

# THE C.A.S.H. COURIER

THE COMMITTEE TO ABOLISH SPORT HUNTING

A DIVISION OF WILDLIFE WATCH, INC.

© 2024-25 BY WILDLIFE WATCH, INC. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Fall/Winter 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.*

### Wildlife Watch Inc.

a 501(c)3 Not-for-Profit Corporation.  
Contributions are tax-deductible.

C.A.S.H. Courier  
PO Box 562 New Paltz, NY 12561  
845-256-1400 - Phone  
wildwatch@verizon.net

Anne Muller - Editor

wildwatch.org  
abolishsport hunting.org

## INSIDE THE HUNTER'S MIND, REVISITED: A KILLER'S CONFESSION

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



Photo © Jim Robertson

*'Know thy Enemy' is a bit of ancient Chinese wisdom from the Sun Tzu, The Art of War. Not be confused with the sentiment, 'Love thy neighbor,' its underlying goal is to defeat your enemy, not to emulate or befriend it. Make no mistake. The enemy of C.A.S.H. is hunting.*

*As I write this it's 'General Deer Season' and although the bucks are wisely hanging out in the high country above the valley floor, I just heard a gunshot when I stepped outside that could easily have resulted in a hunting accident for any of us living in this sparsely populated area, including my dog, or people's horses and cows or the does and their fawns who call these foothills their home. The following is a fictionalized account, based on the many actual hunting accidents, that takes the reader inside a hunter's mind after one such tragedy...*

I can't believe I shot the boy. He was 12 years old, but I still called him Markey, and he called me Uncle Mel. He was growing up fast, and I was honored to take him out on his first deer hunt. His mother, my sister-in-law, bought him the standard safety equipment and Markey wore his orange vest religiously.

I don't know, I guess he must have been bent over to tighten up his new

boots (he had been complaining that they didn't fit him right), but all I saw was the thick brush we were hunting in moving like a deer would make them do.

We were following a nice buck we had seen earlier that morning. Its tracks were fresh wherever we found them and although I've killed plenty

*(Continued on Page 3.)*

# Letter from the President

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



As I write this, it's a historically significant day for the world of anti-hunters, especially for those keeping track of hunting accidents, as we here at the Committee to Abolish Sport Hunting do with keen interest in hopes that they may someday help bring about the group's stated goal. Today, November 3rd, 2025, will forever be known as the day that Richard Bruce Cheney met his maker at the relatively young age (by today's standards) of 84.

According to *People Magazine*, Dick Cheney, the 46th Vice President, "was widely considered the most powerful vice president in U.S. history, wielding significant influence in President George W. Bush's white house." Yet, few would argue that perhaps Dick Cheney's greatest claim to fame was his accidental shooting in the face, neck and torso of his 78-year-old hunting partner, Harry Whittington. Whittington had been retrieving a downed quail and scared up another covey, prompting VP Cheney to open fire.

Shooting his acquaintance that February day in southern Texas was a source of ridicule for him. And although he was known as a military hawk during his years as secretary of defense, Mr. Cheney purportedly considered the hunting accident "one of the worst" days of his life.

Meanwhile, countless other everyday sport hunters have had the worst days of *their* lives this hunting season as well. Many *literally* lost their lives and still others may have wished themselves dead, as 2025 is shaping up to be yet another banner year for hunting accidents.

Though precious few have received the kind of press that Vice President Cheney's hunting accident did, many were fatal and still others involved young people pushed into the sport possibly before they cared to be.

You can see the latest incidents for yourself on C.A.S.H.'s Hunting Accidents page at [abolishsport-hunting.org](http://abolishsport-hunting.org). There you'll find recent, clickable headlines, preceded by their state's postal abbreviation codes and learn of incidents such as, "ID: Riverside County Sheriff's lieutenant fatally shot by hunting partner," or "ME: Brewer woman shot while bird hunting in northern Maine," or "CO: Third hunter dies in South San Juan Wilderness." And in a couple of incidents reminiscent of the hypothetical scenario presented from a repentant hunter's point of view in my article, "A Killer's Confession" in this issue of the Courier, "IA: Iowa teenager killed in hunting accident" and "AL: Hunting Accident claims life of Englewood Elementary student."

