

THE C.A.S.H. COURIER

THE COMMITTEE TO ABOLISH SPORT HUNTING

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Spring/Summer 2020

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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COVID-19 AND THE PANDEMIC OF HUNTING

BY JIM ROBERTSON PRESIDENT, C.A.S.H.



It must be hard to stay socially distant when your favorite social activity is huntin'. Sure, being in the great outdoors is good for one's soul or spirit, or whatever, but why does it have to include taking an innocent life. Well, the fact is, it doesn't. You can get a lot more in touch with Nature or your inner self without focusing or fixating on trying to kill an animal (unless, of course, you happen to be a psychopath).

But, rather than encouraging folks to get out there and take a hike in the woods or wilderness, most state game departments (possibly fearing their cushy—nonessential—jobs would dry up otherwise) encouraged folks to

go out and hunt turkey or trap otter or whomever else they'd created a nonessential season on.

But, it's hard for sport hunters to keep their social distance, as evidenced by how many turkey hunters shot each other (in the face or the back of the heads) just this spring, when they should have been on lockdown. Some of the hunting accidents hit two victims at once (you can't be too socially distant if that happens) and some were fatal, involving 11 year old boys. (That's just off the top of my head—there were so many to keep track of...). [Visit the C.A.S.H. website our reported accidents <http://abolishsport hunting.org/hunting-accidents/>]

Please see HUNTING Page 3

Letter from the President

Dear CA.S.H. Members, supporters and fellow anti-hunters,

There's been a lot of enthusiasm for C.A.S.H.'s Hunting Accident reports lately, both on our blog:

<https://committeetoabolishsportshunting.wordpress.com/> and Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/Committee-to-Abolish-Sport-Hunting-CASH> with lots of fitting comments by members there.

The New Year started out with a bang...sadly, *literally* for some. (Admittedly, it's hard not to sound inured when reporting on the facts about such a violent blood-sport as hunting clearly is.) For instance, a father and his 9-year old daughter tragically found themselves face to face with "friendly" fire—leaving them among the many victims of Hunting Accidents added to C.A.S.H.'s ongoing list at our Website. www.abolishsportshunting.org. Part of a "deer drive," an unofficial team hunt in which some hunters—in this case, including the father and young daughter—try to "herd" deer toward the waiting guns of other hunters. But, as so often happens when guns are loaded and blood is up, things didn't go quite as planned. Shockingly, the "herders" met the same fate of so many deer this time of year... On the first day of January, 2020, they became just another statistic, and the subject of this 911 call from their accidental shooter:

"Oh my God, no please, I think I shot somebody," he told the operator...

"I shot through some bushes. I thought it was a deer, I ***** shot them," the caller said.

"You said someone was shot? Was it you that got shot?" the 911 operator asked.

"No, no, no it was my buddy and his daughter I think man, oh my God," the caller responded.

"Is he breathing at all?" the operator asked.

"No. I don't think so man. I don't know man, I can't even tell," the caller replied.

"Was his daughter shot?" the operator asked.

The caller answered that he thought so, adding no one was moving.

The gun used in the shooting was a 12 gauge shotgun (a formidable weapon for any man, or girl, or deer to meet up

with).

No matter how much the pro-hunting faction would like to deny, distort or colorize the growing menace of heavily-armed hunters plaguing the fields and woodlands in search of sport-prey, while sending bullets flying at every sound or movement they happen upon, 2019 was yet another banner year for hunting-related accidents and deaths. Despite nearly a dozen cheerful articles in New York papers declaring that states' stats for hunting accidents were down compared to previous years, such as 1966—when 166 hunting accidents resulted in 13 fatalities—a **quick check on C.A.S.H.'s list of Hunting Accidents reveals the somber truth about casualties of the bloody sport there.**

Meanwhile, other states have had their share of noteworthy, needless hunter-caused deaths last year, including some surprisingly young participants—a seven year old boy is shot by his father while they were out hunting rabbits on Thanksgiving day, also in South Carolina. The oft-cited consolation that the boy's organs were donated to others could not make up for the terrible loss of such a young child.

Not to be outdone, Idaho lost nine hunters representing four generations—an extended family of pheasant hunters, including some as young as seven or eight years old—when a chartered plane crashed in South Dakota while traveling for a hunting trip on December 2nd. Clearly the sport's not all fun and games for everyone involved.

I hope you all stay well during these tough and trying times.

Jim

Jim Robertson

President, the Committee to Abolish Sport Hunting



SOME HIGHLIGHTS OF WHAT WE'VE BEEN UP TO

- Working with LOHV-NY® on stopping killing contests in NYS
- Working through LOHV-NY to remove general funds from state bureaus of wildlife tied to the firearms industry
- Launched petition for above
- Fielding hundreds of calls about injured and orphaned wildlife. Advising callers and locating rehabilitators across

the US

- Sleuthing and posting hundreds of hunting accidents
- Wrote comments opposing expanded hunting opportunity at the Montezuma Wildlife Refuge
- Wrote comments opposing the expansion of hunting and opening up of hunting on national wildlife refuges

....AND MUCH MORE!

HUNTING

Continued from page 1

Some hunters may have been fearing a meat shortage, since so many workers in slaughterhouses and packing plants were coming down with Coronavirus, but that has never translated to empty shelves at the grocery stores. If anything, the price for fresh-foods went down during the crisis. Far be it from the federal government to subsidize Beyond Meat or some other plant-based, high protein “meat” items out there that hungry people could learn to eat.

But, rather than being consistent with people's need to stay home and stay safe, hunting is being billed as an essential (if not sacred) activity that



Photo © Jim Robertson

hardware, grocery stores and gas stations should stay open to supply. The often inaccurate tests take time and Covid-19 takes 2 weeks for symptoms to show, so we don't yet know how many people caught it while on hunting or fishing forays. But one thing is certain—no-one needs to get sprayed with lead from a recreational shotgun blast at a time like this, when so many others are taking up necessary hospital beds.

Jim Robertson is the President of C.A.S.H. and the author of *Exposing the Big Game: Living Targets of a Dying Sport*
<https://www.animalsinthewild.com>

DOI SAYS THAT AFTER TRUMP ELIMINATES COVID, IT WILL BE GREAT TO GET OUT AND HUNT!

MORE “REFUGES” TO OPEN TO HUNTING AND EXPANDED HUNTING IN THE FALL

See the full release here:
https://www.fws.gov/news/ShowNews.cfm?_ID=36541

Here are a few excerpts:

WASHINGTON – ...“Once the Trump Administration’s effort to eliminate the threat of COVID-19 has been successful, there will be no better way to celebrate than to get out and enjoy increased access for hunting and fishing on our public lands,” said Service Director Aurelia

Skipwith. “I deeply appreciate everything sportswomen and men do for conservation and our economy, so I am delighted when we can do something to expand opportunities for them. I hope it will help encourage the next generation of hunters and anglers to continue on this rich American tradition.”

