

THE C.A.S.H. COURIER

THE COMMITTEE TO ABOLISH SPORT HUNTING

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Spring/Summer 2022

MISSION STATEMENT:

The mission of C.A.S.H.—Committee to Abolish Sport Hunting—is to accomplish what its name says in the shortest possible time. Understanding that abolishing hunting entails a process, a series of steps taken and not a single action that would effect our goal overnight, a time frame cannot be established. We hope for building a succession of wins, and if not wins immediately then at least a succession of stirrings of consciousness. We hope to encourage those who are still silent to speak out, awakening community after community about the heavy hand of state and federal wildlife management agencies. We hope to alter whatever belief still exists that sport hunters are conservationists and champions of the environment to a realization that they are destroyers of wildlife and ecosystems in the narrow and broad sense. Where the natural feeling for wildlife doesn't exist, we strive to engender among citizens outrage that their own rights are violated by legal hunting and their quality-of-life diminished.

Luke A. Dommer was the founder of the Committee to Abolish Sport Hunting. He was its president from 1976 until his passing in August 1992. Mr. Dommer's research and publications served as the foundation for the anti-hunting movement. He remains, through this organization, an invaluable and dedicated warrior in the battle to save wild animals, the environment, and general public from the silent economy that encourages and preys on the passion of a few to kill the wildlife that belongs to all.

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SPRING IS THE SICKEST TIME TO HUNT BEARS

BY JIM ROBERTSON

*This article contains excerpts from Jim's book, **Exposing the Big Game***

Unless you've been out of the woods too long, you probably already know that black bears across most of North America hibernate for the cold, dark winter months and wake up hungry and ready to get back to the business of being a bear come Spring. And it's fairly common knowledge that a "sow" will den with her newborn cubs and bring them out when she emerges from her long winter's nap.

But what a lot of people would be surprised (disgusted, appalled) to know is that hunters in several backwards Western states make sport of hunting bears in the springtime, rather than waiting for fall when bears are not so bleary-eyed and are a bit more wary of the dangers they or their cubs may face around the next bend in the trail—and when maybe they've had a few good meals under their belts. Sows often see to it that their cubs are safely up a tree before they go off after nourishment of their own. **Not knowing (or caring) that a bear has her young hidden nearby, spring bear hunters are notorious for turning dependent young cubs into starving orphans in the name of their sport, sausage, trophy, or rug.**

This is not at all to say that fall bear hunting is fair or humane. To the bears and those of us who care about them, it's cold-blooded murder, plain and simple. But compared to spring bear hunts, well, almost nothing is more twisted than that, except per-

haps, bear baiting, hound hunting, or trapping. **Washington residents and a coalition of wildlife advocates testified at a Wildlife Commission meeting this winter via zoom, resulting in a stay of execution for bears this spring and a decision not to make spring bear hunts permanent atrocities in the state.**

Though representatives of Washington's Department of Fish and Wildlife must pride themselves in their Vulcan-like vacuousness when it comes to non-human animal issues, **some commissioners seem to have been able to relate to sentiments like the following, printed in Spokane's Spokesman-Review on March 13th by Samantha Bruegger: "I admit I have an 'emotional' reaction to the killing of 'Mama Bears' and the orphaning of their cubs. I don't apologize for that. The ability to empathize with others, including other species, is part of our humanity."**

That of course is using the term "humanity" in the positive sense, rather than the epithet that it becomes when people decide it's acceptable to bait, hound, and otherwise destroy our fellow animals in the Spring, Summer, Fall, or sometimes even Winter (in places like Alaska, where killing hibernating bears in their dens is legal and where eradication of non-humans to eliminate the competition is a primary motive). Not surprisingly, Alaska is one of the crazy-eight states that

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear C.A.S.H. members, donors, supporters, non-hunters, and full-fledged anti-hunters, in fact, anyone who might stumble onto this publication (except those of you who consider yourselves sport hunters--this newsletter was not really meant for your eyes, and I'd hate for your heads to explode.)

One of our continuing projects here at the Committee to Abolish Sport Hunting is to make daily checks of google alerts under the headings "Hunting Accidents" and other, related keywords, such as "hunting," "trapping" and "hunter," for anything that should go on our website's Hunting Accidents/Hunting Violations page. That and our daily blog and Facebook page are constantly updated with items of interest to good sport hunting abolitionists like yourselves.

Well, one thing that's really stood out (since the beginning of the new year) has been the dozens and dozens of articles repeating one another, over and over ad-nauseum, bragging to their readers how safe the year 2022 has been in the state of Texas for hunting accidents (so far). Each of them crowing boldly that there have been no hunting accidents since the calendar changed over to the current year. That got me thinking that they sound like they're covering for something and trying to spruce up hunting's image to distract the populous from the harsh reality of sport "harvesting." The fact that the thousands of bullets flying every which way are eventually going to hit a member of the most numerous species on the planet (the only species that really matters to them) and go on record as a yet another hunting accident.

Sure enough, a quick check at our website's Hunting Accidents archives and it became clear that they were all copying practically word for word a state game department press release, which must have been trying to make up for several tragic incidents, including a fatality just last November 27th, when a father in East Texas shot and killed his 11-year-old daughter with a high-powered rifle while they were participating in a friendly hunting outing.

The following is from a local Texas news station: "Sheriff's deputies said when they arrived on scene, they found the girl with life-threatening injuries. The girl was supposed to be taken to the hospital by helicopter but due to inclement weather in the area, all emergency helicopters were grounded. Deputies said she had to be taken by EMS to Christus Good Shepherd Medical Center in Longview. Despite lifesaving efforts, the girl was pronounced dead, officials said."