And the list goes on and on. Clearly, Dick Cheney's famous hunting accident wasn't the first and won't be the last of its kind—at least not until society finds the courage to abolish sport hunting for the good of all. Meanwhile, stick with C.A.S.H. and we'll continue to do our best to get us there.

*Jim Robertson*

*President, Committee to Abolish Sport Hunting*

**A Killer's Confession** (Continued from Page 1.)

of deer throughout my life, this one had a rack of impressive antlers that anyone would have loved to claim as a trophy for their wall. I was thinking of mounting it head and all.

I should have let Markey harvest it for his first buck, but I didn't want to miss the chance and let it get away, so I took a shot. I knew it wouldn't be a clean kill-shot, but I figured it would drop the deer and give me a chance to go catch up and finish it off. What I found when I got there, I'll never forget for the rest of my days...

Instead of a prize buck, the pitiful sight of Markey's bloodied body will haunt me from this day on whenever I raise my rifle and sight through the scope. Now, rather than the elation of going to the bar and reliving the adventure by bragging about it to anyone who would listen, I'd have to face the boy's mother and explain why, after losing her husband—my brother—to a deadly fall from a tree stand a few hunting seasons back, she now would have to mourn the death of her first-born son as well.

It just doesn't seem fair that what should have been a proud moment shared with all who would appreciate the thrill of the hunt, I would now have something so embarrassing to try to live down. I had rehearsed the story over and over in my mind about how deer had gotten so overpopulated and had become a road hazard and that as a hunter we were doing society a favor by thinning the herd, but now I had to dread telling the story of a hunting accident to the



Photo © Jim Robertson

Sherriff, the press and anyone else who wanted to know about it. Instead of being a hero, I would now be seen as some kind of criminal. But hunting is legal, and I was just doing my part to share the experience with the younger generation so they wouldn't lose touch with an important tradition.

I know my hunting buddies will understand when I tell them about the accident and I expect to get a call from someone in the NRA or the Safari Club or one of the other hunting groups to coach me on what to say to the press, but I half expect to get some looks or hear people talking in hushed tones about me at the local grocery store until this thing blows over. As bad as

***"Instead of a prize buck, the pitiful sight of Markey's bloodied body will haunt me from this day on whenever I raise my rifle and sight through the scope."***

this all is, it would be worse if some animal rights or anti-hunting do-gooders got wind of it and tried to use it to stop hunting for good. Heck, for many of us, it's our favorite sport; we don't know what we'd do without hunting season to look forward to.

I can just hear some of their types saying that hunting is cruel and unnecessary and that we should just let the natural predators control the deer like they always have. Well, I'm sure there's a lot of reasons to keep on hunting. I can't think of them now, but I know we didn't kill off wolves and control cougars for nothing. The fact that it gives more game for us to hunt is reason enough. Aren't humans more important than wolves, bears or mountain lions? I wouldn't want to go on living if I wasn't better than those animals.

I remember one of the last things Markey said to me just the other day. He said, "Uncle Mel, why don't the non-hunters appreciate what we do to keep the deer numbers down?" I told him, "I don't know, Markey, they seem to have some

kind of hair-brained idea that nature can take care of itself without us. If that were true, I'd hang up my gun forever—which I don't plan to do, and I hope you don't ever either." "No sir," Markey told me, "Now that you showed me the ropes, I'll be out here hunting every fall for the rest of my life, like you."

***I just hope the boy's mother forgives me. Heck, I hope I can forgive myself.***

Besides some of the big bucks and bull elk I've shot over the years, that was one of the proudest moments in all my life.

As I crouched down to check for a pulse, which I couldn't imagine finding, I saw movement out of the corner of my eye and looked up to see the buck we were after glancing down at us from the top of a steep, snow-covered ridge. Although I know he couldn't possibly have been feeling it, it's almost like his expression was one of disdain—like he was thinking, 'You humans will kill anyone, even your own kind.'