“...This proposal would bring the

number of units in the Service’s National Wildlife Refuge System where the public may hunt to 399 ...”

Wildlife Watch submitted comments, which can be seen here:

www.abolishsporthunting.org/nwrcomments and

www.abolishsporthunting.org/montezumacomments

WAS IT WORTH THIS BOY’S LIFE?

One of the sadder accident reports (all sleuthed and posted by Jim Robertson) that you will find on the C.A.S.H. website is the following:

On May 26, 2020, a seven-year-old boy was shot in the head. It was reported that he “will carry a 2 ½-inch scar from a bullet wound on his forehead the rest of his life.” The shot was fired by a trespasser, apparently trying to poach a wild turkey that was actually a decoy set up by the boy’s father.

The shooter sped away, leaving the parents trying to stop the heavy bleeding and trying to get help in a remote location. A bone fragment was later removed from the boy’s brain.

Shockingly, the community pitched in to buy the boy a lifetime license to hunt! On the website below, it is stated: “The current value is \$960 but could save the boy thousands compared to buying licenses the rest of his life.”

It’s doubly shocking that a pitch is being made for a lifetime hunting license after a horrendous accident. We hope that if people calculate the many costs associated with such a violent activity as hunting, they will see red!

Before the sales pitch, they stated that the boy’s recovery will be long and uncertain.

<https://www.kansas.com/news/state/article242816791.html>



Turkey decoy from Internet ad

Wildlife Management: When Forest Wails and Mourns

BY GOSIA BRYJA

Reprinted with permission of the author. First appeared:

<https://medium.com/@gbryja/wildlife-management-when-forest-wails-and-mourns-509d9dc766>

“Just as ships’ bottoms pick up layers of barnacles over time, so, through their lives, human societies and individuals become encrusted with layers of cultural and ideological sediment. ... The cemented coating clings as though chemically bonded to me and screams bloody bloody murder at my slightest advance...”~John Livingston

A war on wildlife in British Columbia never ends; cruelty goes on, unabated. We cannot unshackle ourselves from the self-centered belief system — the thickened layer of barnacles — that destines us to view nature as a resource subordinate to our needs. When, in 1981, John Livingston wrote “Fallacy of Wildlife Conservation”, he cautioned against the fallacy of turning the Earth’s fabric into a “natural resource”. It was echoed by Neil Evernden who recognized that, once deemed a resource, nature inevitably becomes a casualty of reckless exploitation. And this is what has happened. Under the guise of fostering “conservation”, we have concocted a management approach that gives us a license to discard a delicate assembly of life as if it were a lump of coal.

The decades-long tragedy of the caribou habitat is a proof, as good any, of cruelty and travesty inherent to current wildlife management strategies. What strikes the most is how long it has lasted. In the 1970s, a biologist, Michael Bloomfield, showed that the widespread destruction of the habitat by logging and other resource development activities threatened caribou survival. These warnings were never listened to. The B.C. government has allowed for the destruction of the habitat to continue, and the caribou population dwindled from 40,000 in the early 1900s to approximately 15,000 today, all scattered among 54 herds. Thirty of those herds are at risk of extinction and 14 have fewer than 25 individuals.

This is the current reality. With impunity grounded in political support — regardless of a party in power — the industrial encroachment fragments the caribou habitat and decimates their food source. Consequently, chances for the survival of the caribou diminish as their habitat shrinks in size. The resilience of nature is no match for greed and political expediency. A cycle of life gets broken. What is worse, the officially sanctioned ecological devastation not only ensures the eventual disappearance of the caribou but sentences to death wolves, cougars, and many other species that depend on the same habitat.

Death comes in many forms, and, for some animals,



Photo © Jim Robertson

anguish and agony mark the path. The fate that wolves suffer shows most glaringly the tragedy that befalls nature when the government gives in to demands of the resource-extraction industry. In 2014, the B.C. government, with its Management Plan for the Grey Wolf, authorized the war on wolves. Since 2015, under the guise of caribou conservation, over 700 wolves have been killed. They were trapped, hunted, poisoned to death, gunned down from helicopters. Even more abhorrently, extermination tactics have used “Judas wolves” to find their packs and wipe out all of their members. But this not where the war against the wolf ends. The stated number does not include “wolf whacking” contests that take place in the interior of B.C. — an officially sanctioned bestiality that not only dooms wild animals but debases us, as human beings.

And, yet, even this is not enough. Now, the NDP government argues that “landscape scale habitat management is needed to support self-sustaining caribou populations”. It thus proposes a predator hunt legislation that would — in the name of reversing caribou population declines — erase more than 80 percent of the wolf population in parts of the central B.C. In other words, it would get rid of the “surplus” of wolves. To call this wildlife management approach fallacious and unethical is to be greatly euphemistic. The innocuously sounding phrase — “landscape scale habitat management” — camouflages an outright slaughter.

And it is the slaughter compounded by ecological ignorance. Any discussion about maintaining stable wolf populations — an underlying premise behind the predator hunt legislation — defeats its purpose if the exact number of wolves in a habitat remains unknown. As so is the case here. The Management Plan for the Grey Wolf states that

Please see Wildlife Management Page 5

Wildlife Management

Continued from page 4



Photo © Jim Robertson

the wolf population might be approximately 8,500. In reality, this number can be anywhere between 5,300 and 11,600, since, as the plan admits, estimating the population size is challenging due to the secretive nature of wolves, their extensive range, and the density of forested habitats they inhabit. Moreover, hunting data in B.C. lack reliability. The plan states that there is “considerable uncertainty in the current take of wolves by resident hunters and trappers as B.C. does not have a mandatory reporting system...[and] without more reliable estimates of the harvest, it is difficult to assess the sustainability of BC’s wolf harvest.” This ignorance does not, however, prevent the government, Max Foran states, from accepting “generous hunting quotas, no limit on killing females or pups, no bag-limit zones, long and sometimes open year-round hunting seasons, no license requirement for residents.” This is not management but a “wolf killing plan”, he writes.

Killing that will never stop. The ministry’s scientists claim that “a very extensive effort will be required every year to continue to keep the wolf population low” because of the wolf’s natural resilience and quick recovery. Like stubborn weeds, wolves must be eradicated repeatedly. This malignancy cannot be allowed to grow.

