

THE C.A.S.H. COURIER

THE COMMITTEE TO ABOLISH SPORT HUNTING

A DIVISION OF WILDLIFE WATCH, INC.

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Fall - Winter 2024/2025

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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C.A.S.H. Courier

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The Only "Ethical" Hunter is an Ex-Hunter

Text and Photos by Jim Robertson



PHOTO ©JIM ROBERTSON

The days are growing shorter, the nights cooler and you've long since polished the previous summer's velvet off your antlers. You're feeling primed and ready for the coming breeding season. But you're torn between the urge to seek out others of your kind and the nagging awareness that you shouldn't let yourself be seen by the strange upright beasts who sometimes turn fowl, aggressive and murderous this time of year.

Your mate and the rest of the does, whose company you yearn for, don't have quite as much to fear as you and the other bucks. At first sight of your proud antlers, the horrible 2-leggers will

zero-in and follow you like blood-thirsty mosquitos...

One of them has been on your trail all morning. You hear the cracking of a branch and run for the heavy cover of a spruce thicket, but you see him out of the corner of your eye and are sure he saw you too. Your heart is pumping hard and you're feeling panicky, but you know you must keep your head or risk making the wrong move.

Cautiously proceeding deeper into the forest, you lose track of the pursuer and hope he's gone away.

All at once you feel the searing pain of something tearing into

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Letter from the President

Dear C.A.S.H. Members and Supporters,

You've probably heard the cliché, "Every day is Earth Day to an environmentalist." Well, it's true actually, at least to a true environmentalist—the kind of person who makes daily choices based solely on their concern for our planet and the life it supports. The individual, for example, who chooses not to eat factory-farmed animals because of the enormous amount of abuse (not to mention its gargantuan carbon footprint) inherent in those Styrofoam and shrink-wrapped packages that clog the sprawling meat isles across the country; or the person who does not hunt because wild animals are a part of the living Earth he loves and respects.

Eager to look like the sensible ones, conventional environmentalists sometimes assume a wobbly, half-hearted stance of dismissing, rather than embracing, the animal rights movement. On the other hand, dedicated animal rights advocates don't shy away from calling themselves environmentalists. They know that only by adopting a vegan lifestyle can one truly be an environmentalist. Vegans understand that the Earth cannot sustain billions upon billions of hungry bipedal carnivores without human beings wreaking havoc on all the non-human animals and they recognize that the surest way to ease suffering for all is to eat lower on the food chain—in



keeping with our proven primate heritage.

Here at C.A.S.H. we are trying to educate people about the plight of our country's wildlife and nature itself via the C.A.S.H. Blog, C.A.S.H. Facebook page and through our website, updated daily with the numerous hunting accidents and violations happening daily this time of year.

Contrary to the wackiest of all their clichés, "hunters are the best environmentalists," is dead wrong. **Hunting is in fact the antithesis of environmentalism.** The very notion of the gas-guzzling, beer-can-tossing hunter as an environmentalist is laughable even to them. Show me a hunter who is not antagonistic toward the rights of animals and I'll show you a rare duck indeed.

Jim

Jim Robertson

President, the Committee to Abolish Sport Hunting

PHOTO ©JIM ROBERTSON

The Only “Ethical” Hunter is an Ex-Hunter *Continued from page 1*



PHOTO © JIM ROBERTSON

your side and a loud crack like thunder pierces the silence. You fall to the ground gasping for air. Someone is approaching, but you can't get up—the pain is all-consuming. He is standing over you now, pressing something sharp against your throat...

Everything is going black as you think back on Autumns past and envision your mate and the young ones...and you fear for their safety.

Clearly, from the deer's perspective, sport hunting is not an ethical pastime.

Since the dark ages of Descartes, certain people have tried to keep non-human animals down and justify their exploitation with the absurd and arrogant allegation that animals don't really care what happens to them because they aren't

capable of feeling, choosing, or perceiving—they aren't “conscious”.

Say what? What are they, unconscious?

To borrow a redneck phrase, I promise I'll never resort to again, 'that dog don't hunt!'

Regardless of the mindless carnage and the annual body count, even the mainstream media goes out of their way to help perpetuate the myth of the “ethical hunter.” But you're more likely to see a unicorn in a UFO land in the middle of a crop circle than to meet a hunter who is truly ethical to the animals he kills. How can tracking down an inoffensive creature and blasting it out of existence ever really be ethical anyway? No matter how a hunter may rationalize, or claim to give thanks to the animal's spirit,

the dying will never see their killer's acts as the least bit honorable.