Unfortunately, sad scenarios such as this will continue as long as hunting is a "sport."

Until next time,

Jim

Jim Robertson

President, the Committee to Abolish Sport Hunting

still allows spring bear hunting. The other states include Oregon, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, Utah, and Arizona.

The more you learn about what offenses are committed against non-human animals, the more you, as a self-respecting non-hunter, should be inspired to take the next step in your evolution away from exploitation. My own anti-hunting stance crystallized over 25 years of living close to nature in prime wildlife habitat, adjacent to a wilderness area in Washington's North Cascades mountain range. With a loyal dog and two horses for companionship, I made my home in a rustic cabin beyond power, phone, or mailbox. My neighbors were deer, coyotes, snowshoe hares, bears, cougars, ravens, and occasionally, moose, elk, wolves, or wolverine. Steller's jays, gray jays, juncos, nuthatches, chickadees, pine siskins, several species of woodpeckers, squirrels, and chipmunks were regular visitors to my feeders. At night, flying squirrels clocked-in for their shift at the bird feeders while owls called from the cottonwoods. Muskrats, wood ducks, and Canada geese found food and shelter in the local beavers' ponds. And if I stayed away from the cabin too long, chances were good that an ermine or bushy-tailed wood rat would take up temporary residence.



Photo © Jim Robertson

My closest human neighbor lived two miles downriver, at a junction where the road turns to gravel and heads up into the national forest. This junction marked the last point where the county snowplow cleared the average five feet of snow that piled up throughout the winter. From there to the cabin, my carbon footprint was a pair of cross-country ski tracks.

Life was good for this peace-loving student of nature, and I was as content as a clam at high tide in the isolation from the maddening throngs. But, things went sour after the Forest Service "developed" the area by putting in a snowmobile snow park just down the road and the county began plowing to within half a mile of my cabin. The road past my place then became a groomed snowmobile playground when it was covered with snow in the winter



Photo © Jim Robertson

For all the years I was out in the heart of this "sportsman's paradise," I never succumbed to the lure of "living off the land" at the expense of the local wildlife. Wild animals are my friends, and I don't make a habit of killing and eating my friends.

Unfortunately, the few people who drove out my way were usually up to no good: road hunting, poaching, or prowling around for signs of critters to harass in the up-coming hunting season. When recreational fur-trappers, hound-hunters, and bear-baiters started operating in the area, rather than taking part in the 'fun,' I again sided with my animal friends and did whatever I could to be of hindrance, ultimately joining the successful voter-initiative campaigns to ban trapping, hound-hunting and bear-baiting in Washington State.

Through the generations, bear tales have been told, embellished upon, amplified, and retold by people wanting to justify cruelty to those they fear. But, technologically untouchable consummate killing machines, hunters—outfitted with bows, rifles, and shotguns, riding triumphantly astride four-wheelers—are unrivaled in terms of their destructive force. Meanwhile, bears must rely on their natural faculties when forced to defend their territory, their lives, or the lives of their young—virtually the only times bears resort to violence. Patience and restraint, two characteristics sadly lacking in most humans, symbolize the true nature of the ursine order.

Indeed, a "legal" attack on a bear by a weapon-wielding human is about as honorable as a paranoid superpower leveling the mythically gentle, stone-aged Tasaday tribe with an H-bomb, while branding them the hostile ones. No doubt bears are proud, powerful animals who deserve respect and warrant a dose of caution, but their reputation as a menace is far out of proportion with reality. While bears (including grizzlies) might be responsible for the deaths of one or two North Americans annually, 50 people die from being stung by wasps, 70 are fatally struck by lightning, and 300 will be shot to death in hunting accidents.

Clearly, the hunting of bears is just some sort of warped game, motivated by a lecherous desire to make trophies of their heads and hides. But, dangerous and terrifying as bears must seem for big game hunters out to prove their manhood from behind the security blanket of a loaded rifle, they aren't the "most dangerous game," as the serial killer, Zodiac—an avid hunter who grew bored with lesser prey and advanced to hunting humans—would attest.

As the late Charlie Russell, author of *Grizzly Heart: Living Without Fear Among the Brown Bears of Kamchatka*, observed, "Hunting guides describe bears as ferocious, unpredictable and savage predators. They tell one horrifying story after another about people being torn apart. The victims are always those who approached the encounter poorly armed. Then the guides move on to recount countless acts of sportsman bravery: tales of real men stopping huge angry bears just short of the barrel of their guns. They keep it up until their clients are shaking in their boots, barely able to muster the courage to face the dreadful foe."

An irrational fear of bears dates back to the earliest days of American history, when Daniel Boone (that guy who went around with a rotting raccoon on his head)—like Buffalo Bill, with Bison—was on a mission to make a name for himself by racking up the biggest ursine body count. The bears Boone killed (and there were many) in North Carolina and Tennessee were members of a uniquely North American species which, like coyotes, evolved here on the Western Hemisphere.

Springtime is an especially devious time of year to be ending an animal's life, yet spring hunting seasons seem to be gaining popularity among unscrupulous hunters practically everywhere. Spring is when "Tom" turkeys are looking for mates, and in states like Iowa, Ohio, Oklahoma, Louisiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, etc., and it's the time for camo-clad sport hunters to try to lure them in with turkey calls that sound like a receptive female. (Predictably, more than a few turkey hunters have met their

ends when their over-eager, fellow hunters fired away in response to the convincing camouflage and turkey calls.)