Unfortunately, the cruelty and the bureaucratic cold-heartedness underpinning this statement account for merely a part of its tragic perversity. However inhumane, the perpetual killing of wolves is based on the premise that, following a bout of slaughter, the species is able to recover. Only an unfounded human hubris would allow for such a premise to sustain itself. The so-called “surplus” of wolves is very fragile in the face of climate change, and wolves are vulnerable to the unpredictable ecosystem dynamics. Precariousness and unpredictability are the words that define a broad range of interdependences in the critical caribou habitat. The social-ecological system operates on various scales—some of them observable and some

not — and there are tipping points, the crossing of which takes us into a place of no return. After all, we live in the times of a rapid environmental change where the only certain expectation is uncertainty. That is why the “managed” killing of predators is a callous misnomer that is bound to unleash not only savagery but also unknown ecological ramifications.

Still, numerical variations in the wolf population, as well as both known and unknown ecological consequences of their repeated slaughter, do not tell the whole story. What remains hidden from all of us, living far away from the land of the wolf, is individual suffering to which, through our political indifference, we implicitly consent. What we do not see is paralyzing anguish, pain, and psychological trauma that comes in the aftermath of the shattered family structure. Death destroys even those who survive. After a killing spree is temporarily over, surviving wolves return to mourn a loss. They also face a world unknown to them. As Marc Bekoff and Sadie Parr write, “those individuals that survive to make new wolf families must do so without access to the knowledge and culture held by their slain family members, something that takes generations to build. They become refugees on their own land.”



Photo copyright <https://www.wildcatsanctuary.org/in-memory/>

Finally, this is not only about the caribou or the wolf, but also about us, humans. Perceiving nature through the prism of its cruel and ignorant management comes at a price that we will have to pay. Destroying wolves destroys us as a society. It diminishes us. Our appreciation of and compassion for the natural world have evolved throughout centuries and molded into moral and ethical principles. We break these principles at our peril.

It is time to start peeling layers of “cultural and ideological” sediment we wrapped ourselves in. The cemented coating that clings to us offers the comfort of familiarity,

Please see **Wildlife Management Page 6**

Wildlife Management

Continued from page 5

but it is a false comfort that chips away at our humanity. The main argument for killing wolves in the caribou habitat is ensuring that the caribou will still be there, in the future. So our children and their children can watch them roam the forest. Given the ongoing destruction of the habitat, it will not happen no matter how many wolves we decide to shoot. But even if the demise of the caribou were to be somehow temporarily postponed by the merciless “recovery” plan, what then? Should we tell our children how many generations of wolves we have killed to accomplish this? Should we tell them that they what they see is the legacy of killing fields?

Gosia Bryja has a PhD in environmental science and a Master’s degree in wildlife and landscape ecology. For over fifteen years, she worked as a conservation scientist for Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) and led various projects in North America, Africa, Asia, and South America. Currently, she is an academic instructor at Columbia College in Vancouver, BC, where she lives with her husband, and spends her free time backpacking, kayaking and skiing. **She is an active proponent of compassionate conservation**

EYE ON THE NEWS

WILD ANIMALS AT RISK DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

The BBC article was summarized by **Lily Wolf** with permission of the author, **Alexander Matthews**.

When it comes to Covid’s effects on wildlife populations, there are widespread differences by location. In affluent urban regions, the minimization of cars on the road and humans commandeering open spaces has led to a resurgence in wildlife. It has been reported that animals are thriving due to decreasing pollution and fewer people roaming about outside. It’s said that the environment seems to be taking a turn for the better these days as people stay home. So, in those areas, animals are experiencing a lot less impact on their habitat.

But in impoverished or rural areas, wild animals are sought out for food and products. **One would think that with international travel suspended, animal trafficking would see a decline, but there’s a concomitant drop in wildlife protection that has led to humans having an easier shot at hunting them.**

Alexander Matthews who writes for the BBC *Future Planet*, reports, “The deployment of drones with thermal-imaging technology is one solution proposed to monitor ecosystems for signs of poaching or illegal logging.” Matthews also mentions a device called the Postcode Meerkat, which uses day- and night-radar cameras to

ensure no one is poaching in South Africa’s Kruger National Park. Additionally, Matthews points out that Chinese and Vietnamese bans on wildlife trade and food are still being enforced.

Matthews reports that **Marie Quinney, a specialist with the World Economic Forum’s Nature Action Agenda, wrote that 70% of infectious diseases were spread to humans by eating wild animals. She says, “We have lost 60% of all wildlife in the last 50 years, while the number of new infectious diseases has quadrupled in the last 60 years.**

Matthews quotes Joe Walston, Senior Vice President and head of global conservation at the Wildlife Conservation Society, “**Tackling poaching and selling wild animals for food has to be part of a global effort...This is about us coming together and making a global decision that this trade now is antiquated...In a world where someone can transport a new infectious disease from one continent to another in just a few hours, continuing to trade and consume wild animals is close to societal suicide.”**

We’re happy to note that two legislators in NYS are sponsoring Bill A10399/S08291. If passed into law, wet markets in NY, where animals are live-slaughtered, would be banned!

Wildlife Watch has advocated for plant-based diets as one of the best ways to solve so much of the world’s ills. To read more about the health, environmental, ecological, and financial benefits of a plant-based diet, please visit: <https://www.pcrm.org/>

Lily Wolf enjoys spending her time outdoors for the serenity it often brings. She researches and writes timely articles of interest for the *Wildlife Watch Binocular*. A special thanks to **Alexander Matthews** for allowing portions of his BBC website article to be summarized and quoted. You can read the full article here:

<https://www.bbc.com/future/article/20200520-the-link-between-animals-and-covid-19>

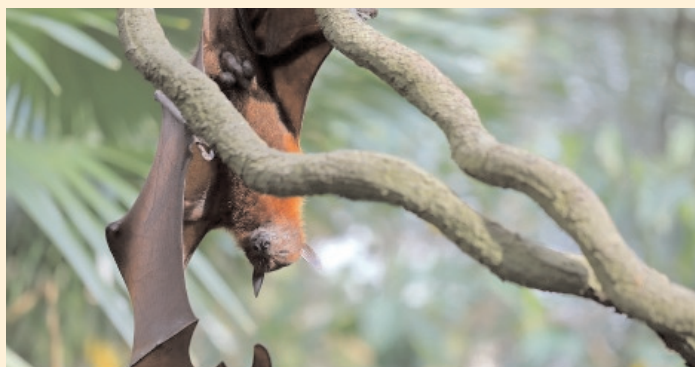


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ATTACKING HUNTING AT ITS ROOTS

BY ANNE MULLER

Over the long time that hunting has been my focus, I've considered multiple facets for stopping it.

As with many of us, it started with pointing out the obvious **cruelty inherent in hunting.**



Photo from C.A.S.H. archives; A poor victim of management for hunting.