I'm sure Ted Nugent considers himself an ethical hunter. Heck, Ted Bundy probably thought himself an ethical serial killer. But to their victims they're just murderous slobs. Likewise, Teddy Roosevelt—who, in his two-volume *African Game Trails*, lovingly muses over shooting elephants, hippos, buffaloes, lions, cheetahs, leopards, giraffes, zebras, hartebeest, impalas, pigs, the not-so-formidable 30-pound steenbok and even a mother ostrich on her nest—considered himself an exceedingly ethical hunter.

All hunters, whether they call their hobby an act of sport or subsistence, eat what they kill (or at least

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PHOTO © JIM ROBERTSON

give the meat away to others). Would Jeffrey Dahmer be considered ethical just because he ate those he murdered? Though some get more pleasure out of the dirty deed of killing than others, no hunter would even be out there doing it if they didn't get some joy out of the act of stalking and “bagging” their prey. But there are less destructive ways to get your kicks and healthier, less costly sources of nourishment than cholesterol-laden, carcinogenic rotting flesh.

Although they may not take trophies or photographs of themselves with their kill, nearly everyone who hunts gets some kind of a thrill when boasting about their conquest or sharing the spoils at the neighborhood barbeque.

Words like “heritage” and “tradition” are only as good as the deeds they sanctify. That's why there's no Slave-trader's Heritage Act or Indian-massacrer's Heritage Act—society has rightfully deemed those behaviors obsolete, at best. Yet, the Safari Club, the NRA and other pro-kill groups have been pushing the U.S. Senate to approve measures and amendments, such as the “Sportsmen's” Heritage Act of 2012.

This year, the state of Florida joined the ranks of those wanting to enshrine the right to kill recreationally. Their amendment 2 seeks to preserve forever “the “right” to hunt and fish, “...including by the use of traditional methods, as a public right and preferred means of responsibly managing and controlling fish and wildlife.”

But as Charles O'Neal, chairman of the opposition group NoTo2.Org points out, “customs and tradition are fine until one's undertakings result in the suffering or repression of others.”

When a “sportsman” tells a non-hunter, “I'm okay with you choosing not to hunt, so you should accept my choice to hunt,” it's like an unrepentant slave owner asking an abolitionist to accept his right to keep people enslaved.

Some activities just aren't worthy of being passed on to future generations. To enshrine hunting—the serial murder of wildlife that has led to decimation and extinction for so many—with a disgraceful act of Congress does not represent a step forward for humanity.

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Hunter Harassment: Who's Harassing Whom?

By Lucy McKernan

The following Commentary by Lucy McKernan was produced for **Progressive Perspectives** and reprinted with permission of **Tribune Content Agency LLC**.

Laws prohibiting the "harassment" of hunters are on the books across the United States. Often, in practice, they raise the question: Who's harassing whom?

In Pennsylvania, attorney Jan Haagensen was arrested for "hunter harassment" after telling hunters to stay off her property. Haagensen, ironically, was the one who called the police. The American Civil Liberties Union helped Haagensen overturn her conviction.

In South Carolina, trespassing by hunters with dogs made Kathy Andrews afraid to walk her sprawling rural lands. She attempted to collect evidence, finding a tracking device from a hunting dog's collar on her property. **Authorities tracked the device to where she worked and arrested Andrews for theft.** The charges were dropped when the county magistrate ruled that the collar had been obtained as evidence without a requisite search warrant.

Marquette University professor and documentary filmmaker Joseph Brown, who works with Wolf Patrol, a conservation movement that recognizes the role of citizens in developing wolf-management practices. Brown had his filming equipment seized by Forest County sheriff's deputies in Wisconsin, who believed Brown's footage included a hunter repeatedly bumping a member of Wolf Patrol with his pickup truck.

Brown and members of Wolf Patrol still fear arrest and have stopped filming, despite a circuit court ruling in Brown's favor. **It found that Wisconsin's hunter harassment laws indeed pose a chilling effect and violate the First Amendment.**

West Virginia and Michigan's hunter harassment laws stipulate that subsequent violations within two years can result in one year of jail time.