Hunters and their supporters are quick to point out anything they do that might seem helpful to the animals (always the species they want to target). But applauding hunters for their environmental efforts, while ignoring the deadly results of their primal passions,

can be likened to praising pedophilic priests for sheltering homeless choirboys while ignoring their true motive for spending time with youngsters. Turning a blind eye to "conservationist" hunters' offenses against animals is akin to discounting Ted Bundy's selfish crimes against women just because he volunteered some of his time on a rape crisis hotline. Like a covetous child molester, the hunter preys on the defenseless, and like a serial killer, he leaves his victims emotionally scarred and physically wounded, or, preferably, dead

Hunters' so-called wildlife conservation ethic exists only so animals can be "harvested" again and again. Hunters live for the day they can register a record-breaking trophy with the Boone & Crocket Club—a group formed by Teddy Roosevelt "to promote manly sport

with rifles." Teddy Roosevelt didn't mind calling hunting a "sport," but some of today's wildlife-slayers are getting a bit more politically savvy, as they choke down the unpalatable "harvests," calling it "subsistence" to try to justify the murder.

Spring for black bears should be a time for reawakening, birthing, and filling their empty bellies. Unlike polar bears, they are not strict carnivores living on a barren, ice floe habitat. American black bears live down in the land of plenty, preferring to forage on foliage or flowers while keeping peacefully to themselves.

Jim Robertson is the author of *Exposing the Big Game*. He is president of C.A.S.H.



IS RAISING PHEASANTS TO BE SHOT CONSERVATION?



Described in <https://www.morningagclips.com/day-old-pheasant-chick-program/> as: *The Day-Old Pheasant Chick Program is a conservation program aimed at increasing pheasant populations for the benefit of hunting, birdwatching, and youth development. (Courtesy Photo)*

In a press release sent by the NYS DEC at the end of January, the first two paragraphs read, *New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Commissioner Basil Seggos today announced that applications are now available for DEC's cooperative Day-Old Pheasant Chick Program, which allows people to participate in raising and releasing pheasants to enhance the State's fall hunting opportunities. The program is provided through DEC's partnership with hunters, 4-H youth, and interested landowners.*

"Pheasant hunting has a long history in New York and remains popular among hunters," Commissioner Seggos said. "The Day-Old Pheasant Chick Program is a great way to experience the outdoors and raise pheasants while providing hunters with the opportunity to learn about animal husbandry."

For their full press release, view: <https://www.dec.ny.gov/press/124653.html>

THE LEAGUE OF HUMANE VOTERS RESPONDS...

The League of Humane Voters®/NY sent the following letter to key legislators:

While the background below may seem like a digression, it's vital to understanding the entity behind the program that encourages families to raise pheasants for hunting. We trust it will provide insight into the diabolical program that is now being encouraged by the Bureau of Wildlife via the DEC.

If one were to look at an organizational chart of the DEC, it would take a while to find the Bureau of Wildlife (BOW). At some point it would be seen under the Division of Wildlife and not given much thought. Yet, it is the bureau that encourages the raising

of pheasant chicks to be shot by those who have a hunting permit.

BOW needs to be identified as it remains largely out of sight and protected from scrutiny.

BOW's primary purpose is to manage wild animals for hunting. Killing animals for "sport" is not only fun and games for less than 3% of New York's population; it's serious business that works hand-in-glove with the firearms industry. **BOW is the government entity that the firearms industry funds to increase wildlife populations and provide hunting opportunity.** At the same time, hunters, through their purchase of firearms and ammuni-

tion, bows and arrows, and crossbows and bolts, increase the revenue of the weapons industry. Yet, BOW remains in the shadows as the DEC serves to shine a positive light on their activity without ever mentioning the bureau. BOW who?

The inextricable relationship between BOW and the firearms industry came about after the Pittman-Robertson Act of 1937 was approved by Congress. The P-R Act placed a dedicated excise tax on "sporting" firearms and ammunition; The Act was later amended to include bows and arrows, and crossbows and bolts. Game divisions in all states re-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

ceive an apportionment of the weapons excise tax based on the number of hunting permits they sell and their physical size. **In case it was missed, legal “sporting” weapons in New York include semi-automatic handguns and rifles, such as AR-15s. In NY, semiautomatic rifles were considered to be “safer” allowing a mere seven bullets to be shot in quick succession rather than thirty.**

We are unaware of any other division of government that is in a self-serving relationship with a private industry, whose purpose is to benefit less than 3% of the NY public that in turn benefits the industry.

In 2020, BOW’s P-R apportionment was close to 16 million dollars - not one penny of which benefits the general public. The P-R Act requires that the apportionment be used solely to manage wildlife for hunting. Hunting in turn requires the purchase of firearms and ammo, bows and arrows, and crossbows and bolts, thus increasing the profits of the firearms industry.

Firearms excise taxes function differently from other excise taxes. In contrast, the excise taxes on alcohol and tobacco contribute to the General Fund. A humorous analogy to the BOW model would be a Bureau of Smoking that receives funding from cigarette manufacturers in order to encourage more smoking so that this circular economy can continue its self-serving partnership. How long would the public tolerate it?

LOHV/NY is asking for transparency of this government entity that remains hidden within the DEC. In addition to exposing BOW’s activities, the public should know if the General Fund contributes to BOW’s self-serving goals.

Using children and families to raise pheasants to be shot, while shocking to most New Yorkers, is “nothing new,” according to Reynold’s Game Farm, owned by BOW. They say that



Steffi Wacker www.pexels.com
Ring-Necked Pheasant on Brown Soil

pheasant rearing by families has been going on for about 100 years. It’s “tradition”! But what’s new is that it’s just getting noticed!

