

THE C.A.S.H. COURIER

THE COMMITTEE TO ABOLISH SPORT HUNTING

A DIVISION OF WILDLIFE WATCH, INC.

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Fall-Winter 2023/2024

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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Inside the Hunter's Mind

by *Jim Robertson,*
President of C.A.S.H.



PHOTO © JIM ROBERTSON

Each year as seasons change from the peace and quiet of winter—when snowshoe hares and cross-country skiers are in their element—over to the vigorous regeneration of spring, through the pleasant to sometimes searing temperatures of summer, the calendar inevitably brings us back to the days of falling leaves and flying bullets. It's a time when sane people are forced to question the wisdom of taking a short hike on a public trail. We start to have to wonder what's going on in the minds of any orange-vested, camouflage-covered weapon-wielder we may come across. I'm sure there's some people out there who think hunters are just like everyone else and hunting is

just a sport like tennis or hockey, so why not give them a chance like we would anybody else nowadays?

They might even say they read that contrary to commonly held unfavorable assumptions, based on their insensible behavior and apparent one-dimensional existence, sport hunters may in fact possess at least a rudimentary level of self-awareness, according to modern cognitive psychologists. Of course, one risks accusations of bald-faced anthropomorphism and the loss of all credibility for suggesting that huntsmen display signs of higher thought or concern for others, but recent

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Letter from the President

Dear C.A.S.H. Members,
Supporters, Hunting Opponents,
and Wildlife Enthusiasts



2023 is shaping up to be another banner year for hunting accidents in America. If you have been regularly following our blog wordpress.com/committeetoabolishsportshunting.com, visiting our website abolishsportshunting.org or Facebook page facebook.com then you've no doubt been shocked to see that the rate of hunting-related accidents and fatalities has snowballed with the season.

We've all heard the old adage, "when it rains it pours." Well, that saying can be applied to hunting accidents, too. But rather than commenting on the weather, we might find ourselves voicing that phrase when hunting season gets underway and hunters start dropping left and right.

The sentiment then, adapted for hunting accidents, could read: "When it rains it pours, when it snows it pours when it hails or sprinkles... or even when it's bright and sunny it pours." All that seems to matter is whether-or-not hunting season has started...

One important upshot of C.A.S.H.'s efforts of reporting on hunting accidents and violations is to keep the story straight as far as what really happened. All too often, the media tries to downplay hunting's lethal results, as though every hunter is a saint or angel who would never harm a flea (unless it happened to be on the side of one of those pesky deer they were legally blasting to death). With each subsequent article these spin doctors come across, the story morphs into an

unrecognizable version of the original facts until they've effectively shaped the reader's minds and camouflaged the truth.

For example, an article I posted to our website, blog, Facebook page and email list when it first appeared was simply titled, "Kentucky Man Killed in Hunting Accident" in which we read that "The coroner says it appears 37-year-old Jared Hausfeld was hunting alone when he approached a deer he thought was dead [from him shooting it]. The deer made a sudden movement and Hausfeld accidentally stabbed himself in the leg with a large hunting knife."

Somehow that story later spawned the headlines, "Man dies after being accidentally stabbed with a hunting knife" to "Kentucky hunter dies after struggle with deer" on to "Central Kentucky man known for selflessness killed in hunting accident, officials say" and so on, until the reader is left to imagine deer as some sort of fearsome foe to the poor defenseless hunters who are just out gallantly trying to conserve deer for future generations (of hunters, of course).

Needless to say, we at C.A.S.H. are on the side of the deer—for their own sake—and on the side of any animal hunted for sport.

Jim

Jim Robertson

President,
Committee to Abolish Sport Hunting

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studies have tentatively shown them to be capable of grasping simple grammar and even the meanings of certain symbols (especially those lit up in neon in front of their favorite tavern or mini mart). Hunters were once thought of as automatons—robots programmed to react to stimuli but lacking the ability to think and feel. Yet, some atypically adroit sportsmen have proven clever enough to convince unwary non-hunters that gun-toting Bambi-killers actually have a “love of the land” and a concern for the animals they murder.

But compassionate people must resist getting sucked into fantasies about imaginary “ethical” hunters, when the ultimate goal of the “sport” of hunting is simply to make a fellow sentient being fall dead.

Absurd as it sounds to those who really do care for animals, hunter holy men are working their charms by preying on and captivating the unsuspecting public with their dogma that slaying animals is a wholesome Earth Day activity. Their revisionists try to downplay the obvious lethal impacts hunting has on animal populations (despite well-documented proof that over-hunting has been a direct cause of extinction for untold species throughout history) by spreading the nonsense that non-hunters are just as much to blame for the plight of endangered species as those who participate in their slaughter.