The buck then turned away and crossed the ridge out of sight. I looked back at the boy, whose wound had bled out profusely, and who lay motionless and devoid of any sign of life, and I knew he was surely gone for good. I covered him up with my coat (I was too hot for it by then anyway). I then stood up, turned my back on the horrible scene and took a step or two away. Time seemed to be moving slowly as I pulled my 'smartphone' out of my pocket and dialed 911. The sheriff's dispatcher told me they'd send a helicopter out and I should keep my phone on so the ambulance crew could locate me. As I hung

up, I thought about the fact that wildlife don't have the chance to be rescued—when they're shot, their life is over, no matter how long it takes for them to die.

The whole situation was turning ugly, and I found myself thinking that maybe this would be my last hunting season. It just isn't worth it to put so many others through so much for a sport or hobby. Maybe I should switch to hiking. That's the only real exercise you get from sport hunting anyway, besides packing out the meat from a kill, which can be treacherous when you have to posthole through fresh snow, or over blowdowns with a heavy pack on your back.

Heck, my buddies at the bar will understand if this is my last hunting season, and if they don't then maybe they weren't my true friends after all. And to hell with the Safari Club and the NRA. They're just a bunch of Trump supporters and I usually vote Democrat anyway. Maybe predators can keep the deer populations in check without me and Markey's help. They'd been doing a pretty good job without human hunters for millions of years before we came along. And if folks would just slow down—and if there were fewer cars on the roads—there wouldn't be so many accidents involving deer. Truth be told, we weren't really hunting to help anyone else but ourselves anyway.

I'm hearing the helicopter now, coming up from the wide valley below. At least I won't have to pack out Markey's body—that would make this whole thing even more depressing. I just hope the boy's mother forgives me. Heck, I hope I can forgive myself. It might be good time to join C.A.S.H. and become an anti-hunter to try to redeem myself...

*Now before you go thinking that C.A.S.H. has lost its mind, dear reader, I can assure that we're well aware that this scenario was an unlikely bit of fiction. Sad to say, most hunters wouldn't have come to the same conclusion as the fictional character 'Mel' did here. If they did, we'd have been done with the problem of sport hunting years ago.*

*As you'll see on the Hunting Accidents page at our website, thousands of people have been senselessly shot during the act of hunting and, so far, it hasn't resulted in a cessation of the sport. Hunters just assume a defensive fallback position of rationalization and justification—the classic bastion of the average serial killer and other psychopaths plaguing our society. There doesn't really seem to be a lot of deep thinking or regret going on in the minds of hunters about what they shoot.*

*If anything, it's helped the industry with the likes of the aforementioned pro-hunting groups receiving even more in the form of generous donations from deep-pocketed 'sportsmen' who dread the end of hunting worse than they might secretly fear the possibility of causing or being the target of a hunting accident.*

*Not that they think it would be worth getting shot over, but many of them think of sport hunting as some kind of sacred duty bestowed on them by a higher power. I hate to burst their bubbles, but the only powers who condone killing for pleasure dwell not in Heaven, but in the depths and dark recesses of the netherworld. I'm sorry to say, but there's nothing in the least bit sacred about the sport.*

---

**Jim Robertson** is the President of C.A.S.H. He's the author of *Exposing the Big Game: Living Targets of a Dying Sport*. You can order Jim's book on Amazon.