Legislators in Minnesota crafted legislation so that a person intending to violate cannot enter or



Hunting Dog Wearing GPS Collar

PHOTO BY KATHY ANDREWS

remain on public or private lands without property owner permission. A person can be arrested in Indiana if an officer "has reasonable grounds to believe" the person has engaged in or intends to engage in conduct on specific premises. Similarly, Arkansas hunters may obtain an injunction if they can show that their activities have been, and may be, threatened again.

In Ohio, I was arrested and put through criminal court for violating the state's vague hunter harassment statute. I was on the residential property of a close neighborhood friend, near where a permitted bow hunter sat in his treestand just 400 feet from a middle school and in close proximity to our homes in Seven Hills, Ohio. I was doing nothing when the police arrived and nabbed me.

Through records obtained through discovery, I learned that the arresting officer told the hunter, who was from out of state, to call his private cell if he felt bothered. That officer, solely responsible for inspecting hunting treestands and approving archery permits in our community, also hunted there. One month after my arrest, the hunter returned, impaled a deer, then lost track of her after she'd run out in front of my vehicle, pumping out blood, and disappeared.

Though I won on appeals because the required statement of facts was ignored at sentencing, the federal case that would have directly challenged the statute's unconstitutionality was lost, not on its merits, but due to counsel's neglect.

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PHOTO © JIM ROBERTSON

The following quote from Richard Wrangham and Dale Peterson’s book, *Demonic Males: Apes and the Origins of Human Violence*, is tailor-made for the likes of the Sportsmen’s Heritage Act: “To find a better world we must look not at a romanticized and dishonest dream forever receding into the primitive past, but to a future that rests on a proper understanding of ourselves.”

An enactment of Congress should always denote a societal advancement, rather than a stumbling step backwards.

Without a doubt, our species, *Homo sapiens*, has made some staggering achievements over the ages. No other animal has ever harnessed fire, split the atom, invented a religion or come up with a way to leave Earth’s atmosphere, travel through the void of space and land on the lifeless dust ball we call the moon.

Meanwhile, none of our bestial kin can be credited with singlehandedly changing the planet’s climate or causing a mass extinction.

And it can all be traced back to that fateful day when the first pre-human took to hunting, killing and eating other animals.

At that point in our distant past, early human ancestors, running around unclothed, with no worldly possessions to their name aside from maybe a bone or sharp rock, wouldn’t have been considered by anyone to be anything except bipedal primate mammals. But modern hominids, (often sporting bling, ear-buds, tattoos and clean-shaven heads), are seen as vastly superior specimens in many ways to our ancient ancestors. And yet, as full-fledged human beings, we’re killing the planet. Worse still, we know it.

But it doesn’t have to be that way.

There was a time, long before humans devised clever hunting tactics like digging pits for trapping mammoths or driving herds of terrified horses off cliffs, when we shared the land with a branch of now-extinct hominoids who lived a peaceful existence of plant eating, as the entire primate line always had.

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Hunter Harassment: Who's Harassing Whom? *Continued from page 5*

The year before my arrest, I had organized a community referendum against bow hunting. But the city quashed the board certified petition through a bogus "emergency ordinance." I filed a civil suit, and won on appeals.

Government protections of hunters keep people from speaking up or even using their own lands. I couldn't stop the police-protected, sanctioned violence against animals and people in my community. No one should have to.

Advocates for a preserved environment for wildlife should seek reform. State agencies should be restructured to include broad-based stakeholders, not just hunters.

Lucy McKernan writes about all things wildlife, including governance reform, conducts public presentations on bird conservation, and tutors rambunctious teenagers in the Cleveland area. This column was produced

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Janet Pizar, a wildlife protector in NJ, wrote a congratulatory letter to Lucy McKernan. She reported that, following her own arrest for hunter harassment, **Dr. Lynn Rogers** [the esteemed bear biologist known as the Jane Goodall of bears] told her that he was arrested for hunter harassment in the woods after a hunter shot a bear he knew, named Moses, and he called the hunter an ass.

The hunter had him arrested!

To read more about rural property owners who were abused under the oppressive Hunter Harassment Laws, please visit [Publications - C.A.S.H. Committee To Abolish Sport Hunting](#) and search for **Kathy Andrews, Jan Haagensen, Elizabeth O'Nan, and Hunter Harassment.**

The Only "Ethical" Hunter is an Ex-Hunter *Continued from page 6*

These gentle giants lived hand to mouth on seeds, nuts, fruit, roots, leaves, grasses and sedge, while the branch in our direct lineage began to acquire a taste for rotting flesh.