BOW’s diabolical program at Reynold’s Game Farm (owned by BOW) may be shut down thanks to a bill introduced by **Assemblymember Linda Rosenthal** who sponsored A01388. This bill “prohibits the state’s participation in artificial pheasant propagation activities; closes any state-owned or operated pheasant production facility.”

Thinking ahead, BOW has decided to emulate and promote the 4-H model of having children raise animals and then turn them over for eventual slaughter.

...And how does this affect children? An excellent article can be found here: <https://sentientmedia.org/when-4-h-kids-choose-sanctuary-over-slaughter/>

LOHV®/NY believes that while the New York public will accept raising

animals for food, it’s unlikely that the public would view raising pheasant chicks for the pleasure of killing them in the same light. Add to that the realization that it enhances the profits of the firearms industry, and the program becomes totally repugnant. Nor would most New Yorkers agree that putting firearms into the hands of 12-year-olds is a normal “sport.” And for what purpose? To teach children that killing is fun? That they are serving the noble purpose of “restoring” wildlife? Using such terms as “conservation” in this context brings disgrace to the term itself, and I daresay to the DEC.

...And what about the birds themselves? Imagine the suffering of wounded birds who may not have been hit with shot in a vital organ and will continue to survive into the winter months when finally, and painfully, they succumb to the elements. And that is not even the end of the nightmare, those birds in the process of dying are predated upon by birds

of prey, and the pheasants who have died become carrion for vultures or other wildlife, then predators of those animals become lead-poisoned. Ask wildlife rehabilitators how heart-breaking it is to watch raptors die from lead-poisoning. And what does all of the lead shot that is scattered onto the land year after year do to ground water and food for both wildlife and humans?

“Restoration” in wildlife management lingo does not mean bringing back endangered species, rather it means annually restoring the decimated populations caused by hunting in order to have sufficient victims for the following hunting season! Hunting of any species cannot be sustained without creating new victims.

The irony is that the DEC’s mission statement and goal are:

To conserve, improve and protect New York’s natural resources and environment and to prevent, abate and control water, land and air pollution, in order to enhance the health, safety and welfare of the people of the state and their overall economic and social well-being.

DEC’s goal is to achieve this mission through the simultaneous pursuit of environmental quality, public health, economic prosperity and social well-being, including environmental justice and the empowerment of individuals to participate in environmental decisions that affect their lives.

While noble in theory, we ask how the DEC’s advocacy of producing pheasants, non-native birds, for hunters, as well as the unloading of lead shot into the environment for

hunters’ enjoyment and recreation can be reconciled with their mission.

Ensnared within the DEC, BOW remains largely under cover and protected from scrutiny. It’s difficult to get detailed reports of funding, but we have to assume that BOW is provided with taxpayer funding, if only for their costly overhead, advertising, promotion, legal costs, etc.

LOHV/NY urges full transparency of all funding that BOW receives and how it is used. We also urge transparency of other DEC divisions that serve the purpose of BOW while serving their own.

We ask the DEC to discontinue BOW’s program of using children and families to raise pheasants for the killing as it is incompatible with their mission and the sensibilities and ethics of most New Yorkers.

To see more about pheasant hunting:

<https://www.newyorkupstate.com/life-and-culture/erry-2018/10/722855ceb03454/7-things-upstate-ny-hunters-sh.html>

If you have the stomach for it, here is a video of how it’s done!

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZNpRAaTyhrc&list=RDCMUcm3af9XtbGdk_TiQyImYvbw

<https://www.wivb.com/news/new-york/new-york-pheasant-release-program-opens-applications/>



Photo: <https://pixabay.com/photos/peacock-bird-animal-peafowl-4497802/>

Eye on the News:

IN INDIA, POACHERS HUNTING PEACOCK KILL 3 POLICE

LUCKNOW, India May 14 (Reuters) - Three Indian policemen were shot dead by wildlife poachers. The poachers had opened fire after refusing to surrender when confronted by the officers.

The peacock is the national bird and a protected species in India, and hunting them carries a penalty of up to seven years in jail.

<https://tinyurl.com/3ejmkn88>

ERIE COUNTY EXECUTIVE, PLEASE STICK TO YOUR GUNS!

On April 6, an audacious letter was published in the Buffalo News that demanded that the County Executive of Erie County, Marc Poloncarz, rescind his decision to not opt-in to lowering the deer-hunting age to twelve!

Jeffery Termini, an Erie County resident, responded to the letter this way:

In response to the short-sighted and ill-informed letter telling Erie County's executive to rescind his veto that disallowed deer hunting by 12-year-olds, I say, "Hooray for County Executive Poloncarz for protecting the residents of Erie County." He should be a role model for all counties.

Hunting is about as safe a "sport" as running into traffic to see how close you can get to an oncoming vehicle. Then, to add 12-year-olds to the mix is reckless. Some folks might enjoy the thrill of running at cars but consider the consequences to the families and to the driver who may run down the individual, and the cost incurred by all. In other words, other people and property need to be considered, not merely the fun of the 12-year-old.

Comparing the "safety" of hunting to other types of sports, such as football or golf, is silly. The absolute accidents need to be looked at within the full context of the number of participants and the number of hours of participation in the activity. Hunting has a relatively small number of participants, and the hours spent hunting pale by comparison to other sports. So, when the number of hours of participation is small, and the number of participants is small, the number of accidents that occur is huge relative to activities with far more participants and far higher hours of participation.



Smiling child holding antlers.

When those variables are considered, hunting is off the scale for the number of accidents and fatalities.

That there were no reported incidents with 12-year-olds carrying and using firearms during 2021, should not be celebrated as a permanent condition. Basically, we are tempting fate and literally dodging bullets. Firearms in anyone's hands pose risks that we're all too aware of.

