain information about individuals and corporations that may have influenced the administration's energy policy since the draft plan was released in May 2001. The groups believe the oil, gas, nuclear and coal industries exerted undue influence over the development of the White House

plan. The U.S. Supreme Court ruled in June that Cheney does not have to release any information until a lower court reviews the case.

But Rep. John Dingell (D-Mich), ranking member of the House Energy and Commerce Committee, along with Reps. Henry Waxman (D-Calif.) and Ed Markey (D-Mass.), introduced a resolution calling upon the administration to release the information. The resolution failed by a 30-22 party-line vote after committee Chairman Rep. Joe Barton (R-Texas) blocked Democrats from holding debate on the issue.

"I don't think this is the last word," said Rick Blum, coordinator of [openthegovernment.org](http://openthegovernment.org), a coalition of groups supporting open government. "The court case is still going forward. I think that finding out who took part in the meetings will happen eventually."

Others said that Americans shouldn't have to fight for what should be public information to begin with. "It shouldn't take an act of Congress to force the White House to share information with the public about the public's business," Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) Senior Attorney Sharon Buccino told BushGreenwatch. "The White House's dirty secrets about Vice President Cheney's Energy Task Force are not sensitive security information, but rather information critical to the national debate on energy policy. Citizens have a right to know about how decisions were made on policies that affect our quality of life and America's energy security."

*(from BushGreenwatch.org 9/24/04)*

## UNEXPECTED PUZZLES!

Anita Beckwith, from Florawood Designs in Egg Harbor, NJ presented the Refuge with an offer we could not refuse. Anita mounts photographs onto recycled wood and then hand-cuts them into unique interlocking puzzles. Anita took our beaver and bluebird photographs and created some absolutely beautiful puzzles. These are shipped unassembled in a cotton drawstring bags.

You choose the puzzle picture and size that you want, and Florawoods will hand cut the puzzle for you and donate a percentage of the cost of the puzzle to the Unexpected Wildlife Refuge. These are lovely pieces and would make fine gifts; the kind that keep on giving!

You can admire these lovely puzzles at [www.florawoods.com](http://www.florawoods.com), or order a brochure by contacting Florawoods PO Box 93, Egg Harbor, NJ 08215



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

**"Is Your Car Vegan?" by Mickey Z. (<http://mickeyz.net>)**

With that irrational question, Los Angeles Times Staff Writer Sharon Bernstein begins an August 23, 2004 press release...I mean, article called "Automakers Getting a Taste for Vegan Values." Bernstein is referring to the Toyota Prius...a car she claims not only "impeccable green credentials," but is vegan to boot.

What is a vegan car? According to Toyota, the L.A. Times, and other uninformed, trendy souls, the Prius qualifies because its seats aren't leather. That's it. Simple, huh?

Not wanting to miss out on the corporate greenwashing, Ford Motor Company recently ran what Bernstein calls "an eight-page advertisement in the New Yorker magazine touting the company's green credentials. The ad led off with the boast that 11 members of the design team for the company's soon-to-be-released hybrid Escape SUV are vegetarians, and its leader is a vegan."

Even Mercedes Benz, Bernstein informs us, will offer a "non-leather package starting with the 2005 model year, in response to customer requests."

This is what democracy, uh...drives like?

"As a marketer you want to identify with the passionate group," said Bob Kurilko, vice president of marketing for the automobile website Edmunds.com. "The middle of the bull's-eye is where you want to focus your marketing, and then you want to expand your message around that. If you draw these concentric circles, the middle of the bull's-eye right now is the vegan."

The revolution may not be televised...but it could get stuck in traffic.

The rest of Bernstein's piece falls into the blah-blah-blah category but no matter; she's already done a fine job of lying...lying that car companies care about the environment or animal rights and lying that automobiles can magically become "vegan" merely by replacing leather with vinyl.

News flash: Automobiles can never have "impeccable green credentials" (by any reasonable definition)...and the car culture is unambiguously anti-animal.

Each week in the U.S., roughly one million animals are

flattened by cars, trucks, SUVs and other fossil-fuel burning killers. That number, of course, does not include household "pets" or insects. It also does not count those living things (human, animal, and otherwise) that suffer or die due to exhaust emissions and the role they play in pollution and global warming. In addition, that weekly one million death count does not do justice to the innumerable creatures who perish when entire eco-systems are exterminated in order to make way for highways, off-ramps, parking lots, strip malls, airports, and other auto-centric structures. Then there's the use of non-vegan substances like anti-freeze, bio-diesel fuel, hydraulic brake fluid, and asphalt binder—all of which contain animal ingredients. Finally, consider the faceless animals that suffer and die during the scientifically useless and morally indefensible laboratory testing of gasoline fumes.

The L.A. Times dug up a handful of alleged vegans ready to offer their stamp of approval to an internal combustion engine wrapped in steel as long as the seats weren't leather. As a result, millions will sleep better believing that conditions are improving and corporations are getting the message.

Question: why would anyone trust a corporate-owned media to report the truth about corporate behavior?

During the last century, an area equal to all the arable land in Ohio, Indiana, and Pennsylvania was paved in the U.S., which requires maintenance costing over \$200 million a day...the surreptitious cost of the car culture totals nearly \$464 billion a year in the U.S. alone, much of that going to the sustention of waging perpetual war to keep the world safe for petroleum.

You might bicker with the specifics surrounding issues pertaining to veganism, animal rights, and the environment...but allowing the auto industry to anoint itself "green" is an unambiguously giant step in the wrong direction.

Skip the Prius and get yourself a used bicycle.

Mickey Z. is the author of "The Seven Deadly Spins: Exposing the Lies Behind War Propaganda" (Common Courage Press) and "A Gigantic Mistake: Articles and Essays for Your Intellectual Self-Defense" (Library Emphyreal/ Wildside Press).





## The Beaver Defenders Membership Application

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone/fax: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

### In the Store!

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

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

### Educational Materials free with a self-addressed stamped envelope.

- ▶ Unexpected Wildlife Refuge, Home of the Beaver Defenders
- ▶ What Beavers do for Waterways
- ▶ Beaver Problems and Solutions
- ▶ Species found at the Refuge
- ▶ Coloring sheets (five different beaver scenes, drawn by Hope Sawyer  
Buyukmihci)
- ▶ They All Call it Home
- ▶ Slandered Do-gooders (snake information)
- ▶ The Square of Flesh
- ▶ Chopper, in Memoriam
- ▶ Intruder in a Cageless Zoo (by Ferris Weddle)

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



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***We are weary of witnessing the greed, selfishness and cruelty of "civilized" men toward the wild creatures of the earth. We are sick of tales of slaughter and pictures of carnage. It is time for a sweeping reformation.***

- Dr. William T. Hornaday, Director of the New York Zoological Park, 1896 - 1926, credited with saving the buffalo from extinction.