As the carnivorous line of hominid's developed and "improved" hunting skills they grew weary of carrion and began to prey on larger and larger prey, eventually wiping out enough of our fellow animal species to set in motion a mass extinction spasm that could soon lead to their own undoing.

There now are over eight billion humans on the planet today, most of whom consume mass quantities of animal products. Meat production is the greatest contributor to global warming, while hunting and fishing continues to reduce the Earth's biodiversity.

It's not too late to step back and say whoa to the madness of meat-eating. Millions of people worldwide are living proof that modern humans can live healthier and more sustainable lives on a plant-based diet like our earliest primate ancestors. Perhaps by collectively going vegan, the human species might still stand a chance of averting their own extinction.

Celebrated Canadian author, the late Farley Mowat,

in his forward to the autobiography, *Ocean Warrior*, by Captain Paul Watson (who currently languishes in a jail cell in Greenland for the alleged "crime" of trying to save whales by thwarting Japanese commercial whaling) wrote the following astute passage. Mowat's firsthand insight into the hunter mindset should lay to rest the myth of the "ethical hunter:"

"Almost all young children have a natural affinity for other animals...When I was a boy growing up on the Saskatchewan prairies, that feeling of affinity persisted—but it became perverted. Under my father's tutelage I was taught to be a hunter; taught that 'communion with nature' could be achieved over the barrel of a gun; taught that killing wild animals for sport establishes a mystic bond, 'an ancient pact' between them and us.

"I learned first how to handle a BB gun, then a .22 rifle and finally a shotgun. With these I killed 'vermin'—sparrows, gophers, crows and hawks. Having served that bloody apprenticeship, I began killing 'game'—prairie chicken, ruffed grouse, and ducks. By the time I was fourteen, I had been fully indoctrinated with the sportsman's view of wildlife as objects to

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The NYS DEC Confiscates Albert the Alligator

INTERVIEW WITH TONY CAVALLARO— GUARDIAN OF ALBERT THE ALLIGATOR

By Maureen Schiener

Even though it's been eight months since Albert was confiscated by the State of New York's Department of Environmental Conservation (and the SPCA serving Erie County), **Mr. Tony Cavallaro is still distraught, emotional, grieving, and angered by the intrusion of these two agencies into his home.**

According to Mr. Cavallaro, the DEC had informed him that double doors were a new requirement for Albert's enclosure so the animal wouldn't be able to escape. As he had invested thousands of dollars for Albert's living quarters, Tony contacted the DEC to request for Albert's home situation to be grandfathered in (since there was a small chance the alligator would escape). Tony did not hear back from the DEC, as they never responded after Covid in 2021.

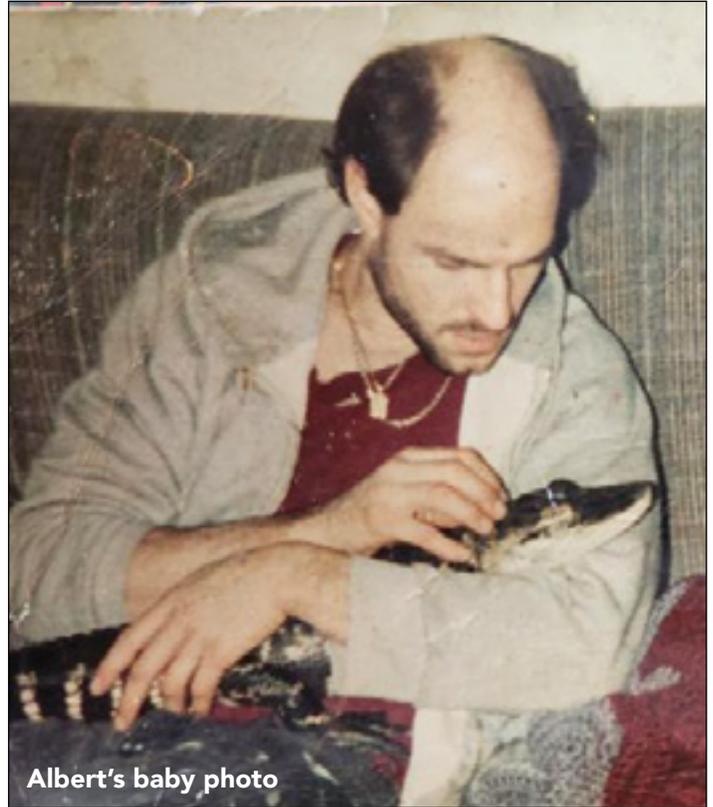


PHOTO COURTESY OF TONY CAVALLARO (ALBERT'S DAD)