Meanwhile, from the likes of Teddy Roosevelt with his head-



PHOTO © JIM ROBERTSON

hunting safaris here and in Africa, to John Kerry with his backfiring camo-clad goose-hunt-media-stunt, to Dick Cheney blindly blasting at birds (spraying lead at anything or anyone that moves), politicians have shamelessly courted the hunter vote while helping to promote the wise-use twaddle that hunters are the “best environmentalists.” For his part, the great “varmint” hunter, George W. Bush, “penned” (in crayon, no doubt) executive order 13443 on August 17, 2007, encouraging more hunting in parks and on national wildlife refuges. Sport hunters have enjoyed so much laudation of late they’re beginning to think of themselves as environmental heroes.

What’s worse is that many of today’s green groups are swallowing that blather, hook, line and sinker. Perhaps it’s time they reread the words of Sierra Club founder, John Muir: “Surely

a better time must be drawing nigh when godlike human beings will become truly humane, and learn to put their animal fellow mortals in their hearts instead of on their backs or in their dinners. In the mean time we may just as well as not learn to live clean, innocent lives instead of slimy, bloody ones. All hale, red-blooded boys are savage, fond of hunting and fishing. But when thoughtless childhood is past, the best rise the highest above all the bloody flesh and sport business...”

If John Muir’s dated mockery and message is lost on the today’s Sierra Clubbers, Edward Abbey’s sentiment should be obvious enough for anyone: “To speak of harvesting other living creatures, whether deer or elk or birds or cottontail rabbits, as if they were no more than a crop, exposes the meanest, cruelest, most narrow and homocentric of possible human attitudes toward the life that surrounds us.”

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CALLING OUT FOR HELP

By Rebecca Sunshine

I used to believe that when something was so obviously wrong, cruel or unjust, and you pointed it out to the right authority, it would get fixed. Although I knew our government wasn't perfect, I thought there would be someone somewhere who would listen to reason and do the right thing. That was when I was very naïve. What I did learn is that for the most part our elected officials and governmental agencies not only won't help, but sanction and perpetrate cruelty. And it is deeply entrenched in the system.

For years, I and others have been calling out for help to stop the annual bow-hunt of deer in Rockefeller State

and meetings with state, county, town and park representatives and officials, a press release and article in the paper. We thought that good facts, references and persuasive arguments would sway minds. We thought it would make people see the cruelty of bow-hunting, that deer are not to blame for Lyme disease or forest degeneration, that hunting does not diminish the population but causes females to become more fertile, that there are humane, effective, non-lethal methods of deer reduction available, and that allowing hunting with deadly weapons in a popular suburban park is maybe not too smart. Our politicians would listen, mostly agree, sympathize, and then do nothing.

Park "Preserve" (RSPP) in New York. We used every approach: flyers, petitions, letters to the editors, letters to

The only development, a negative one, is that as of last year the bow-hunt, which RSPP euphemistically calls their "deer management program" or "ecological management" had been extended to start in September, a month earlier, and expanded to another large area of the park.

So we are still calling out for help, and unfortunately seem to be hitting the same dead ends and getting the usual silent treatment. This time around we are using social media which we hope will help us reach out to more people.

It is likely that many of you reading this have been fighting similar battles, often uphill. I hope you have had more success.

Recently I was in RSPP and spotted a beautiful deer and felt like crying because I knew the danger he was in. Hopefully, the day will come when we root out the apathy, ignorance, cruelty and greed, so deer sightings will bring us joy rather than heart-pounding fear for their lives.

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John Muir, Edward Abbey, Rachael Carson and many of the other early founders of the environmental movement had the best interests of wildlife and nature in mind, clearly recognizing homo sapiens as just one among many thousands of animal species on the planet—no more important than any other in the intricate web of life. These enlightened trailblazers abhorred trophy hunting.

But a shocking turn-around is taking place in the modern bastardization of the environmental movement: influential green groups are embracing (read: sleeping with) hunting groups like the Safari Club International and the National Rifle Association (NRA). In a transparent effort to appear down-home (and thereby more "in touch" with nature), they're making the fatal mistake of joining forces with hunters whose so-called wildlife conservation ethic exists only so animals can be harvested again and again. These savage children 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."



PHOTO © JIM ROBERTSON

The most infamous of these atrocities is the hunting of plains bison to near extinction in the 1800's. But regardless of these and other historical accounts, elk, bighorn, wolves and prairie dogs--once hunted, trapped and poisoned down to mere fractions of their original populations--continue to be targeted today. Some species, such as black bears, Canada geese and coyotes, have adapted to the human-dominated world, and for that they

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are hated, hunted, and trapped with a vengeance.