That tack brought little response from those who can pass local ordinances or state laws. Hunters assert that they stop the suffering by quickly ending the lives of animals who would otherwise die a slow death of starvation and disease. [That, in spite of the fact that **hunters actually cause more starvation by forcing deer to run off their fat reserves in the fall, a critical time for retaining adipose tissue to sustain themselves during a long, hard winter.**]

Then we pointed out the **environmental and ecological impacts** of creating habitat for game species, which are <1% of all species. That, too, brought little result. The hunter/game management's unfounded response was that whatever habitat modifications were made benefitted *all* wildlife.

The ecological argument that the gene pool is affected by taking the healthiest bucks with the largest antlers, leaving the weaker males to procreate was also met with indifference - and a new hunting strategy: "Quality Deer Management," whereby food and sex ratio conditions are made just right for growing bucks with large antlers.

GETTING THE PUBLIC IN THE CITY TO CARE:

More recently, we started to focus on the fact that when firearms (revolvers or assault rifles) are used in urban crimes, the excise taxes on those weapons and ammunition ultimately pay into the Conservation Fund of the state to provide more hunting opportunity - more use of firearms. **We suggested that firearms excise taxes, at least from revolvers and assault rifles, pay for victims of firearm crimes. For, regardless of the victim, regardless of the**

shooter, the firearms and ammunition money still go to the game agency to ensure more use of those products. That, too, went no place as the response was that the Pittman Robertson Act was federal and would require congressional political will - and is therefore out of reach of state legislatures.

But, just what does this Act mandate? In 1937, Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the bipartisan Pittman-Robertson Act into law. It connected the funding for wildlife management to the firearms and ammunition industry by placing a federal excise tax on those products that would be apportioned to states. The formula was this: The more hunting licenses a state sold, the greater its apportionment would be. Another part of the equation is the area of the state. Please see our article for more detail about the formula here: <http://abolishsporthunting.org/journals/massacres/>

The Pittman-Robertson Act is gracious in that it allows states to opt in or out of managing wildlife for a portion of the excise tax on firearms and ammo. **But, if they opt in, they must manage wildlife for hunting (unspoken: for the use of firearms). Further, the state must match their P-R apportionment by contributing \$1 for every \$3 received.** States claim that the \$1 match comes from hunting license fees. Of course, state bureaus are provided with all overhead expenses for which any private enterprise would have to pay, and that funding comes from the taxpayer. It's clear that our wildlife is being managed for a private enterprise, primarily firearms and ammo, and, since 1972, bows and arrows. Additionally, there are cooperating bureaus that receive General Funds and serve the purposes of game management in part, such as forest, land, and water management bureaus.

Should a state choose *not* to manage wildlife in this fashion, it would not get a penny from the excise tax. In 1937, the states *all* opted in, as something was needed to counter the free-for-all of market hunting.

Without any thought about what this meant for wild animals, it all seemed ideal during a period in time (the Great Depression) when economic considerations prevailed (as they still do).

Not too long before *this* era of Covid-19, we came across a NYS 2012 audit of the Conservation Fund titled: *Conservation Fund - Sources and Uses of Funds*. You can view it here:

<https://osc.state.ny.us/audits/allaudits/093014/12s134.pdf> .

It seems to be the most recent. Please see the chart below that appears on page 8 of the audit. It's obvious that millions of dollars of General Funds (taxes from taxpayers) were, and likely still are, contributing to wildlife management for hunting (firearms use).

The statement above the table reads:

Please see ATTACKING HUNTING Page 8

ATTACKING HUNTING

Continued from page 7

As shown in Table 4 below, for these three State fiscal years, the Department expended more than \$112 million; \$109 million; and \$120 million, respectively, on Program activities. **These efforts were supported by several sources including the Fund, the State's General Fund, etc.**

It suddenly becomes clear that we can, in fact, act at a state level by simply withholding General Funds from wildlife management bureaus connected to the firearms industry. It would take only the will of the state legislature and the governor! (Of course it's not easy, but it's far easier than working at a federal level!)

THE PUBLIC'S TAXES ARE BEING USED FOR WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT CONNECTED TO THE FIREARMS INDUSTRY

What needs to be revealed is how NYS General Funds are used by the Bureau of Wildlife and cooperating bureaus. Legislators need greater detail about the Bureau of Wildlife's income sources and expenditures. That inquiry will take political will. What's crystal clear from the 2012 audit is that General Funds *are* used. Is it for creating or restoring habitat that increases wildlife populations for future killing, or for direct efforts by setting seasons, manipulating sex ratios, or moving wildlife from place to place? An example of that is when managers move beavers into areas for wetland creation to benefit waterfowl hunting.

A starting point is a detailed audit of the funding sources and expenditures of all bureaus associated with the Bureau of Wildlife. There's no doubt that there is internal accounting, but it is not made public.

IT IS POLITICALLY DIFFICULT FOR LEGISLATORS TO MAKE INQUIRIES

Wildlife Watch encouraged one legislative aide to inquire about the budget of the DEC's wildlife management division, and she received this glib response:

For more information on the program, go to:

<https://www.fws.gov/laws/lawsdigest/FAWILD.HTML>

<https://history.house.gov/HistoricalHighlight/Detail/36582>

In the above link it reads: *While the Wildlife Restoration Act signaled a new step in conservation, its attempt to manage natural resources with public money fell squarely within New Deal thinking. ... the new act encouraged cooperation between federal and state officials, and the hunting public.*



Photo © Jim Robertson

The P-R Act is deceptively dubbed the *Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration* (Pittman-Robertson) Act. So, the glorification of a terrifying act was sent back to the staffer in response! It was intimidating, maybe confusing, but I hope not impressive.

TABLE 4: FISH, WILDLIFE & MARINE RESOURCES PROGRAM EXPENDITURES AND FUNDING SOURCES

Fund	Fiscal Year 2009-2010	Fiscal Year 2010-2011	Fiscal Year 2011-2012	Three-Year Total
Conservation Fund	\$44,597,182	\$40,714,164	\$39,872,603	\$125,183,949
State General Fund	\$36,707,482	\$30,485,424	\$43,126,410	\$110,319,316
Federal Funds	\$22,671,861	\$23,735,545	\$24,109,080	\$ 70,516,486
Capital Funds	\$ 8,589,392	\$14,457,186	\$13,578,221	\$ 36,624,799
Total	\$112,565,917	\$109,392,319	\$120,686,314	\$ 342,644,550

Prior to the NYS budget approval, the League of Humane Voters® of New York (LOHV®-NY), sent a letter to the Committee Chair of Finance in the NYS Senate requesting that General Funds *not* be provided to any bureau that is connected with the firearms industry. **Please see page 7 in this issue.**

Wildlife management, thanks to the Pittman-Robertson Act, is an air-tight, circular economy that is in effect a private enterprise serving the firearms industry at the expense of wild animals and the general public.