Albert's baby photo



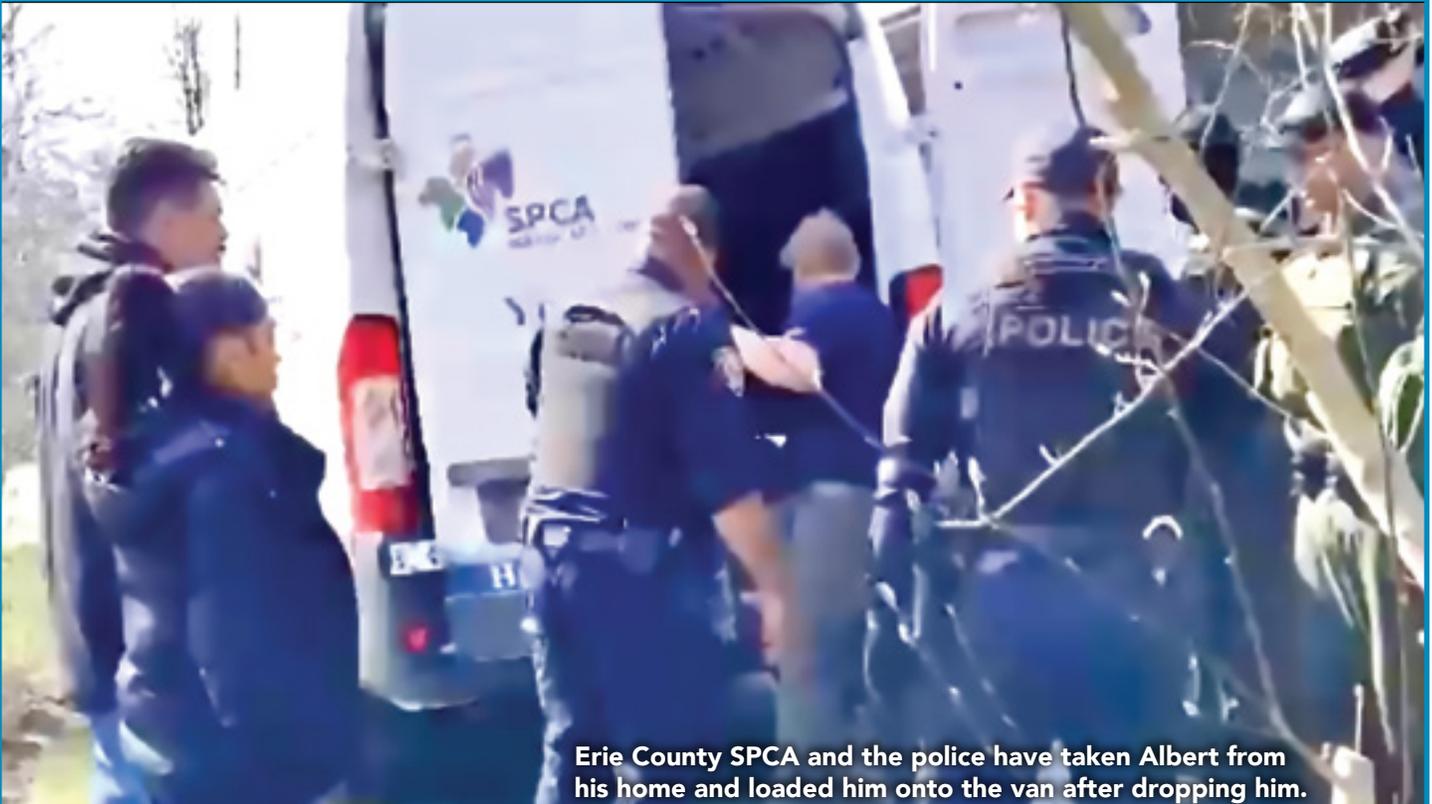
PHOTO COURTESY OF TONY CAVALLARO

Police and Erie County SPCA surround Tony Cavallaro's home.