# FOCUS ON THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION (DEC)

by Kiley Blackman



Photo by Nikola Tomašić on Unsplash

Several years ago, Animal Defenders of Westchester started looking into the massive pro-hunting push by the NYS Dept of Environmental Conservation. We recently decided to confront this issue head-on by forming a team of humane advocates and wildlife rehabilitators. This team consisted of members of Wildlife Watch, the League of Humane Voters, the Swan Squad, NY4Wildlife, the Lights Out Coalition, Humane Long Island, and Animal Defenders of Westchester. **The impetus was the absolutely needless, brutal killing by the DEC of Peanut and Fred, two animals who lived their entire lives in an upstate rescue.**

[P'Nut the Squirrel was 'marked for death' and decapitation from the start — as rabies test results reveal tragic twist | New York Post](#)

Some items we discussed with DEC reps were the annual DEC-managed pheasant hunt, where baby birds are hand-raised by volunteers, then released in what is essentially a canned hunt. The DEC

refers to it as a 'training tool for future hunters. Yet, the need for the DEC to patrol and fine violators who dump fishing trash in public parks, leaving hooks and monofilament line to injure and kill birds and other wildlife is without concern. My goal is to get a non-hunter on the DEC advisory board, an issue that's being fought all over the country. This was the first of what will be ongoing meetings with the DEC.

During this time, the NYS Legislature almost unanimously approved a Crossbow Bill that was immediately signed by Governor Hochul. Not long before that, the Governor had vetoed a Wildlife Crossing Bill that would have saved people and animals from car collisions! The Crossbow Bill, a particularly

brutal weapon, denounced by many 'traditional' hunters, expands hunting into Westchester and Long Island and was authored by Senator Peter Harckham, who also presents himself as an animal lover. We called on Sen. Harckham to "act like the people's representatives and not just a de facto extension of the DEC." See my letter on Page 7 at this link: <https://yonkerstimes.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/11/westchester-oct-31lr.pdf>

There is a new NYS 'mentoring' bill, S1153, designed to lower the hunting age to ten years old! It states, **"As the number of hunters in NYS has significantly declined, we must find new ways of connecting interested people with experienced hunters."** (Bold mine). Even the 'revered' NPR got into the act, bemoaning the decline as a 'crisis for protecting wildlife'!!

We encourage animal advocates to not let politicians and the public scapegoat deer with the 'deer eating trees and plants' nonsense or

for any other reason: We destroy forests and plants; the entire NY state was 'trees and plants - till we destroyed them...and will keep destroying them every

***"My goal is to get a non-hunter on the DEC advisory board, an issue that's being fought all over the country."***

time we want more housing - or yet another shopping mall: There are several hundred 'ghost malls' - abandoned malls in the U.S. that 'destroyed trees and plants,' including in Yonkers, NY, where almost 90 acres of trees and

plants were destroyed to make a new mall - despite there being another one a mile away! And please, don't let anyone refer to the hunting of any animals euphemistically as "harvesting," "taking," "managing," "culling," etc.

**PLS NOTE: After the enactment of the Crossbow Bill, we learned that Somers, NY, had opted out of this disgrace, saying, "We're allowed to have our own rules and right now this (hunting) program doesn't allow crossbows."**

<https://news.halstonmedia.com/yorktown-news/stories/somers-upholds-crossbow-ban-at-angle-fly.43406>

In early October we reached out to Westchester County Executive, Ken Jenkins, to request he opt out of this bill in Westchester also, stating it "poses serious and avoidable liability, safety and related issues;" Jenkins has promised to look into it. Pls take a moment

to contact CE Jenkins and politely request he follow Somers' lead by opting out of this cruel, needless bill:

**EMAIL:** Westchester County Executive Kenneth Jenkins  
kjenkins@westchestercountyny.gov

**CC:** Diane Toledo, Jenkins' confidential Secretary  
DToledo@westchestercountyny.gov

Animal advocacy is a long race, not a short one; thank you for staying in this exhausting yet rewarding race!

**Kiley Blackman, Founder**

**ANIMAL DEFENDERS OF WESTCHESTER**  
[www.ADOW.org](http://www.ADOW.org)

**Like us on Facebook:**  
[www.Facebook.com/westchester4geese](http://www.Facebook.com/westchester4geese)

## SPIKES HURT PIGEONS



At the end of July, Wildlife Watch was contacted by two young American music students who were studying in Italy for the summer. They were shocked by the spikes that were placed above doorways to keep pigeons from landing. This one pigeon became impaled on the spikes and was left to die. They had a performance to give the following evening, and yet they spent the entire day reaching out to help the suffering pigeon who was in full view above an entry to the building. Not having lists of wildlife rehabbers in Italy, we contacted a friend who was fluent in Italian so she could talk to the management of the building. Though we didn't hear what ultimately happened, we are certain that with their perseverance, they were able to get help for the pigeon.