As hunters are nationally less than 5% of the population (and less than 3% in NYS), it's extraordinary that state government has a dedicated bureau entirely devoted to providing hunters with wild animal targets. Clearly, the purpose is to get firearms and ammunition purchased (as well as bows and arrows).

Please see **ATTACKING HUNTING Page 9**

ATTACKING HUNTING

Continued from page 8

THE NYS WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BUREAU SIPHONS FROM THE GENERAL FUND YET CONTRIBUTES NOTHING TO IT

Consider this: the other two major industries that carry federal excise taxes are alcohol and tobacco, but unlike the firearms excise tax, which goes to wildlife management agencies at a federal and state level, the excise taxes on alcohol and tobacco go to the general fund where the money is used for the needs of the general public: education, housing, health, etc.

Just imagine if those products instead had their own divisions of government whose sole purpose was to promote the use of the product, it would go like this:

A bureau would be created that would be dedicated to encouraging the use of alcohol or tobacco for socializing, relaxation, or whatever it takes to motivate drinking and smoking. All monies collected by these bureaus would have to be used for the single purpose of generating more sales of the product. General Fund money from the state could flow into the bureaus, but not a penny of the excise



As there's no bureau tied to the profits of the tobacco industry, the government is able to protect the public.

tax could be used for the general public.

How long do you think that would be tolerated? Yet, that's the *modus operandi* of the bureau of wildlife that manages wild animals to be victims of the firearms industry. We need to demand from our state legislatures that our general funds (your taxes and mine) no longer be used to support bureaus that serve the firearms industry.

It can be done!

GUN CONTROL GROUPS MUST FOLLOW THE MONEY

On January 1, 2020, I looked into every major gun control organization to see their plan, and I'm sorry to say that while I see calls for "gun safety" and "responsible solutions," and note that some groups are "supporters of the Second Amendment," not one follows the money to see — and call out — the federal and state wildlife management divisions of government, which are where the excise taxes on firearms and ammunition exclusively go.

I understand that gun control focus is on the *criminal* use of guns, yet that doesn't preclude taking aim at the firearm industry's inextricable link to federal and state government wildlife management departments.

THE FACT IS THAT REGARDLESS OF WHETHER FIREARMS ARE USED LEGALLY FOR HUNTING, OR ILLEGALLY FOR KILLING A HUMAN, THEIR EXCISE TAXES GO TO WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT DIVISIONS OF GOVERNMENT! YES, EXCISE



BY ANNE MULLER

TAXES ON EVERY BULLET, SHOT, RIFLE, HANDGUN, AND ASSAULT RIFLE (WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THOSE USED BY POLICE AND MILITARY) END UP IN THE WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT DIVISIONS OF OUR GOVERNMENT TO

PROMOTE MORE USE OF FIREARMS AND AMMO!

In any serious opposition to firearms, government wildlife management divisions must not be sidestepped as they are the beneficiaries of criminal acts committed with firearms.

Even if gun control groups aren't concerned about the welfare of individual wild animals, at least we need to **stop ignoring where the money goes when a person is killed or wounded, or when property is damaged by firearms.**

Graphic from <https://www.fullsteamlabs.com>

THE LEAGUE OF HUMANE VOTERS®-NY SENT THE FOLLOWING LETTER TO THE CHAIR OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE OF THE NYS SENATE

(SHORTENED FROM ORIGINAL):

Dear Senator:

In this time of urgent need to protect people both medically and economically, I'm sure you would agree that using taxes for anything other than those two broad and urgent matters should be off the table. The League of Humane Voters® of New York urges you to restrict taxpayer money from contributing to the welfare of the firearms business and the horrific treatment of our wildlife for a small minority that enjoys this "sport." Millions of dollars have been poured into the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) that end up funding the Bureau of Wildlife, and its cooperating bureaus, simply to promote more hunting (more use of firearms and ammunition). We're at a point in time when we can say with certainty that the allocation of public funds for the less than 3% of the New York public that enjoys killing animals cannot be justified and should not be sustained by NYS. The Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration (Pittman-Robertson or P-R) Act of 1937 (16 U.S.C. 669 et seq.) placed a dedicated excise tax on firearms and ammunition that is turned over to the US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS). The FWS keeps 8% and apportions the rest to the states based on the area of the state and the number of hunting licenses the state has sold. However, states MUST match every \$3 received with \$1. P-R funds are provided to a state's game division. The game division is that part of the DEC that manages wildlife to be targets for hunters, all to benefit the firearms industry from which it derives much of its income. This is truly a self-serving, circular, and airtight scheme that offers no benefit to the public. **In fact, it deprives the public of funds for important societal needs.** Furthermore, it causes state governments to help support the firearms industry despite any rhetoric to the contrary.

If there ever was a time to withdraw General Funds for this purpose, it's now. We need to stop the flow of public money for this purpose now in our budget decisions. By removing state funds from the bureaus within the DEC that have economic ties to the firearms industry, millions of dollars will be freed up for the welfare of the general public in this unprecedented time of need. Hunting and

MESSAGE TO THE NYS LEGISLATURE AND GOVERNOR:

DON'T LET THE FIREARMS INDUSTRY TAKE STATE MONEY FROM BATTLING THE CORONAVIRUS!!



firearms use are fused. State government needs to stop supporting the firearms industry. Being anti-gun and pro-hunting is a house divided. Every bullet from an assault rifle or a handgun that is shot into people, animals or things pays into the so-called "Conservation Fund" to promote

more use of firearms against animals. Perhaps now we can understand why there are no funds available for families of victims wounded or murdered by firearms. Instead, the funds are channeled into the bureaus that management wildlife for hunting (or more use of firearms)!

There's an immediate need for taxpayer funds to be spent to battle coronavirus and a collapsing economy. The League of Humane Voters® of NY is asking that the millions of tax dollars that have contributed to the horrific treatment of our wildlife by less than 3% of the New York population are used for essential public needs. We urge you to remove state funds from the bureaus within the DEC that have economic ties to the firearms industry.

Further, LOHV®-NY began a petition to ask that general funds be withdrawn from the wildlife management bureau. See here:

<https://www.change.org/NoTaxesForHunting-AllTaxesForFightingCOVID-19AndAidingEconomy>

Nevertheless, the 2020 NYS budget passed quickly with a Bond Act called Restore Mother Nature Bond Act. **In spite of the huge need for funding to battle Covid-19 and bolster the tanking economy, the following enormous allocations were made:**

\$550 million for open space land conservation and recreation;

\$550 million for water quality improvement and resilient infrastructure;

Should the Act be approved by voters in November, this will likely be administered by the DEC. And, that's the concern: How will it support wildlife management's goals and connection to the firearms industry?