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The NYS DEC Confiscates Albert the Alligator

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Erie County SPCA and the police have taken Albert from his home and loaded him onto the van after dropping him.

One day in March, 2024, as Tony was returning from vacation, he was blindsided by an onslaught of vehicles from law enforcement, fire department, the DEC, and the local SPCA. **They kept him in his kitchen while they searched his home, rummaging through drawers, taking his cell phone, breaking furniture in the process. Tony said the law enforcement had shotguns and wore full body armor. It was a very scary scene, as some neighbors took videos and photos. They confiscated Albert, taped his snout, put him on a stretcher, and according to Tony, dropped him in the driveway before placing him in the SPCA van—never to be seen again.**

The DEC claimed that after a period of “rehabilitation,” **Albert was transferred to a Texas theme park: Gator Country Rescue Park gatorrescue.com where they claim Albert was attended to and is kept separate from the others for his own safety.** Its website states: *Animal encounters, a unique experience offered here at Gator Country Adventure Park/Sanctuary. Kids and adults of all ages will have the opportunity to watch one of our three educational shows (weather permitting) and learn about our animals with a*

HANDS-ON experience. Each encounter includes the opportunity to hold the animal and have your picture taken with it, as well as spend some quality time with our college interns and our staff in a one-on-one environment.

Tony had bought Albert from a captive breeder when he was still in his infancy. He lived



Albert and Tony's mom greeting each other in the morning.

PHOTO COURTESY OF TONY CAVALLARO

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The NYS DEC Confiscates Albert the Alligator

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PHOTO COURTESY OF TONY CAVALLARO

Albert's relaxation room

with Albert for 34 years. Whether anyone feels the alligator should not have been purchased as a pet and kept in a suburban home for all those years, certainly a simple phone call or personal letter explaining new regulations should have sufficed...rather than sending a fleet of law enforcement to Tony's home, invading his privacy, using intimidation, and harming the very being he had taken care of and loved for 34 years! Tony is suing the DEC. You can follow him on Facebook here: [facebook.com/tony.cavallaro.313](https://www.facebook.com/tony.cavallaro.313)

Maureen Schiener is on the **League of Humane Voters New York** Planning Board and she is a board member of **People for Animal Rights (PAR)**. She lives near Tony Cavallaro's home and interviewed Tony for this article.



Albert's private pool

The Only “Ethical” Hunter is an Ex-Hunter Continued from page 7

PHOTO © JIM ROBERTSON



be exploited for pleasure.

“Then I experienced a revelation.

“On a November day in 1935, my father and I were crouched in a muddy pit at the edge of a prairie slough, waiting for daybreak.

“The dawn, when it came at last, was grey and somber. The sky lightened so imperceptibly that we could hardly detect the coming of the morning. We strained our eyes into the swirling snow squalls.

“And then the dawn was pierced by the sonorous cries of seemingly endless flocks of geese that came drifting, wraithlike, overhead. They were flying low that day. Snow geese, startling white of breast, with jet-black wing tips, beat past while flocks of piebald waxies kept station on their flanks.

An immense V of Canadas came close behind. As the rush of air through their great pinions sounded in our ears, we jumped up and fired. The sound of the shots seemed puny and was lost at once in the immensity of wind and wings.

“One goose fell, appearing gigantic in the tenuous light as it spiraled sharply down. It struck the water a hundred yards from shore, and I saw it had only been winged. It swam off into the growing storm, its neck outstretched, calling...calling...calling after the fast-disappearing flock.

“Driving home to Saskatoon that night I felt a sick repugnance for what we had done, but what was of greater import, I was experiencing a poignant but indefinable sense of loss. I felt, although I could not then have expressed it in words, as if I had glimpsed another and quite magical world—a world of oneness—and been denied entry into it through my own stupidity.

“I never hunted for sport again.”

Now that’s what I call an ethical (ex)hunter.