Despite their sometimes negative reputation, pigeons are another animal trying to survive during a difficult time for wildlife. **At least they deserve to be treated humanely and receive care when needed.**

This link shows how pigeons are impacted by just walking around in urban environments:

[The Parisian woman protecting pigeons' toes.](#)



# NYS CROSSBOW BILL: THE UNQUESTIONED ENACTMENT OF AN AWFUL LAW

by Rebecca Sunshine



Deer shot with a crossbow. | Sent to Wildlife Watch by a distressed caller.

[Amazon.com : Killer Instinct Fierce 405 Crossbow Package. The Fierce 405 is The Best Crossbow for Hunting Whether You're A Seasoned Veteran Or Training Your Kids for Their First Time Out. : Sports & Outdoors](#)

This August, a sneaky and dangerous bill was enacted in New York State that expanded the use of crossbows for hunting deer and bears. This bill, backed by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and hunting groups, removed restrictions on crossbows that now allow them to be used during regular archery seasons as well as the regular firearms season that started on Nov. 15th. [Crossbow Hunting Changes: Questions and Answers](#). (See the third question!) Some traditional archery hunters have expressed concern about their safety due to potentially greater numbers of crossbow hunters,

newer hunters, and the fact that little to no training is needed, as crossbows have gun-like triggers.

Under the guise of equal opportunity, there is a monetary motivation: more hunting licenses sold! The DEC hopes that crossbows that shoot bolts at greater range with just the pull of a trigger, and require little training and strength, will attract more women, children, seniors, and the handicapped to the gruesome "sport" of killing wild animals.

Crossbows are powerful, deadly weapons that have been used in serious crimes, yet they do not require the same background checks as firearms. That is bad enough, but the fact that this bill passed so quickly in both houses, with so little opposition, was another gut punch. Only two senators out of 63, and two assembly members out of 150 voted "Nay." Shockingly, even legislators who had been reliable animal

advocates were among those who voted for the Crossbow Bill!

Though we don't know what went on behind the scenes, the bill's likely success is, in part, due to the fact that the Chair of the Senate Environmental Conservation Committee happened to be the Crossbow Bill's sponsor!

When some legislators were asked why they voted for the bill, one responded that he had received memos of support from a number of environmental organizations. As we know, many "conservationists" condone hunting, and support the DEC's goals by influencing public opinion.

Normally, it's a long, tedious process for a bill to pass into law. Many good bills languish on Governor Hochul's desk despite strong lobbying campaigns by their supporters. Yet, she signed the Crossbow Bill in a flash.

Due to the large number of assembly members, getting sufficient votes for a bill to pass is particularly difficult. Yet this one passed quickly and almost unanimously!

We see with the Crossbow Bill that when the powers that be (in this case, the DEC) want something done, it happens seamlessly! When it comes to harming animals, there is often little to no debate!

---

*Rebecca Sunshine is a staunch protector of wildlife who was shocked by how easily the awful Crossbow Bill became law. You can contact Rebecca through [wildwatch@verizon.net](mailto:wildwatch@verizon.net) Please put "NYS Crossbow Bill" in the subject line.*

# WHICH ONE IS THE BAD GUY, BOW OR THE DEC?

by Anne Muller, Pres. Wildlife Watch

## QUESTION 1: SO, WHO'S THE BAD GUY?

- A) The Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC)
- B) The Bureau of Wildlife (BOW)
- C) Both

## QUESTION 2: IF YOU CHOSE C, WHICH IS WORSE?

- A) BOW
- B) DEC

### Read below before answering the questions:

If we simply Google the NYS DEC, we will see that it contains numerous divisions. Just take a look at the DEC's Organization Chart

If we want to stop hunting, we need to clarify, both for ourselves and others, the entity that is connected to the excise tax on firearms, ammunition, bows and arrows, and crossbows and bolts.