The letter writer even states that 12-year-olds are less safe in school than in the woods hunting as he references a 12-year-old who was beaten up at school. Has he thought about the consequences if arguing children in school had firearms?

We urge the Erie County executive to stay firm in his veto and encourage the other county executives of New York State to follow his example of bravely protecting the public.

Sincerely,

*Jeffery Termini
League of Humane Voters of New York*

*(Published in the Buffalo News 4/13/22.)
<https://tinyurl.com/hoorayforpoloncarz>*

*To see photos of 12 year olds who've killed deer, visit:
<https://tinyurl.com/yc2m93fe>.*

Vegans need never go hungry in Rochester – They just go to the Red Fern!

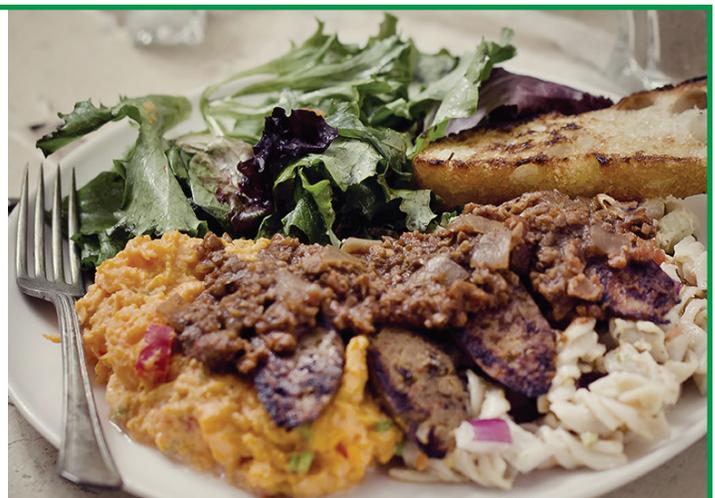
BY ANNE MULLER



I'm not kidding. My good friend, Maureen Schiener, suggested that we meet there for lunch. It was worth the 6-hour trip! (Just kidding, we were visiting family near Rochester.)

Do try it if you get to the area.

<https://redfernrochester.com/>



Eye on the News:

GUN DEATHS WERE THE LEADING KILLER OF US CHILDREN IN 2020

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-61192975>

THIS ARTICLE APPEARED BEFORE THE MOST RECENT MASSACRES IN BUFFALO, NY, AND UVALDE, TX

According to the article, *Guns overtook car crashes to become the leading cause of death for US children and teenagers in 2020, new research shows.* Data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) shows that over 4,300 young Americans died of firearm-related injuries in 2020. While suicides contributed to the toll, the data shows that homicides form the majority of gun-related deaths.



AR-15, the most popular rifle for hunting.

<https://pixabay.com/photos/ar-15-rifle-armalite-assault-rifle-5538179/>

According to the research - which was published in the *New England Journal of Medicine* - the rise in gun-related deaths among Americans between the ages of one and 19 was part of an overall 33.4% increase in firearm homicides nationwide.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE REPORT:

- Homicides, the study noted, disproportionately impact young Americans.
- Over the same time period, the rate of firearm suicides in the US rose by 1.1%.
- The overall rate of gun deaths of all reasons - suicide, homicide, unintentional, and undetermined - among children and teenagers rose by 29.5%, more than twice that of the wider population.
- "We continue to fail to protect our youth from a preventable cause of death," said a research letter published in the *Journal*.
- In past years, gun-related deaths were second only to car crashes as the leading cause of death among young Americans.
- **Gun violence in the US has increased since the Covid-19 pandemic began in early 2020.**

"The reasons for the increase are unclear," the research letter said. "It cannot be assumed that firearm-related mortality will later revert to pre-pandemic levels".

A separate study, published in the *Annals of Internal Medicine* in February, found that 7.5 million US adults - just under 3% of the population - became first-time gun owners during the pandemic between January and April 2021. This, in turn, exposed 11 million people to household firearms, including five million children.

HUNTING IS THE GLARING OMISSION FROM NEWS REPORTS ABOUT RECENT MASSACRES:

C.A.S.H. asks if the proliferation of guns during the pandemic could have been due to the fact that game agencies were promoting hunting as a way to spend time while people were staying home from work. Game agencies saw this "downtime" as an economic opportunity to engage people in the shooting sports.

In New York the Bureau of Wildlife increased the daily shooting hours. They extended hunting by one hour (30 minutes before sunrise and 30 minutes after sunset!).

They extended hunting of big game by six more days calling it "Holiday Hunting" to encourage the entire family to participate.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 14



THE LEAGUE OF HUMANE VOTERS® OF NEW YORK

POLITICAL ACTION FOR ANIMALS

May 19, 2022

COMMENTS TO THE ERIE COUNTY ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Chair: Tim Meyers, Chair Legislature: April Baskin, Vice-Chair: Jeanne Vinal,
Members: John Bargnesi, John Mills, Frank Todaro

Submitted by Anne Muller, League of Humane Voters/NY/Western NY

While the initial news reports of the hideous massacre of African Americans in Buffalo blared across the country, there was no mention of hunting in the background of the 18-year old assailant, Payton Gendron. A day later, some stories said his father had given him a “firearm” legally, other reports left that out. The firearm was an AR-15 that was modified for a magazine (cartridge) that carried only 10 rounds (bullets). Apparently, what had been a legal firearm in NYS was then re-modified to be able to accommodate a 30-round magazine. **What still may not be understood by the public is that the AR-15 semi-automatic firearm is a LEGAL firearm in New York so long as it is modified to only hold a 10-round magazine.**

Twelve-year-olds were legally able to use an AR-15 semi-automatic rifle for killing small game, but until 2021, they couldn’t hunt “big game” (deer) when, according to a NYS Bureau of Wildlife employee, an AR-15 or AK-47 is “more likely” to be used, since killing small game with a semi-automatic weapon would be a “waste of bullets.”