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

Irvington's Bow and Arrow Deer Cull

by Kiley Blackman



Near the end of March 2024, we received an email from an anonymous source, urgently requesting our assistance in Irvington, NY, because their local government was giving serious consideration to hiring a bow hunter. The reason given was that deer were 'eating the plants,' and they wanted to do this as soon as possible. The email read, **"We cannot think of a more inhumane way of destroying deer.** If residents are complaining about deer eating their landscaping, then perhaps the Village Board Members need to curb the construction of buildings that tear down wooded areas. The encroachment of more buildings and more people shrink the areas where wildlife live. What has happened to conservation of nature?" This person was very upset, especially over the barbaric solution the government chose to use. The mayor told residents birth control "doesn't work." The mayor also later stated that the NYS Humane Association never contacted him - which was shown to be untrue.

A link was provided from local press coverage, providing chilling quotes from residents such as one who 'deliberately ran over the deer and laughed about it.'

"In Irvington, Citizens Rise Up Against a Burgeoning Deer Population"

ADOW immediately reached out to Irvington officials and politely requested a meeting to discuss their wildlife management plans. We received a nasty note from the mayor in reply.

Westchester Village Urged to Use Humane, Non-Lethal Deer and Wildlife Management

See a video of the public hearing [here](#).

A Notice of Dangerous Condition was then served on Irvington. This Legal Notice states in part, "THE VILLAGE OF IRVINGTON is about to permit, or is currently permitting, a BOW AND/OR FIREARM HUNTING event, targeting (including but not limited to) deer, within the municipality. This may cause serious injuries to the general public as a result of "accidental" impaling, goring, shooting, or death to humans, along with emotional and psychological distress to the public and others who are traumatized by such violence, and additional risks exist including but not limited to the possibility of motor vehicle collisions with deer resulting from frightened or injured deer running into roadways." To learn more about the legal group, visit: [Legal Action Network for Animals](#)

The effort to stop future plans for this bow hunt continues. In 2024 we know that animals are sentient and intelligent. Irvington needs to do better: Irvington attempts to call itself a welcoming, environmental community run ethically - but it needs to try much harder to be welcoming and ethical, when its actions in fact reflect a blatant hatred of its wildlife neighbors. The days of just kill the wildlife as a solution are over: Please politely contact Irvington officials.

You can contact the board by visiting this website: irvingtonny.gov/Directory.aspx?did=3

Kiley Blackman is the founder of **Animal Defenders of Westchester**. She can be contacted via their website: ADOW.org

No Animal Deserves Misery *by Jim Robertson*



PHOTO © JIM ROBERTSON

Bison Sniffing Her Calf

Believe it or not, there is one thing I have to be thankful to hunters for. In trying to defend their brutality by pointing out the hypocrisy of my eating farmed animals, they inspired me to completely swear off meat.

That was over twenty-five years ago, and I haven't regretted going vegan for a moment since then. Not that there was anything profound in their observation, but I had to agree, there's no real ethical difference between eating wild "game" and animals bred and raised for food. And as a wolf and a pig are both on similar intellectual and emotional planes, how could I object to wolf hunting and trapping while chowing down on a BLT or bacon burger?

I hate to see a deer or elk shot, killed and carted off in the back of some hunter's pickup, but by the same token it's maddening to see cows loaded into a "livestock" trailer and shipped to the slaughterhouse. Deer, elk, bison or free-range cattle all have a comparable life experience and their untimely deaths are similarly harsh and unnecessary (especially unnecessary considering humans can and do get by quite happily and healthfully without eating meat). There are no factory farms in my vicinity, but there are cleared pastures where people raise cows for the market. (If you don't know what factory farms are—those nightmarish hellholes where most grocery store and restaurant meat is produced—please read up about them on one of the many great websites out there.)

At first glance a pastoral scene of cows moving freely about (within the confines of barbed wire or electric fences, of course) and grazing on grass may seem idyllic, but one recognizable sign of abuse is that their horns have been cut off and large, yellow or red plastic I.D. tags have been stapled into their ears. Another is the mournful mooing of a dairy cow whose newborn calf has been snatched from her and locked away in a tiny pen or veal crate. And let's not forget the cruelty of branding...

Any semblance of freedom ends the day they find themselves on a crowded, frightening drive to the stockyard in preparation for slaughter. Now suddenly cows who have never known confinement are being forced into a horrendous industrial plant, where the pervasive smells of blood and fear mixing with the sounds of other terrified animals and saw blades are the last things they'll ever experience.