That entity is not the DEC (the entire agency), it's BOW and BOW's divisions: the "Large Game Management Unit," and the "Small Game Management Unit."

**I propose that, both in our speaking and writing, BOW be isolated from the DEC for clarity and to pick up support from the public, politicians, and possibly, at some point in time, from the DEC itself.**

**BOW is truly a rogue division of government** that works hand in glove with the weapons industries. Those weapons are firearms, ammo, bows, arrows, and crossbows and bolts. Their role is to overpopulate certain species for hunting, blame the overpopulation on the animals, and motivate the purchase of weapons to be used on animals as the only solution to keep populations down.

Yes, they are given cover, protection, and gloss by being referred to as "the DEC," which is a sprawling government agency whose purpose is to protect the environment.

**As you can see in the organization chart, the DEC has many divisions, most of them are helpful to the general public, and the DEC has huge public support. To attack the DEC, of which the Wildlife Bureau is only a small, self-serving part, is going to bring more opposition to our position. What is our position? Hunting and the management of wildlife for hunting has got to stop.**

Why? It's barbaric, proliferates firearms and other weapons, and causes harm to the public.

It's true that the DEC is the **protector** and cover for this rogue division, and usually its mouthpiece. It's true that the DEC Commissioner's photo, along with an introductory statement of blessing appears in every issue of the blood curdling *NYS Hunting and Trapping Guide*. And it's true there's much that still needs to be uncovered and understood in the connection between the larger agency and BOW. But, what we do know now about BOW should be enough to call for booting this private malevolent enterprise out of government.

First, while New Yorkers are lobbying non-stop against gun violence and lax gun laws, **BOW IS THE ONLY ENTITY THAT BENEFITS FROM GUN VIOLENCE AND THE PROLIFERATION OF FIREARMS AND AMMUNITION. BOW functions to both help and be helped by the weapons industries.** Is any other government entity in partnership with a private industry that benefits **only** the industry and that government entity?

How does BOW financially connect with the firearms and archery industries?



Deer shot with a crossbow. | Sent to Wildlife Watch by a distressed caller.

There is an excise tax (called the Pittman-Robertson tax) on all firearms and ammo, crossbows and bolts, and bows and arrows. (Military and police firearms do not incur the tax.)

The excise tax is collected at the point of manufacture or import and goes to the US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) to apportion the excise tax to the states (and territories) based on the number of hunting licenses they sell and the area of the state.

The state may only use its apportionment to create "hunting opportunity," which leads to more purchases of firearms, ammo, bows, arrows, and bolts. [As an aside, this leads to more investigation about whether P-R funds can be used by other divisions of the DEC (forestry for example), to manipulate habitat for increasing populations of deer or other huntable wildlife.]

What the public should understand is that every shooting in NYC is committed with a firearm and ammunition that carried the excise tax, and that excise tax is apportionment must be turned over to wildlife managers to create more hunting **or more use of the weapons**. Not a penny can be used for hospital care or burials of victims.

For every bullet that killed or injured a person in New York City, game managers financially benefit! **Their job**

**is to continue to serve the weapons industry by turning our wildlife into targets.**

**Let's look at how the firearms excise tax differs from the other well-known excise taxes on Alcohol and tobacco:**

**The excise taxes on alcohol and tobacco go to the General Fund of the state or to a special fund that can be used for education or health needs, or for help to GIVE UP smoking or drinking! Uniquely, the weapons excise tax MUST BE USED TO CREATE MORE USE OF THE PRODUCT!!**

Imagine if the excise tax on alcohol or tobacco were used by a dedicated government bureau - the "Bureau of Alcohol," or the "Bureau of Tobacco," - whose purpose is to increase drinking and smoking for the sake of those industries. It's laughable!