However, consider that a magazine can quickly be replaced with a fresh magazine, so the shooting can continue within a few seconds. That is the ridiculous modification that got so much applause when passed under Cuomo’s administration.

When Kathy Hochul, New York’s governor, was interviewed following the Buffalo massacre of primarily Black victims, she touted the safety of NY’s gun laws, and said because NY had restrictions on the magazine size, she, the FBI, and local police were “looking into” how this mass murder could have happened.

It was discovered that Payton Gendron re-modified the NY modified AR-15 to accommodate a 30-round magazine that

had been bought in Pennsylvania! So, PA’s lax gun laws were blamed, in part, for the massacre!

Yet, EVEN IF the firearm had not been re-modified to allow for a larger magazine, ten people could have been killed with the NY legal firearm! And ten people were killed!

In addition to the ridiculous assertion that the re-modified AR-15 was the cause of the problem, there is the loophole that Payton Gendron’s mental issues never factored into the permitting process because his father allegedly bought him the rifle for hunting.

What the public STILL doesn’t know is that AR-15 and AK-47 semi-automatic rifles are legal for hunting in NY so long as they are modified to only take a 10-round magazine! The number of magazines or firearms that can be used, however, are not limited!

Erie County should be proud of their Executive, Mark Poloncarz, as Erie was one of only two counties among the eligible NY counties to not opt-in to a lower hunting age. Instead, Erie’s Executive has been vilified by hunters, legislators up for re-election, and the BUREAU OF WILDLIFE (BOW) within the DEC.

If we follow the money, let’s ask which entities profit from the proliferation of firearms and ammo? The Bureau of Wildlife, within the DEC, EXCLUSIVELY receives a share of the firearms excise tax based in part on the number of hunting permits it sells. This puts BOW in the pockets of the firearms industry! Then, counties receive sales tax on the weapons. Is it any wonder why gun laws are so hard to get?

NYS and counties need to sever their ties to the firearms industry, stop managing game animals to be the victims of hunters for the sake of the firearms industry, and truly make the country safe.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

BOW is a dangerous division of the DEC with outsize power and influence - accountable to no one. New York needs to stop their goal of putting lethal weapons into as many hands as possible. Especially if it involves stooping so low as to arm children. In the light of the recent massacre, this is especially heinous.

While this expose is little consolation to the families who lost loved ones, and it will never bring back lost lives, it provides some clarity for why protective gun laws are so hard to get.

THE BOTTOM LINE IS THAT THE GUN INDUSTRY IS WITHIN OUR GOVERNMENT AND IT MUST BE BOOTED OUT.

The Mission of the League of Humane Voters® (LOHV) is to create, unite, and strengthen local political action committees, which work to enact animal-friendly legislation and elect candidates for public office who will use their votes and influence for animal protection.

LETTER TO SENATOR KRUEGER'S OFFICE

https://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/wildlife_pdf/jrhunterlegislativereport21.pdf

You may have seen the February 22, 2022 DEC (Bureau of Wildlife) report at the link above. It just came to LOHV/NY's attention as it was discussed today in the Erie County Environmental Committee. The DEC (Bureau of Wildlife) is pressuring Erie County to allow 12- and 13-year-olds to hunt big game, including bears. The report consists of shocking recommendations as they push for a rescission of Mark Poloncarz's veto of the opt-in vote to lower the age for hunting big game.

Should their recommendations be implemented, it would wipe out any gains made by Senator Krueger in the 2021 budget bill. It would deny home rule to counties with regard to a lower age for hunting big game, and it would rescind the exclusion of bears from being killed by young children.

Here is a summary of their recommendations:

Recommendation 1 would **make the lower hunting age for killing big game permanent immediately**, rather than waiting for the 3-year pilot to end and then making a decision. This recommendation would take away the ability of counties to make their own decisions about youth hunting where there is a possibility that sentiment could change as more of the public becomes aware of the program.

Recommendation 2 would **overturn the bear exclusion** that was wonderfully put into the 2021 budget bill by Sen. Krueger. The DEC (Bureau of Wildlife) recommends that bears be included with deer to become victims of hunters' firearms (including AK-47s and AR-15s and crossbows that shoot like guns).

Recommendation 3 would **eliminate the "opt-in" option and extend the lower hunting age for all of NYS. They specifically target the exempt counties of Westchester, Suffolk, and Westchester** for the ostensible sake of "uniformity" and convenience of the hunters. Basically, it's the same recommendation as their first, that the state should simply impose the lower hunting age on all counties.

The Bureau of Wildlife's imposition on counties should no longer be tolerated, and their reversal or side-stepping of law that passed in 2021 should not be allowed.

We look forward to hearing from you and look forward to any recommendations you may have.

Best,
Anne Muller
League of Humane Voters/NY
914-388-5221



See above link for BOW's report to the NYS Legislature.

HUNTING & RELIGION

Compassionate people who are religious/spiritual believe that life, including animal life, is God-given. However, many religions see non-human animals as lives that serve the needs of humans. Animal lives can be taken for the sake of humanity is a popular church-sanctioned belief. That viewpoint can be confusing and upsetting to people who value animals for their own sake. Some of our members might be experiencing the same exasperation with their religion or church and may be able to identify with the people who've shared their views below.