The mechanism that allowed for so many native species to be slaughtered with such abandon in centuries past was a common form of speciesism: species favoritism. Would-be ranchers wanted to do away with any wild grazers who might compete with their cows and eliminate any predators who might naturally turn to their domestic calves or sheep in the absence of accustomed prey. Problem is, this ecologically short-sighted conduct resulted in severely diminished biodiversity (a fact that should be an embarrassment to inheritors of this abused land).

Unfortunately, blundering behavior persists to this day. Instead of admitting to the mistakes of the past, the 5% of the population who still hunt are paying homage to the ruinous ways of the 1800s--sometimes even using bows or black powder muskets to make their "sport" more authentic and challenging.

The slaying of wildlife has now become a perverse pastime for people who call themselves sportsmen. But far from sporting, the game of stalking, shooting and skinning animals is driven by a selfish and sinister intent. The sport hunter's motive is comparable to that of a rebuked child who torments a puppy to gain a sense of power and control. No matter how hunters and trappers try to rationalize or justify their actions, their stated objectives--recreation, the need for sustenance or a civic duty to keep animal populations in check--are all red herrings.

Actor James Stewart, star of dozens of classic films including a number of westerns, such as "Winchester '73" and "How the West was Won," was a former hunter who saw the error in his ways. But unlike his character in "It's a Wonderful Life," Mr. Stewart didn't need a guardian angel to guide him to the light when he declared, "Animals give me more pleasure through the viewfinder of a camera than they ever did in the crosshairs of a gunsight. And after I've finished 'shooting,' my unharmed victims

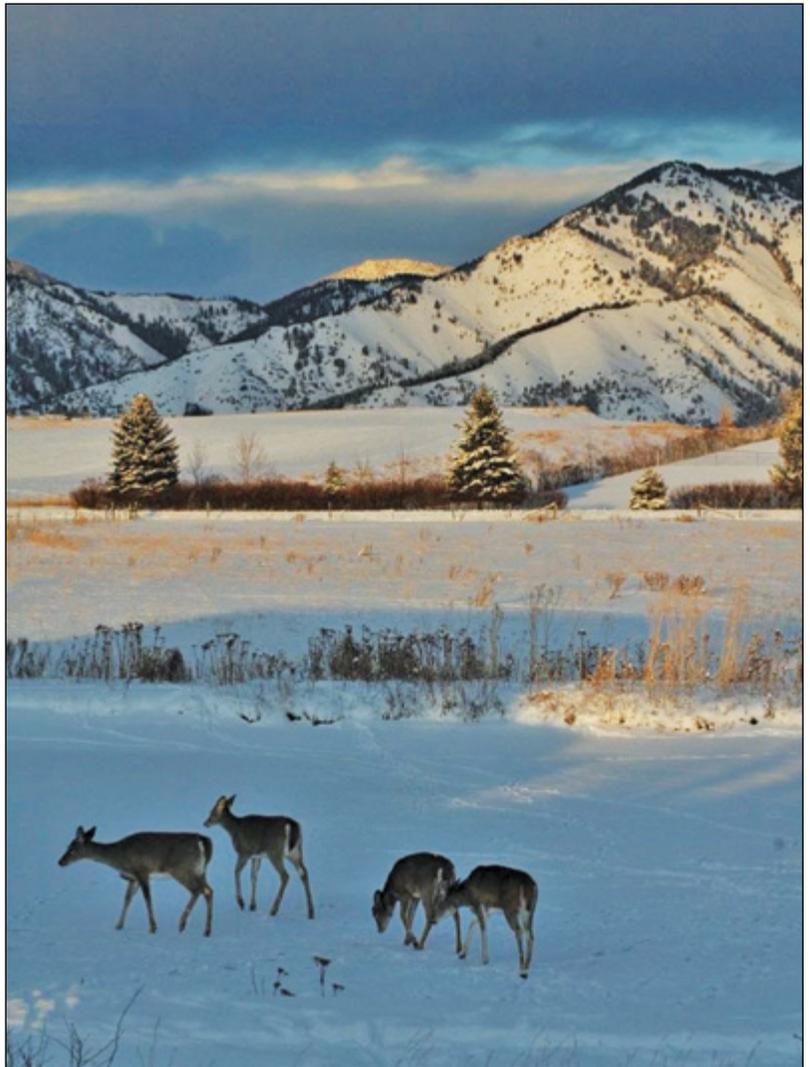


PHOTO © JIM ROBERTSON

are still around for others to enjoy. I have developed a deep respect for animals. I consider them fellow living creatures with certain rights that should not be violated any more than those of humans."