We'll be following this.

Take a Hike, Not a Life

TEXT AND WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHY ©JIM ROBERTSON

Living near prime wildlife habitat means that at any given moment you might witness the astounding sight of great Vs of migratory ducks or cackling Canada geese flying right overhead. If you're lucky, trumpeter swans might be among the waterfowl feeding and calling in the nearby estuary. And wood ducks or hooded mergansers might pay your inland pond a visit while searching for a quiet place to nest.



Photo © Jim Robertson

The downside of living near a natural wonderland? Being awakened Sunday morning at first light by the repeated volley of shotgun blasts, as though all-out war has been declared on all things avian (as is currently happening here this morning). The Elmers (hunters) out there (no doubt dressed in the latest expensive camo-pattern—a fashion statement apparently meant to impress the other Elmers out there) must be reveling in the fact that the dense morning fog allows them to “sneak” (in their loud outboard motor boats) up close enough to the flocks so that a large number of birds will end up dead, winged or otherwise wounded when they suddenly stand up and spray lead at all things avian or otherwise.

Duck hunting is the ultimate betrayal. It happens well into the winter, long after just about any other hunting season is over, when the birds are congregated in flocks on their wintering grounds. And it happens often on lands supposedly set aside as wildlife “refuges.” Pro-kill groups like Ducks Unlimited (DU—an appropriate acronym that looks like an abbreviation for “duh”) insist that they have the animals’ best interests in mind. But when it comes right down to it, all they really want to preserve land for is to have a playground for killing. (Just listen to them scream if you try to propose a refuge closed to hunting.)

The other day, after the constant blasting of shotguns earlier that morning, I heard and saw a lone goose calling mournfully for his or her lost mate. It is not a game or a sport for the birds—for geese and their advocates it’s

nothing short of heartbreak.

As you might have assumed by now, I’ve thought about the issue of sport hunting a heck of a lot over the years and I’ve long-since declared myself a staunch anti-hunter. Not only am I anti-hunting, anti-trapping, anti-whaling and anti-sealing, I’m anti any form of bullying that goes on against the innocents—including humans. I am not an apologist for the wanton inhumanity of hunting in the name of sport, pseudo-subsistence or conservation-by-killing. In fact, I’m not a fan of any society that allows or encourages such atrocities.

Most sport hunters meanwhile must be anti-wildlife, anti-wilderness, anti-nature and anti-competition, since they’re notoriously anti-cougar, anti-coyote and unquestionably anti-wolf. At the same time, they’re pro-killing, pro-death, and when it comes right down to it, pro-animal cruelty.

In my book, *Exposing the Big Game: Living Targets of a Dying Sport*, I spend an entire chapter probing “Inside the Hunter’s Mind.” Hence, I’m here to tell you it’s a dark and disturbing place in there—and no one divulges that better than the hunters themselves. Here are a couple of quotes from hunters waxing poetic on the thrills they get out of killing:

“I had wondered and worried how it would feel to kill an animal, and now I know. It feels — in both the modern and archaic senses — awesome. I’m flooded, overwhelmed, seized by interlocking feelings of euphoria and contrition, pride and humility, reverence and, yes, fear. The act of killing an innocent being feels — and will always feel — neither wholly wrong nor wholly right.”

A sentiment perhaps once shared by this other unabashed killer:

“You’re the last one there...you feel the last bit of breath leaving their body. You’re looking into their eyes and basically, a person in that situation is God! You then possess them and they shall forever be a part of you. And the grounds where you killed them become sacred to you and you will always be drawn back to them.”

Both quotes were from people who considered themselves hunters—men who stalked and killed innocent, unarmed victims. The first was taken from a New York *Times* article written by Bill Heavey, an editor at large for the “sportsman’s” magazine, *Field and Stream*. The second one triumphantly reliving his conquest was none other than the infamous Ted Bundy, as he sat on death row musing over his many murders to the authors of *The Only Living Witness*.

It seems that, whether the perpetrator is engaged in a sport hunt or a serial kill, the approach is similar. Though

Please see **Take a Hike Page 12**

Take a Hike

Continued from page 11

their choice of victims differs, their mindset and/or perhaps mental illness is roughly the same.

Even our former cold war enemy seems to be light years ahead of the U.S. in moving beyond the barbarity of hunting. Oleg Mikheyev, MP of the center-left Fair Russia parliamentary party, told the daily newspaper *Izvestia* just what I've been saying all along: "People who feel pleasure when they kill animals cannot be called normal."

Mikheyev entered a draft law to ban most hunting in Russia and expressed his belief that hunting is unnecessary and immoral, regardless of whether one sees it as a sport, a pastime or an industry. According to the bill, forest rangers will still be allowed to hunt but must first pass a psychological test, which Mikheyev points out, "...can help us in early detection of latent madmen and murderers." <https://www.rt.com/russia/ban-game-hunting-total-164/>

Here in the states, Heavey went on to write, "What ran in the woods now sits on my plate... What I've done feels subversive, almost illicit."

Then why do it?

Though some hunters like Heavey may put on a show of innocuousness by temporarily eschewing guns and choosing to test their skill at bowhunting—arguably the cruelest kill method in the sportsman's quiver—the typical American hunter sets out on their expeditions in a Humvee or some equally eco-inefficient full-sized pickup truck, spending enough on gas, gear, beer and groceries to buy a year's supply of food, or to make a down payment on a piece of land big enough to grow a killer garden. Clearly the motive for their madness is more insidious than simply procuring a meal.

There's been plenty of discussion about controlling weapons to hopefully stave off the next school shooting, but the media has been mute over the role hunting plays in conditioning people to killing. And the *New York Times* article is a shameful example of the press pandering to the 5 percent who still find pleasure in taking life. Do we really want to encourage 7.8 billion humans to go out and kill wildlife for food as if hunting is actually sustainable and wild animal flesh is an unlimited resource?

Overhunting has proven time and again to be the direct cause of extinction for untold species, including the passenger pigeon, the Carolina parakeet and the Eastern elk. Meanwhile, hunters out west are doing a bang-up job of driving wolves back to the brink of oblivion for the second time in as many centuries.

Heavey ended his Times article gloating, "I have stolen food. And it is good." Like serial killers and school shooters, hunters objectify their victims; so insignificant are they to them that hunters don't even recognize them for what they are—fellow sentient beings. Does somebody have to point out the obvious—he didn't just steal "food," he stole a life.