Although we may suffer painful losses in the grueling battle to end sport hunting, by going vegan we can at least share in the satisfaction of knowing we no longer contribute to the miserable deaths of countless sentient beings.

Thanks for all you do for the animals,

Jim

Jim Robertson is the President of the Committee to Abolish Sport Hunting abolishsport hunting.org

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,
C.A.S.H. Would have us believe that hunting accidents happen all the time. Have you ever personally witnessed any of the type of hunting accidents you record on your website?*

Martin Everson, Topeka, Kansas

Dear Martin,

For twenty-some years I lived in a remote cabin on a gravel forest service road that dead-ended near a wilderness area boundary. Almost no one drove out that way and far fewer ever stopped in to visit, so I was surprised one autumn morning when a truck drove down my long, dusty driveway.

It turned out to be a young hunter who frantically explained that he had just shot his father-in-law (mistaking him for a deer) and asked to use my phone. I told him, sorry but the nearest telephone was at my neighbor's, two miles downriver. He raced off to call for an ambulance. But it was too late. Like so many hunting accidents, this one proved fatal for the victim.

It's a sad story that's played out again and again—a woman hiking a well-used trail on August 1st is shot and killed by a bear hunter; a forest worker is fatally shot by a nimrod who heard "rustling in the bushes;" an unpopular Vice President blasts his bird-hunting partner in the face with a shotgun—yet the perpetrators are almost never charged with manslaughter or any other lesser crimes. As long as they are "lawfully" hunting, the shooting of their fellow sportsmen, or an innocent bystander, is acceptable if not forgivable.

*Dear Uncle Jim,
A lot of us hunters wish we were born back in the pioneer days like the 1800s when there were so many wild animals around that we hunters could shoot to our hearts' content and not have to worry about game limits or endangered species. What could be wrong with that?*

Vern Trask, Cambridge, Alabama

Dear Vern,

"In my book, a pioneer is a man who comes to a virgin country, traps off all the fur[bearers], kills off all the wild[life]... cuts down all the trees, grazes off all the grass, plows the roots up, and strings ten million miles of bobwire. A pioneer destroys things and calls it civilization. I wish to God that this country was just like it was when I first saw it, and that none of you folks were here at all!"

That lament for a better time gone by was from Nineteenth-century Montana painter Charles M. Russell. Some may say he sounded a bit like an isolationist, but when you know how wonderful the natural world can be you start to resent people despoiling it.

No, Vern, I don't pine for the 1800s. The best that people like me, or Russell, can hope for is that someday all the animal abusers will move on to some other planet out there and leave the Earth to those of us who really care about it.

*Dear Uncle Jim,
How do you people at C.A.S.H. feel about bowhunting? Are you against it, or is it just hunting with guns that you're against?*

Trevor Barnes, Eugene, Oregon

Dear Trevor,

It's causing animal to suffer in the name of sport that we're against, and bow-hunting is in fact one of the cruelest Kill Methods in the sportsman's quiver,

A few decades ago, in Montana, I worked with a guy who was about as fanatic a hunter as you'll ever meet. Each year by early Autumn, he would be scheming his next deer kill—never missing an opportunity to slay another wild being.

The only time he spoke of regret was after he decided to try bowhunting for a season. He was hiding in a tree-stand over a deer trail (a popular strategy familiar to anyone recording or following hunting accidents), when a "nice" buck approached within range of his powerful compound bow.

But the steel tipped arrow he launched went right through the deer, who was able to get away, before dying somewhere—never to be recovered. Even the fanatical hunter was so sickened by what he'd done he swore off bowhunting from then on.

The point is, if you don't want to believe animal advocates that archery is the cruelest kill method in a hunter's quiver, take it from a die-hard "sportsman."

Just because it's quieter or somewhat safer for other recreationists, doesn't make bowhunting a reasonable, acceptable way to slaughter deer in city parks (or anywhere). And keeping non-consumptive users out of the woods so they won't witness the carnage is downright unfair to everyone except the would-be killers.

C.A.S.H. CATALOG

A Voice in the Wilderness

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Luke Dommer

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 donated by Nancy Gordon, founder of the former audio-visual company, HAVE.

HUMOR



ARTWORK © WILDLIFE WATCH; COURTESY OF CLIVE GODDARD

"The DEC advises hikers to stand out by wearing bright orange. I feel so much safer now!"

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*C.A.S.H. is grateful to
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