Another action film star unwilling to train his guns on undeserving animals is magnum enforcer Clint Eastwood. Best known as the poncho-clad gunslinger with no name in 1960s-era spaghetti westerns and as the Academy Award winning director of the modern western tragedy, "Unforgiven," Eastwood recently told The Los Angeles Times: "I don't go for hunting. I just don't like killing creatures."

Stewart, Eastwood and other western icons have become enlightened as to the sentience of non-humans, symbolically hanging up their spurs...

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PHOTO © JIM ROBERTSON

and their gun belts. Likewise, millions of everyday Americans have taken a more peaceful approach toward animals, treating them with kindness and admiration, while turning away from hunting. Literally, figuratively and statistically, hunting is a dying sport.

Hunter participation in this country has been on a steady decline since the 1970s, according to surveys taken by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). Comparatively speaking, the body of hunters in America is withered and shrunken--only a wee fraction of its former self. Hunters are now a skeletal minority, albeit a voluble 5% when it comes to forcibly interjecting themselves into wildlife issues.

Today there are six times as many wildlife photographers, bird watchers and others who enjoy seeing animals alive as those who feel compelled to make them lay down and die. The ratio of non-hunting outdoor enthusiasts to hunters grew more than 26 percent in ten years. In addition, wildlife watchers are far outspending hunters, contributing \$45 billion to the U.S. economy in 2006 alone. Like the KKK and the SLA, the NRA has seen its day and will ultimately fade away.

But anti-hunters shouldn't be lulled into a false sense of security for wildlife. Many hunters are still

reluctant to kiss their blood-sport goodbye and join the civilized world. Heavily funded hunting groups like the National Rifle Association are pushing to pass laws on state and federal levels, aiming to enshrine their "birthright" to shoot and kill non-human animals recreationally.

In direct answer to the decline in hunter numbers, some like-minded state governments are trying to encourage kids to get the taste of killing early on. Alabama opens deer season two days early for children under the age of 16, so they'll have a better crack at "bagging" an animal. Maine holds a Youth Deer Day, allowing pre-season bow hunting for children ages 10 to 16. And states like Illinois are preying on women by holding hunting lessons for single mothers. Meanwhile, private pro-hunting programs, like *Becoming an Outdoorswoman* (BOW) are trying to enlist future Sarah Palins of America.

After all, some might say, cave paintings have been unearthed depicting cavewomen hunting. What's done is done. The crime now is to replicate or enshrine past malicious behaviors.

Portions of this article were excerpted from the book, *Exposing the Big Game: Living Targets of a Dying Sport* by Jim Robertson

The Bureau of Wildlife Permits the Commercialization of Killing Bears for their Body Parts

THE NY HUNTING AND TRAPPING GUIDE PRESENTS SHOCK AFTER SHOCK

The first shock is seeing grinning children holding up the bloodied and broken bodies of what had been happy animals living in our forests and fields. To game agencies, wild animals are "natural resources" whose purpose is to be used and abused.

Less of a shock, but disturbing, are the grinning adults posing with their victims as though they were inanimate objects and not once living, breathing beings.

Most shocking of all is that hunting is LEGAL and ENCOURAGED!

THE FALSE NARRATIVE

The false narrative is that sport hunting is "conservation," and hunters are "conservationists." Wildlife managers would like us to believe that without hunters, we'd have no wildlife at all.

Hunting as we know is a huge business that benefits the firearms and bow and arrow industries whose excise taxes provide revenue to the game managers of your state.



Though most people are unaware that alleged "sport hunters" can derive income from body parts.

What is particularly shocking in the latest issue of the NYS Hunting and Trapping Official "Guide" is an advertisement soliciting bear gall bladders from hunters for cash. Incentivizing the killing of wildlife by monetizing their body parts is chilling.

As sport hunting is in decline, are we going back to market hunting?

In the book, *Restoring America's Wildlife*, the Dept. of Interior (DOI) writes in praise of the 1937 Pittman-Robertson Act that provided funding for wildlife management to ensure a continuing population of "game," for sport hunting.



NY Bear Season 2023 N&S Zones
We pay \$30 Per oz for
Bear Galls of any size!

NY bear Claws w/feet attached
\$35 for a set of 4!
~ No Cubs ~

Buying Starts in Sept. thru Nov.

Bear parts can be shipped USPS
Call for shipping instructions & questions
All legal paperwork must include:
Hunter's name, address
and tag # before purchase.

HIDE BUYERS - MAINE NY VT ID WY
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NORTH COUNTRY TAXIDERMY est. 1970
2074 NY-3, Cadyville, NY 12918

518 293 7092

picklepuss1402@gmail.com
Have a safe & successful
hunting season!
See you soon!