**Now, please take the quiz above!**

## HUNTING IS BLATANT ANIMAL CRUELTY

A call came to the Wildlife Watch hotline from woman in Ulster County, NY, who said that she saw a deer with an arrow in him. The unfortunate deer was outside her house in the Village of New Paltz, a densely packed university town. She reported that the arrow had a green glow at the end, and "yes," she was fortunately able to get a photo.

We don't know where he was shot, but he was found on the first day of firearms hunting. **A check revealed that crossbows can be used during the regular firearms season.** [dec.ny.gov/sites/default/files/2025-08/crossbowqanda.pdf](https://dec.ny.gov/sites/default/files/2025-08/crossbowqanda.pdf) (See the third question.)

We gave the caller the number of a deer rehabilitator and a veterinarian who is also a wildlife rehabilitator.

The deer rehabilitator told her that there were regulations preventing her from helping adult deer; we are waiting to hear from the veterinarian.



Deer shot with a crossbow. | Sent to Wildlife Watch by a distressed caller.

Ask

# Uncle Jim

by Jim Robertson



## GOT A QUESTION FOR UNCLE JIM?

You can e-mail it to: [wildwatch@verizon.net](mailto:wildwatch@verizon.net)

### WOULD YOU RATHER SNAIL MAIL YOUR QUESTION?

Send it to: C.A.S.H., PO Box 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,

Looking through the list of Hunting Accidents on the C.A.S.H. website, I see that a fall from a tree stand is one of the most common accidents for every year recorded. Why do you suppose there are so many hunting accidents involving tree stands?

Lynn G., Springfield, MA

Dear Lynn,

I would say that the main reason hunters are falling from tree stands left and right is because humans are not arboreal—they're a ground-dwelling species. Large animals, like leopards, who spend so much of their time in trees, have claws for climbing and long tails to help them keep their balance.

Hunters want to have their cake and eat it too. They want to pretend they're essential natural predators, yet they supplement their kills with food of all groups from grocery stores, buy the finest all-weather clothing and safety equipment to bring along with them on their forays into the wilderness (or at least, away from their creature comforts) and never leave home without their smartphones so they can call for help whenever anything goes awry (which, judging by the growing number of high-cost rescues they receive, are practically everyday events for them).

If they want to be considered true predators, like lions, wolves, or polar bears, hunters need to de-evolve and grow claws, fur and maybe a tail (preferably prehensile). Otherwise, they're like a bunch of clowns, sitting up in trees, their butts on lawn chairs until gravity teaches them a lesson they'll never forget—if they're lucky enough to live through the experience.

Until then, they should try to stay safe and sane and find themselves another sport to play.

Uncle Jim

DEAR UNCLE JIM,

I support C.A.S.H. in their attitudes towards deer hunting, but don't you at least agree that hunters are necessary for controlling all the invasive species you hear so much about lately?

Stan E., Toledo, OH

Dear Stan,

That's an interesting question coming from a member of hands down the most invasive species on the planet doing the most damage ever caused by one species since the dawn of time. But I assume you're referring to the "lesser creatures" like mute swans or barred owls that hunters are gearing up to gun down.

Cormorants too are being targeted for the sake of sport fishermen. Ironically, it seems humans have a special hatred for any species—besides their own—that are successful in this world, yet as they've learned, nature (temporarily) rewards any species who've found a way to thrive.

But don't encourage the swell-headed hunter crowd that they're useful or necessary in any way, shape or form. Mass-killing is never the answer for anything, even for "unwanted" animals who they conveniently stereotype as "invasives," or think of as competition.

One more thing about the overused word, "invasive." Nearly every species now labeled as such was brought to this continent by humans, often expressly for the sole purpose of sport hunting. Wild boars leap to mind. Although their eradication efforts enjoy nearly universal public support, individuals of that species during those hunts suffer even more cruelty than the average "game" species and their deaths are often tallied in the high dozens during contest hunts. Attitudes towards invasives can't be good for any overly successful species who pride themselves as being civilized.

Uncle Jim

DEAR UNCLE JIM,

What can you tell me about CWD and how do you think it will affect the future of hunting?