Most people are anthropocentric by nature and have lit-



Photo © Jim Robertson

tle or no compassion for non-humans. To reach the average reader, the mainstream media tries to frame everything in the context of how it affects people. Keeping a record of hunting accidents may seem a rather morbid effort, but it's a good way to remind the public about the lethal violence inherent in the "sport" of hunting. If a human doesn't get maimed or killed once in a while, people continue to believe the misguided notion that hunting is just a friendly, social hour for traditional family-values proponents, "ethical" conservationists (claiming to be doing the animals a favor by killing them) or worse yet, those fashionable so-called locavore foodies who think of wildlife only as a source of flesh to stuff in their trendy, goateed, hipster gob.

Never mind that folks can get together in the out-of-doors to take a hike, watch birds or photograph wildlife—without taking any lives. No, hunting isn't going to end because of a high hunter body count. Not unless those who survive are willing to teach others to learn from their mistakes and encourage them to lay down their weapons once and for all.

Okay, so maybe there's sometimes more to sport hunting than just mindless plunking away at innocent, undeserving animals. Besides the selfish, sociopathic satisfaction they get out of snuffing out their fellow sentient beings, some hunters are also motivated by the prospect of eating the flesh of their conquests.

These so-called "sportsmen" (or women) are not starving or suffering in any way (outside of being burdened with an abnormally low self esteem) at the time they commit their offenses — they just have a hankering for something perversely pleasurable to them. Here's a description, in a hunter's own words, of how much he enjoyed con-

Please see Take a Hike Page 13

Take a Hike

Continued from page 12

suming the flesh of a scarce, embattled trumpeter swan: “You would think it would be goosey, but it’s more ducky, tight grained, very flavorful. The fat was delicious. I plucked it all the way to the chin and used the neck as a sausage skin.” (From the article, “Utah hunters killed 20 rare trumpeter swans by accident this year. Here’s why that matters.”)

<https://www.sltrib.com/news/environment/2019/12/29/utah-hunters-killed-rare/>

Clearly, some of these sport-eaters fancy themselves gourmets and may even pride themselves in their abilities to turn a deceased carcass into a delectable feast, but the same could probably have been said about Jeffery Dahmer and his unfortunate victims.

And the fictional serial killer (based on an actual doctor incarcerated in Mexico), Hannibal Lecter displayed typical hunter-bravado when he bragged to FBI agent Clarice

they know that in reality the wildlife can ultimately take care of their own. According to the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, “A mule deer herd that is at or above the carrying capacity of its habitat may produce fewer fawns than one that is below carrying capacity.” <https://docplayer.net/133460707-Of-nebraska-lincoln.html>

The fact is, hunting encourages ungulates to reproduce more, thus seemingly warranting the alleged need for population controls via, you guessed it, more hunting.

Hunting industry propagandists have a lot of people convinced that culling is a necessary evil for controlling animal overpopulation. Lethal removal is their one-size-fits-all solution, no matter the circumstance. But there are always alternatives to that fatal fallback position. When we finally get past the viewpoint of animals as objects, or “property of the state,” and start to see them instead as individuals, the justifications for culling begin to wear thin.

Many places that provide habitat for healthy populations of deer could also support the natural predators who evolved alongside them. All that’s required of humans is to stay out of the way and let nature take its course, or, in some cases, repair the damage they’ve done by reintroducing wolves or other native carnivores who were foolishly eradicated. Yet, in the western US and Alaska, as well as in Canada, natural predators are *still* being killed to allow deer, moose or elk hunters a better chance of success. While some people complain that these browsers and grazers have gotten too tame, hunters in states like Idaho and Montana are whining that wolves make the elk too wild and thus harder for them to hunt.

I tend to be even more cynical about areas where humans have claimed every square inch for themselves and aren’t willing to share with native grazers. When I hear grumbling about deer, elk or geese pooping on a golf course, I have a hard time relating to people’s grievances. It’s the height of speciesism to expect that these animals should face lethal culling for successfully adapting to an unnaturally overcrowded human world.

Ours is the invasive species, overpopulating and destroying habitats wherever we go. We wouldn’t want some other beings jumping to a knee-jerk “cull them all” reaction every time humans reached *their* carrying capacity in a given area.

Sooner or later Mother Nature will tire of humans’ destructive dominance and come up with a way to bring life back into balance. I can just hear her telling off the hunters: “Other animals have a right to be here too—just live with it, Elmers!”

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



Photo © Jim Robertson

Starling: “A census taker once tried to test me. I ate his liver with some fava beans and a nice Chianti.” Sorry to tell self-excusatory sportsmen and other unapologetic killers, murder does not magically become sacred once your victims’ flesh passes through your digestive tract.

But, everyone has a right to feed themselves and their family, don’t they? Well, does everyone—all of nearly 7.8 billion humans and counting—have the right to subsist off the backs of other animals when there are more humane and sustainable ways to feed ourselves? How many self-proclaimed “subsistence” hunters are willing to give up all their modern conveniences—their warm house, their car, their cable TV or their ever-present and attendant “reality” film crew—and live completely off the land like a Neanderthal? Not many, I’m sure—at least not indefinitely. That I can guarantee.

Deer, along with most other animal species—besides *Homo sapiens*, have built-in mechanisms that cause their reproduction rate to slow down when their population is high or food is scarce. Though state “game” departments are loath to share any information that might work against one of their arguments for selling hunting licenses, even

DEAR AMY

Editor's Note: Sadly, *Uncle Joe* is no longer able to continue his popular letters column. To fill the deep void, C.A.S.H. reached out to "Amy Parker" to take over Joe's very popular column, and we are fortunate that she has accepted the tall order. C.A.S.H. welcomes Amy's premiere column: *DEAR AMY*. The column will be a bit different from *Uncle Joe*, which we've all grown used to, but we are certain that you won't be disappointed. As this is the first column, Amy's letters have been culled from previous responses to her letters to the editor of various publications.

LETTER TO C.A.S.H. READERS FROM AMY PARKER

Dear C.A.S.H. Readers,



In the years I've been advocating for wildlife, I've learned a thing or two: namely, that hunters and trappers rely on the same exhausted defenses, and those defenses are inherently contradictory. I've also learned something about myself: it's a lot of fun to tear those defenses apart, all while raising awareness and inspiring others to action! I'm therefore excited to take the reins from Uncle Joe, who has made me laugh and has given me something to look forward to ever since I discovered his Q & A.

Before we get to this issue's letters, I'd like to share a bit about my journey to activism. First, Amy is not my real name. I am a woman advocate living in rural America, and I'll use my own real experiences as an advocate. By now, I've figured out that in order to protect myself and my family, using a pseudonym is the best choice. Strangely enough, one of our letters addresses this very issue!