IMAGES from publication, "New York Hunting & Trapping 2023-24 Official Guide to Laws and Regulations"

The P-R Act was touted as a way to stave off market hunting. The DOI wrote: "Wildlife was generally considered either a nuisance or a commodity by the early pioneers – something to eat, sell, or get rid of. It wasn't before hunting for sport became fashionable that concern developed over the continuing decline of wildlife...This concern by public-spirited sportsmen... was responsible for the enactment of seasons and bag limits."

Market hunting was frowned upon for depleting species. In a section of that book (pg. 96) titled, "The Savers," **wildlife management for sport hunting was heralded as the savior of species.**

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The Bureau of Wildlife Permits the Commercialization of Killing Bears for their Body Parts

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As game departments legalize more incentives to kill the wildlife that belongs to all, how long will their public relations ploy, that they are "conservationists," and "savers of species," continue to be believed?

We encourage you to call your local game agency and request a copy of the Hunting & Trapping Official Guide to Laws and Regulations be snail mailed to you. **The online version leaves out advertisements that are so revealing.**

Below is one example of an ad missing from the online version.



As the savers now see that the population of hunters is declining, we ask if they are trying to rebuild their own population by incentivizing the killing of wildlife? Are we reverting to market hunting?

In 2012, the owner of a taxidermy company that also specializes in buying and selling body parts said, "The state of New York wants to utilize the entire bear. They don't want anything thrown away. It's a resource. Whether it's the hide, the claws, the meat, whatever it is — they want something to happen to it."

From: northcountrypublicradio.org/news/story/19703/20120420/new-law-regulates-north-country-trade-in-black-bear-parts-for-asian-markets

And more explicitly, the Dept. of Natural Resources and Renewables in Nova Scotia, Canada, wrote: **"We now feel comfortable in continuing to allow the sale of galls to the economic benefit of our trappers, hunters, guides and furbuyers."**



YOUR INVITATION TO JOIN THE NEW "BAN SPORT HUNTING" LISTSERV

If you would like to join our listserv to participate with other folks who see our goal as a moral imperative. If you wish to make this distorted and brutal form of entertainment illegal and understand the orchestrators and forces that are keeping it going, please contact C.A.S.H. at wildwatch@verizon.net



ALONE AND CONFUSED

HUNTING SEASON IN THE "SOUTHERN ZONE OF NYS" STARTED TODAY!

I often have groups of deer visit, and it's a joy to watch them interact with each other. When an older fawn appears alone, it causes concern about the rest of the herd and the Mom. What could have happened?

As I was working on our two publications, I heard rifle shots, and shortly afterwards a fawn appeared alone who was trying to tell me something.

Could this have been the fawn who visited me with her Mom in August? The two were inseparable.



DOES ROCKEFELLER STATE PARK PRESERVE PROVIDE A "SAFE HOME" FOR ALL ITS RESIDENTS? JUST ASK THE DEER!

"Conservation" is a term that isn't well understood by the public, and that's quite deliberate on the part of the spin doctors.

[Def. of "spin doctor": A person who is responsible for ensuring that others interpret an event from a particular point of view.]

Rockefeller State Park Preserve has been allowing hunters to kill deer with bow and arrow, a killing method that is considered to be one of the cruelest methods of killing.

In an effort to encourage the use of non-lethal methods, LOHV®/NY has sent letters to two legislators. Please see the letter to Assembly Member Shimsky starting on page 10.





THE LEAGUE OF HUMANE VOTERS[®] OF NEW YORK

POLITICAL ACTION FOR ANIMALS

October 5, 2023

Dear Assemblymember Maryjane Shimsky,

Based on the need described in this letter, The League of Humane Voters[®] of New York is reaching out to certain legislators asking them to sponsor a bill that would require Rockefeller State Park Preserve (RSPP), which is in your district, to open up wildlife management decisions to the general public and move away from their cruel and ineffective program of bow and arrow hunting of deer.

According to Joshua DiPaola, Natural Resource Specialist at Rockefeller State Park Preserve (RSPP), hunters are recruited via word-of-mouth advertising and previously approved hunter "recommendations." Most importantly, the hunt takes place without the knowledge of most visitors and the general public. In fact, when the public calls RSPP for information, there's a voice message describing the Preserve as a passive recreation facility, warning against setting fires or barbecuing but omitting the fact that bow hunting of deer takes place. Yet, behind the scenes, RSPP has been soliciting violence for 20 years against the deer who grace its property. While there are about 250 hunters in the Park killing deer throughout the hunting season, there are 350,000 visitors to the Park annually enjoying the sight of does with their fawns, unaware that RSPP deer are being hunted with bows and arrows;

"Ecological management" is a label, repeated like a mantra, that obfuscates what is a bow and arrow hunt for deer in the Preserve. When I asked about the program, the following was emailed to me by Peter Iskenderian, RSPP Manager:

For context, as a state park preserve, our program is designed and oriented towards ecological management. A 2019 population survey on the property estimated that there were approximately 50 deer per square miles on the Preserve and its adjacent lands. The



suggested carrying capacity for deer in the northeast with regards to forest regeneration of native flora is approximately 10 deer per square mile. As such, the program was implemented by the state some 20 or so years ago in order to support the regeneration of native flora, which has positive cascading impacts on not only floral demographics, but the fauna which utilize them as well (i.e. understory and ground-nesting birds, small mammals, terrestrial turtles, etc.). Given that this is an ecological initiative and not sport-hunting, we do not allow the harvest of any other wildlife on the property. [Emphasis is mine.]

In their words:

A 2019 population survey on the property estimated that there were approximately 50 deer per square mile on the Preserve and its adjacent lands. The suggested carrying capacity for deer in the northeast with regard to forest regeneration of native flora is approximately 10 deer per square mile.

We ask how, after 20 years of "ecological management," the deer population is still five times higher than the suggested carrying capacity? Either something is wrong with the method used to reduce the population, or the purpose of this

THE LEAGUE OF HUMANE VOTERS OF NEW YORK

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management is not to reduce the population to the carrying capacity deemed optimal.

Their statement, "Given that this is an ecological initiative and not sport-hunting, we do not allow the harvest of any other wildlife on the property," is a blatant straw man as sport hunting is not defined by being able to kill a variety of species, but is defined species by species according to sex, bag limits, and season. Clearly, the RSPP deer hunt qualifies as sport hunting.

Hunters must fill out the attached form, "Hunter's Qualifications and Assurances." This form is touted as ensuring that only the most skilled hunters can participate, but there's no objective test. Instead, it is a document that hunters must sign to protect RSPP from potential lawsuits, and provide hunters with the words to parrot RSPP's public relations mantra that this is a "managed hunt for ecological purposes." See attachment.

I was later sent the attached information by Josh DiPaola. He said it is normally only provided to hunters. See "Detailed Rules" attachment.

After reading the "Detailed Rules" I had several Q & A conversations with Josh. One question was about "ethics" and what it meant in the context of a bow and arrow hunt.

Josh said that tracking this time of year is difficult and can take several days before finding a wounded animal. Once the deer is located, the suggested method of killing is to put an arrow

into a 9" spot in the deer that would hit his or her lung or heart. It's blood-curdling to imagine the suffering the animal had to endure when the initial arrows entered his or her body for someone's pleasure as well as wildlife management's profits, not to mention the long time the animal spends in excruciating pain only for a hunter to eventually put more arrows into him or her. The "ethical" requirement of an arrow piercing a 9" area of vital organs is challenging and likely missed - perhaps several times. As cameras are not allowed in the Preserve during the hunt, "ethical" bow-hunting can not be documented, and what "ethical bow hunting" means remains unanswered.

Rockefeller State Park claims that baiting isn't allowed, yet, according to Josh DiPaola, they allow a lure that attracts primarily male deer, rarely female deer: Rattling deer antlers -To understand the power of this lure, this promotional website <https://tinyurl.com/rattlingdeerantlers> states the following about antler rattling:

- Two full rack design: Designed as two fully racked bucks, giving you the tines and leverage needed to replicate a breeding rights battle
- Black concealment: Keeps your rattling sequences concealed, allowing you to rattle at much closer distances during a big buck encounter
- Free Deer Society mobile app: Learn the in-depth rattling tips and tactics that professional hunters use to up their odds in the field;

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PHOTO ©ANNE MULLER



THANK YOU TO JOHN EBERHART FOR DISCOVERING AN INVALUABLE LINK TO PENDING BILLS IN YOUR STATE

STOP THEM FROM BECOMING LAW OR HELP THEM TO BECOME LAW

sportsmensalliance.org/legislative-action-center

Click, scroll down to your state, and see all the good, bad, and ugly bills. If you want to take action, start a chapter of the **League of Humane Voters®** in your state or join an existing political action committee for animals. To discuss starting a chapter, please contact Angi Metler at angi@lohv.org

THE LEAGUE OF HUMANE VOTERS OF NEW YORK

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While overpopulation is the reason for this “ecological management,” and as the Bureau of Wildlife is the ultimate authority over the hunt, it needs to be understood that the very goal of NYS wildlife management is to overpopulate game species, especially deer, for hunters. Not only do Pittman-Robertson excise taxes on firearms and ammunition support wildlife management, but as of 1972, excise taxes were placed on bows and arrows. These taxes are turned over to state wildlife managers to ensure wildlife populations that sustain hunting year after year.