Chester H., Fargo, ND

Dear Chester,

Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) is a deadly, incurable transmissible spongiform encephalopathy caused by an infectious prion, or misfolded protein. It was first discovered in a captive deer herd in Colorado in 1967 and spread to wild elk by 1981. CWD is related to mad cow disease which came about when cattle in feed lots were given a feed mixture that included powdered animal parts. I suspect that captive deer were given a similar feed, meant to stimulate fast growth in commercial animals.

Worse, even, than Charlton Heston's character leaning that Soylent Green was made from people, ungulate's reaction to the cannibalistic food sources causes them to stumble, walk in circles and sleep for excessively long periods of time. They can go on like this for up to a year but always die soon after that.

The question of how it will affect hunters is tricky, because the symptoms can mimic the effects of too much beer or bourbon and hunting season seems to inspire excessive consumption of these substances by tradition, assumably to further deaden the consciences of "sportsmen" and inspire their urge to kill.

CWD is transmitted through contact or consumption of an infected carcass (venison, anyone?) and cooking does not inactivate the CWD prion. Bon Appetit but be careful what you eat.

Uncle Jim

## C.A.S.H. CATALOG



Luke Dommer

### ***A Voice in the Wilderness***

Videotape approx. 20 min.  
\$12.00 | \$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 donated by Nancy Gordon, founder of the former audio-visual company, HAVE.*

# HUMOR



Artwork © Clive Goddard

"Well, I'm thankful that none of us has been shot."

## 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.*

***C.A.S.H. is grateful to the Mary T. and Frank L. Hoffman Family Foundation for hosting the C.A.S.H. website.***

## CONTACTS:

**Jim Robertson, President**

[exposingthebiggame@gmail.com](mailto:exposingthebiggame@gmail.com)

**Anne Muller, Editor, C.A.S.H. Courier**

[wildwatch@verizon.net](mailto:wildwatch@verizon.net)



**Wildlife Watch, Inc.**  
**C.A.S.H. Committee To Abolish Sport Hunting**  
 PO Box 562  
 New Paltz, NY 12561  
 Phone: (845) 256-1400 Fax: (845) 501-3175  
 wildwatch.org  
 abolishsporthunting.org



Nonprofit Org.  
 U.S. Postage  
**Paid**  
 Newburgh, NY  
 Permit No. 473

-----  
 Cut out along this dotted line if returning order form

**PLEASE CLIP OUT AND MAIL IN THE ENCLOSED REMITTANCE ENVELOPE:**

**YES, I WANT TO HELP THE COMMITTEE TO ABOLISH SPORT HUNTING END THE WAR ON WILDLIFE:**

- I AM HAPPY TO BECOME A **Basic Plus Member for \$50**
- I will receive return address labels, and newsletter.
- I am happy to become a **Basic member for \$35**
- I will receive the C.A.S.H. newsletter and return address labels.
- I am happy to contribute but cannot become a member now
- I would like to make an additional contribution for Wildlife Watch

C.A.S.H. accepts MasterCard or Visa:

Card #: \_\_\_\_\_ CVV Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**All donations are tax-deductible.**

You can also pay through PayPal at [abolishsporthunting.org](http://abolishsporthunting.org) link to "Donate" **Thank You!**

**C.A.S.H. CATALOG ORDER BLANK**

Description	Qty	\$ Each	\$ Total

Subtotal: \_\_\_\_\_

Shipping and Handling: \_\_\_\$5.00: \_\_\_\_\_

NYS residents must add appropriate sales tax: \_\_\_\_\_

Additional contribution  
 to help C.A.S.H. carry on its work: \_\_\_\_\_

**Total:** \_\_\_\_\_

You can now pay with: MC/Visa.

Credit Card #: \_\_\_\_\_

Expir. Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Street: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City: \_\_\_\_\_  
 State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Day Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Eve Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_  
 E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Special Instructions: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Ship to address below (if different from above):  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**Please make checks payable to: C.A.S.H. or Committee to Abolish Sport Hunting or Wildlife Watch, Inc.**