If you would like to be in contact with the authors, please email us at wildwatch@verizon.net

H.L. of Iowa has written to us over the years about his dismay over the fact that:

MOST RELIGIONS DON'T ADDRESS ANIMAL PROTECTION

For space reasons, this is a much shortened version of the complete letter. If you would like to be in touch with the author, kindly let us know at wildwatch@verizon.net Be sure to put "Animals in Religion" in the subject line.

Opinion by H.L.

Sadly and infuriatingly, cruelty to animals is deeply entrenched in our religion and culture. Anyone can be a sport hunter, vivisector, fur trapper, hell-on-wheels driver, and still be an esteemed member of any mainstream church. Religion doesn't think any of the above is "cruelty." The Bible is hostile to animal rights and vegetarianism. Only "humans" matter in religion.

DISMAY OVER INCONSISTENCY IN A SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

We have been attending many of the meetings of our local Seventh Day Adventist church. The church recommends its members be vegetarian, so that's good. Of course, being vegan would be better! I would say at best that about half of those who attend are vegetarian. Yet, consider this, the church has three elders...



One elder likes to hunt often. Each summer he is involved in commercial fishing in Alaska. He came back after a fishing trip to Alaska and said the crew caught, I forgot, either 64,000 lbs or 64 tons of fish for processing into food for humans.

The second elder likes to hunt deer with both gun and bow, he also hunts turkeys and other animals. He also likes to fish.

The third elder doesn't hunt but likes to fish. I have heard he releases the fish, but that's still wrong. I do know they raise a number of sheep. Some of the sheep have lambs that they send off to the slaughter industry. I would think a little part of a person dies when a person separates the lambs from the mother and the other sheep, and sends the frightened lambs to a strange and very harmful place.

We don't approve of any of these animal consumptive activities in which the elders participate. You would think that religious organizations would have far-reaching compassion that would include all life forms.

For more on this topic, we encourage you to visit the website of our host, **The Mary T. and Frank L. Hoffman Family Foundation** <https://www.all-creatures.org/ff/index.html> and www.all-creatures.org.

Dear Aunt Anne

Dear Aunt Anne,

I don't understand how people can complain that we are killing all the deer when, no matter how many we kill, there are more and more. And it's not just deer that seem to multiply because of hunting, it's coyotes, too. So please stop saying that we're wiping out wildlife populations.

*Sincerely puzzled,
Harry F.
New Paltz, NY*

Dear Puzzled Harry,

C.A.S.H. can explain to you in simple terms why every time you kill a deer, more will appear the following season. State game agencies have figured out the biology and behavior of various species of wildlife to the advantage of hunters and hunting. Let's look first at coyotes. Coyotes in natural packs consist of an alpha male and an alpha female. Without hunting, only the alpha pair will mate and have young, and the other members will help to raise the pups.

Once an alpha male or alpha female is killed or trapped, or otherwise removed from the pack, ALL the coyotes begin to mate and have young. Thus, the population of coyotes will increase.

In the case of deer, since deer are not monogamous, and a male deer can impregnate many females, the ratio of males to females will determine the number of offspring for the following hunting season. If the game agencies are trying to build numbers of deer for hunters' guns or other weapons, they will want hunters to take males only and leave females to give birth. The fewer males there are, the more food will be left for the females so that they can have healthier offspring.

This is really the short of it, Puzzled. If you're still puzzled, I suggest that you take a look at many of our articles for a more thorough understanding. You will find it clear that hunting is a business that involves our state government and the firearms and archery businesses. Once that basic fact is understood, you'll no longer be puzzled.

Dear Aunt Anne,

I really wanted to talk to Uncle Joe, but I guess I have to ask you, since Joe is doing TNR these days.

I love cats, too, but I can see how those little furry hunters can affect the ecology of my backyard woods. Just yesterday, I saw a cat playing with a chipmunk and when he saw me running at him to save the chipmunk, he ran away.

How can you be against human hunters but be for cat hunters? I feel that you are being hypocritical.

*Cat M.
Florham Park, NJ*

Dear Cat,

We reached out to Uncle Joe and he pounced at the opportunity to address your letter.

Hi Cat. Nice name! I hope this doesn't get too confusing, but there's a huge difference between human hunters and cat hunters. First consider this – domesticated cats are obligate carnivores, meaning that they need the nutrients in meat to stay healthy. Humans don't need to eat any meat, and studies show that when we don't eat any at all, our risk of dying from any cause plummets (<https://www.nih.gov/news-events/nih-research-matters/vegetarian-diets-linked-lower-mortality>).

Then consider this: TNR (the process of trapping feral cats, having them spayed/neutered, vaccinated, and ear tipped for identification) humanely reduces the number of outdoor domesticated cats and as a result, reduces the number of cats killed in animal shelters. Spaying/neutering renders them permanently unable to reproduce, and returning them to the area where they were living prevents something known as “the vacuum effect” – when new cats move into an area to take advantage of the shelter and food that is available but not being used by the cats who were trapped and removed. Spaying and neutering also makes the cats better citizens in that they no longer have the desire to roam an area for breeding opportunities, and are less likely to fight among themselves and exhibit other behaviors that often prompt calls to animal control for the purpose of trapping and removing them. Additionally, TNR doesn't end with the neutering and return of the cats, it also maintains feral cat colonies through proper feeding and sanitation to keep messes and hunting behaviors to a minimum. With regular sources of fresh food and water cats are less likely to hunt and this reduces their impact on local wildlife. Cats are individuals and some will indeed continue to hunt, but like other predators their efforts will result in strengthening wildlife populations because they target the old and weak, while the healthiest and strongest animals do not become their dinner and are able to reproduce. TNR is good for cats and for wildlife and when we humanely address the situation everyone wins.