If after 20 years of “ecological management” the deer population is five times greater than they say it should be in the RSP, ostensibly necessitating the horrific abuse and slaughter of our deer year after year, then long-term population reduction was never the goal or the outcome.

RSP is treasured and frequented by the general public. The viewing of deer in their natural habitat is one of its main attractions. It's truly heartbreaking that fawns who are with their mothers, still learning where to go and what to eat, still dependent on maternal nurturing, have their peaceful lives turned into a nightmare by a cruel method of killing whose goal is to perpetuate the killing year after year.

The photo below was taken at the end of August, and you can see that fawns still have their spots and stay close to Mom. Today, Peter Iskenderian told me that the early hunt started at the beginning of September.

The “ecological management” program claims that it is not regular hunting because a hunter

must kill a doe before a buck can be killed, but the requirement of taking a buck only after killing a doe in order to reduce the population is nonsense when the existing sex ratio is skewed in favor of females.

Deer hunting that is ineffective in its goal is both permitted and encouraged in RSP property without the knowledge of the general public or their input. The “public” as it is described in such plans as this: dec.ny.gov/docs/wildlife_pdf/deerplan21.pdf refers in fact to less than 3% of the public that hunts. In truth, the general public remains uninformed and without a voice.

My next question to Josh DiPaola was whether fawns could be killed. The short answer was “yes.” The longer answer was a denial that fawns were really fawns at the time of year that hunting started. They no longer had spots, I was told, as I was looking out my window at a fawn with fading spots after early hunting had started. He said that the hunters would know a fawn from a non-fawn as they could tell by their dentition. “Wouldn't the fawn have to be dead or incapacitated before discovering s/he was a fawn?” “That's true,” Josh replied.

My final question was whether a hunter who killed a female fawn would still qualify to take a buck. The reason for the question was to determine if a hunter would be less restrained (more motivated) to take a female fawn in order to qualify to take a buck later. The answer was, “Yes.”

Most people appreciate and respect wildlife and care about their welfare. To democratize the process, the real general public needs to be

informed of hunting plans long before they take place and have the opportunity to weigh in, as the deer in RSPP belong to all New Yorkers!

While the public is misled about the need to hunt to fight overpopulation, the Humane Society of the US cites the many successful areas that have used non-lethal methods of deer population management. humanesociety.org/resources/what-do-about-deer

Immunocontraception is one extremely effective method of non-lethal deer population reduction. HSUS reports:

IMMUNOCONTRACEPTION: PZP

PZP works by causing an immune reaction in does that blocks sperm fertilizing eggs. Unlike some fertility control vaccines and methods that cause undesirable behavior changes, PZP simply prevents fertilization. Most importantly, because PZP is a natural protein, like all other proteins found in animals, it is safe to use and will not harm animals. PZP can be delivered to adult female deer by hand or remotely using darts shot from a dart gun.

Recent improvements in the PZP vaccine now prevent deer from having fawns for up to three years with just one treatment. This significantly reduces the time needed to dart animals and so the costs of treating deer.

Since the 1990s, the HSUS has conducted several successful PZP immunocontraception research projects on deer. Here are the four biggest:

- Fire Island National Seashore (FINS) was the HSUS's original deer study site. The primary goals there were to see whether more than 200 deer could be darted each year and to the effectiveness of PZP on what had been a growing deer population. The deer were easily darted and the immunocontraceptive alone was shown to reduce a deer population over time.
- The HSUS also used PZP over a period of 20 years to treat the deer on the fenced campus of the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) in Gaithersburg, Md. The number of deer collisions dramatically decreased, the remaining

deer became healthier and the deer population growth rate fell, despite the fact that urbanization and development around the facility caused constant migration of new deer onto the campus.

- Over a five-year period of darting deer on Fripp Island, S.C., with PZP, the deer population decreased by nearly 60 %. In addition, the remaining deer were healthier. Residents were pleased and the number of human deer conflicts fell.
- An eight-year study in the New York City suburb of Hastings on Hudson, N.Y., showed that PZP could reduce a deer population in an area that was not bounded by water or by a fence by as much as 50 %. The terrain in Hastings on Hudson was challenging, with close together homes and rocky hills, but researchers managed to dart more than 60 percent of the does. The treated does stayed in their territories and kept new, untreated does from moving in. The study showed that two shots given over a period of two and half years can prevent fertilization for up to five years.

A law to democratize deer management in RSPP is needed because in spite of opposition to RSPP's hunt (lohud.com/story/news/local/westchester/2017/10/27/bowhunting-woman-puts-westchester-notice/803246001/) the public has had no voice in the management or treatment of deer at RSPP and has been kept in the dark long enough. Without the force of law, RSPP will continue its ineffective, offensive, and cruel bow and arrow hunt termed "ecological management."

For the above reasons, we fervently hope that you will support a bill to democratize deer management in RSPP. The general public must be informed of hunting plans at RSPP well in advance of any actions taken and be able to participate in shaping those plans. The deer in RSPP belong to all New Yorkers!

We eagerly look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Anne

Anne Muller

On behalf of the Planning Board of the League of Humane Voters® of New York, 914-388-5221

ASK Uncle Jim



By Jim Robertson

GOT A QUESTION FOR UNCLE JIM? You can e-mail it to: wildwatch@verizon.net

WOULD YOU RATHER SNAIL MAIL YOUR QUESTION?

Send it to: C.A.S.H., POB 562, New Paltz, NY 12561

Uncle Jim gets a lot of mail so don't be offended if he cannot answer your question in the Courier.

Dear Uncle Jim,
I hear you've written an anti-hunting book. I've been a hunter all my life. My Dad taught me how to shoot squirrels when I turned 10. Now I hunt deer every fall. What do you think I'd get out of reading your book?

Dwayne Hargrove, Salem, OR

Dear Dwayne,

I would be the first to admit that not everyone's going to enjoy reading *Exposing the Big Game: Living Targets of a Dying Sport*. Especially a life-long hunter. But here's how I'd like to imagine someone like you would react if you read it....

You don't want to believe it. The notion that animals are individuals rather than resources goes against everything you've ever accepted as truth. Reading on, you learn about the lives of those you've always conveniently depersonalized. Finally, it starts to dawn on you that animals--like the ones staring up from these pages--are fellow earthlings with thoughts, feelings and interests of their own. By the time you've finished the third chapter, your mind is made up to value animals for who they are, instead of what they are. Now your life is changed forever!

Suddenly you're enlightened and, like the Grinch, your tiny heart grows three sizes that day. You realize that the war is over, and the animals were never the enemy after all. You march over to the gun cabinet, grab your rifles, shotguns, bows, arrows, and traps, haul the whole arsenal out to the chopping block and smash it all to bits with your splitting maul. Next, you

gather up your ammo, orange vest and camouflage outfits and throw 'em all down the outhouse hole.

Returning to the book, you now face the animals with a clear conscience, vowing never to harm them again. You're determined to educate your hunter friends with these newfound insights and you rush out to buy them all copies of *Exposing the Big Game* for Christmas.

Uncle Jim

Dear C.A.S.H.,

We hunters have been doing a good job of managing deer overpopulation for years now. Where's the appreciation from you non-hunters? If you're not part of the solution, you're part of the problem.

Ralph, Bangor, Maine

Now hold it right there, Ralph! Which species of animal has the most out-of-control population in this country (or on the entire planet for that matter)? And no fair peeking in the mirror (unless you seriously want to address the problem). That's right, it's the species *Homo sapiens*. Assuming you consider yourself a human being, YOU are the problem!

Personally, I'd appreciate it if you would start managing your own population. As of this year, there are now EIGHT BILLION of us inhabiting this once wild and wonderful planet. Don't fool yourself into thinking we're in control of nature. We may be outnumbering and outgunning every other species, but in the end, we can't live without them. We've wiped out the natural predators, then appointed ourselves wildlife "managers" and "the mightiest

predators" in their place! Rather than trying to control nature, it's high time humans learned to live with her, if we want to go on living here at all.

Uncle Jim

Dear Uncle Jim,

You seem to know a lot about how your state game department operates. Did you ever think of working for them?

Pamela Walsh, Freeport, Connecticut

Dear Pam,

Back in college, as part of a misguided foray into the study of "Natural Resources Technology," I volunteered to help at a local Wildlife "Recreation" Area (as it was designated), in hopes of spending more time around animals. The first thing I was asked to do was go out to their pheasant pen and help herd some of the birds into a portable cage (which it turned out was going to be trucked over to a shooting zone and released as targets for hunters).

As 20 birds were being crammed into the cage barely big enough for 2, one of the frightened birds got away and flew off to the presumed freedom of the "refuge." But within seconds, a shotgun blast rang out. A hunter "recreationally" shot and killed the escaping pheasant before it could get safely away from the insane situation his comrades were being forced into.

Needless to say, I left and never returned to volunteer there again, and quickly abandoned all thoughts of working in the field of "wildlife recreation."

Uncle Jim

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 wildlife 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. Copies have been generously donated by Nancy Gordon of HAVE, an audio-visual company in Hudson, NY.



Luke Dommer

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.

HUMOR

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



"The taxidermist did a superb job of capturing the lion's rage."

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wildwatch@verizon.net

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Thank you for your support. Please visit:

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