More food for thought: Game agencies don't manage game animals for cats to kill with various types of firearms including semi-automatic

CONTINUED ON PAGE 14

weapons that use lead ammunition. Cats also don't kill each other, whereas humans often kill and wound other humans in what are called "hunting accidents." Just take a look at the many accidents that C.A.S.H. has documented over the years <https://abolishsport hunting.org/hunting-accidents/> -- and these reports are still just a fraction of what actually happens during hunting "seasons." When and if cats start buying AR-15s and crossbows to kill for fun, we will definitely reconsider our pro-TNR position.

Uncle Joe

Dear Aunt Anne,

I'm so fed up with anti-hunters who think they're holier than thou. I grew up in a hunting family and we were subsistence hunters. We ate what my daddy killed and we were happy to have the meat. If not for my daddy's

hunting we all would have starved. Is this what you think is ok? That a family of humans can starve to death so that a deer can live? I think you people are totally upside down.

Harvey H.
Madison, WI

Dear Harvey,

C.A.S.H. stands for the Committee to Abolish Sport Hunting. I emphasize "Sport." Please understand that the game agencies couldn't care less about you, your family, or the other subsistence hunters. To them, you are a drop in the bucket when it comes to making money for them. You go into the woods one time a year with your old muzzleloader, you use one lead bullet from a box that you purchased 10 years ago, and you go back home, not to show up for another year! If all hunters were like you, the entire hunting economy would collapse.

You and your ilk are less than 1% of the entire hunting population and you do nothing for the firearms business. I'm sure they see you as moochers off the managed deer that they work so hard to overpopulate. If you're hunting legally with a permit, then I guess you contribute a tiny something since the portion of the firearms excise tax they get is based in part on the number of hunting permits they sell, but if you aren't getting a permit, you are doing nothing for them at all.

Does that mean that we think you're ok? Not at all. We're very sorry that you are eating meat when there are so many great veggies to eat and so many great meat analogs. Seriously, we're concerned about your health, so please look into other food options. I know that old habits are hard to break but do give it some thought.

GLARING OMISSION CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

Prior to that, they had created a 3-year pilot program that counties had to opt-in to (most did with encouragement from BOW) allowing children 12 and 13 to hunt deer with firearms and crossbows. **Now BOW remains relentless at trying to prematurely turn this pilot program into a permanent condition! Most recently, they recommended adding killing bears, and expanding hunting into highly populated areas close to NYC in order to increase gun usage. Yet no one is looking at hunting as a source of gun acquisition, nor as a source of indifference to taking lives!**

We ask when the gun control groups will start to address this important aspect of gun violence. If we just follow the money, we will see that throughout the United States, the excise tax on firearms and ammunition goes exclusively to the state bureaus that manage wildlife for hunting (the USE OF FIREARMS) to kill precious wild animals.

When humans are killed, they are merely collateral damage in the inextricable financial relationship between government wildlife management divisions and the firearms industry.

Managing wildlife for hunting has to stop. It's the only way to get the firearms industry out of government and provide relief for people and wildlife!



C.A.S.H. CATALOG

A Voice in the Wilderness

Videotape approximately 20 minutes.
\$12.00 and \$8 for members.

This video is an expose of wild-
life management by Luke Dommer,
founder of C.A.S.H. It was produced
by Focus on Animals, CT. Esther
Mechler of Focus has generously
given C.A.S.H.
the right to sell
this videotape.

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Luke Dommer

C.A.S.H. HAT

Neon Orange, One Size Fits All - \$7.50



C.A.S.H. T-SHIRT

Bright Orange, X-Large - \$12.00



Front of shirt

HOW YOU CAN HELP US DO MORE:

- ✓ Become a member
- ✓ Include WILDLIFE WATCH, INC. in your will (you may earmark bequests for C.A.S.H.). Please include Wildlife Watch Inc. in your Will or Trust, and/or make Wildlife Watch one of the beneficiaries of your life insurance policy.
- ✓ Donate shares of stock, avoid capital gains, and get a tax deduction! Notify your broker or the company whose stock you hold. Ask them to transfer stock to Wildlife Watch, Inc. Federal Tax Identification Number: 13-3076705

A copy of our latest annual report may be obtained from Wildlife Watch, Inc., or from the Office of the Attorney General, Charities Bureau, 120 Broadway, New York, NY 10271.

PETER'S HUMOR?

C.A.S.H. apologizes if you are not amused

A hunter walks into a bar looking as though he had just crawled out of a swamp. He walks up to a woman and asks, "Want to hear a joke?" She answers, "No thanks, I'm already looking at one."



A hunter loses his way and is feeling hungry, thirsty and desperate. He starts praying. After some time, he feels his prayers have been answered when he finally bumps into another hunter. "Boy, am I glad to see you! I've been lost for hours."

"That's nothing," the other hunter replies. "I've been lost for a week!"



Contrary to public opinion, hunters actually do hold patents and copyrights on some major inventions; here are some of them:

- Inflatable dart board
- A dictionary index
- Ejector seat in a helicopter
- Powdered water
- Water-proof tea bag



Q: What did the hunter get on his IQ test?

A: Saliva



Fans of Peter's Humor



<https://www.ebaumsworld.com/pictures/happy-smiling-animals/557305/#>

If you have hunter jokes to share for possible publication, please email Wildwatch@verizon.net and put "Humor" in the subject line.

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Your generous contributions will help us to do much more.

Thank you for your support.

Please visit:

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As always, we are grateful to
**The Mary T. and Frank L. Hoffman
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