Second, I want to share a little about how I've arrived at where I am. I was enthralled by wildlife as a kid—my dad took me to Shenandoah National Park when I was nine years old, and watching the deer graze peacefully in the meadow in the evenings was heaven to me. My mom and I rescued all manner of wildlife when I was growing up: birds and chipmunks, mostly, nursing them back to health after they were hit by cars or injured by neighborhood cats.

Like most kids, I couldn't imagine why anyone would intentionally cause harm to a being as gentle as deer, or as awe-inspiring as a black bear. I hated the idea of hunting. Young people are naturally averse to anything that harms animals—that is, until the adults set them straight about the order of the world. I remember grown-ups reassuring me that hunting animals was natural and normal, a pursuit that was necessary to keep the population in balance. For many years I believed them.

After moving to a rural property as an adult, I began to see things differently. My family's land was now bordered on all sides by hunting and trapping. From our back porch, I saw deer driven from one side of a field into the waiting guns on the other. I found shot or impaled animals, some of whom were decapitated, that had been left to rot. I observed hunters and trappers laughing, smoking, and high-fiving over the bodies of their victims and

I knew that there had to be a better way.

Thankfully, public interest in hunting and trapping have largely waned, with fewer licenses sold every year. It seems that hunters have one tool left as they struggle to maintain their death-grip on state wildlife agencies: convince the public that killing animals is necessary to prevent ecological collapse. As wildlife advocates, we have a responsibility to help others understand that the key to ecological balance isn't the camo-clad wannabe in the souped-up truck—it's a deeper, more empathetic connection to the natural world upon which all of us depend.

There's so much to discuss when it comes to dismantling our current system of mis-management, and so many ways that each of us can do our part to protect wild lives. Hunters aren't going down without a fight, so without further ado, let's get to our letters! AMY PARKER (Pseudonym)

Amy,

I don't understand how any sane woman is opposed to hunting when hunting is actually a great opportunity for so many women. There are more women hunters feeding their families than ever before and I for one have a closet full of pink camo that I couldn't be more proud of. Why can't you supposed liberals get over yourselves and admit that hunting has provided a HUGE platform for us ladies?

Sincerely,

Brenda-Marie Adamson, Lockport, NY.

Dear Brenda-Marie,

Thank you for raising this important point! It's true that there are now more women buying hunting licenses than ever before. While the number of male hunters continues to decline, we have seen an uptick in the number of women who are pursuing this form of "recreation" (though let's be real—not enough to save hunting from a demise that can't come a minute too soon).

It's funny to me that women such as yourself insist that men suddenly welcoming you to their ranks only as a result of their own numbers dwindling could feel anything like liberation. Before those same men got desperate, they clearly didn't want you there. Now we see states such as New York trying to entice women by recognizing pink camouflage as acceptable hunting attire. Oooh! Oooh! Pink camo for the girls!

I'm guessing you've watched the same *Outdoors* shows featuring "huntresses" as I have. By and large, these present women as highly sexualized objects of desire. You can almost hear all

those old-school male hunters down at the local rod and gun club saying, Sure, we're okay with women hunting now that we're all dying off. Even better if they're hot!

The real question is, as a strong, independent woman, how could you view this recent welcoming as anything less than offensive?

Best,

Amy

Hey Amy,

What I want to know is why the heck dont you use your real name for your column. If your so proud to be an Anti youd think youd come out and say it insted of hiding in the shadows like the scared little witch that you are. Your not getting a lick of respect from me or my buddies unless you say your real name!

Trent M. Reilly, Foggy Bottom, WV

Dear Trent,

Let me tell you something: I used my real name to advocate for wildlife for several years. You're right that I'm proud to be an advocate, and to defend the most vulnerable among us, those without a voice; it's an honor that I and fellow advocates take seriously.

However, let's be honest about the crowd you run with. Modern hunting culture is divorced from survival and necessity—you can tell yourself you're hunting to feed your family, but since it's cheaper to fill your freezer at the Piggly Wiggly, we know that's not it. You hunt for the thrill. You hunt because you enjoy the feeling of power and dominion over another, "lesser" species.

Big surprise, I've had my life and family threatened by the good ol' boys at the hunting club. I might as well have a target on my back, just like your coveted trophy bucks. I've had my posted signs plowed down by an angry hunter-neighbor, I've received hate mail and videos of dead or tortured animals in my Facebook inbox, and I've been called every name in the book in the comment sections of editorials I've written. Interestingly, those insults I refer to always seem to be gender-specific—in case you're not sure what that means, you've used one to describe me above, tame though it may be in comparison.

I'm proud to be an advocate, but I also realize that I'm up against a crowd that euphemizes violence as "sport." I'm not afraid, but I'll be damned if I'm not going to use my wits in this fight. The safety of my family depends on it.

All best to you,

Amy

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

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C.A.S.H. T-SHIRT,

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

PETER'S HUMOR? C.A.S.H. apologizes if you are not amused



We'd like to thank Lily Wolf for helping to find, adapt and invent some great stuff here.

Fast forward to 2050 when humans have resorted to cannibalism. Harry goes to the supermarket for some brains and looks in the display case and sees:

- teacher brains \$36/lb.,
- dress designer brains \$42/lb.,
- lawyer brains \$65/lb.,
- hunter brains \$129/lb.

Harry asks, "Can you tell me why hunter brains are so expensive?" The clerk answered, "Do you know how many hunter brains it takes to make a pound?"

☺☺☺

A couple walked into a diner, leading an alligator by a leash. The woman asked the host, "Do you have vegan options?" He assured her that there were many vegan options on the menu. The man then asked him, very apologetically, "Do you serve hunters here?" "Sure do," said the host. "Great," replied the man. "Give me a veggie-burger, and a hunter for my 'gator."

Pete's Humor archives

☺☺☺

On the first day of hunting season, a hunter is sitting in a deer blind when he falls off and breaks both his legs. At the doctor's, he moans, "Why couldn't this have happened on my *last* day of hunting?" to which the doctor replies, "It did."

☺☺☺

Two hunters are out in the woods when one of them collapses. He's not breathing and his eyes are glazed. The other guy whips out his cell phone and calls 911.

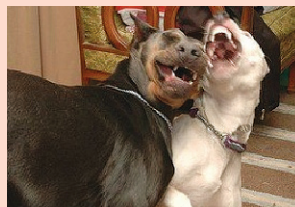
"I think my friend is dead!" he yells. "What can I do?"

The operator says, "Calm down. First, let's make sure he's dead." There's a silence, then a shot. Back on the phone, the guy says, "OK, now what?"

☺☺☺

Q: Did you hear about the hunter who locked his keys in his car?

A: Yup, and he had to use a coat hanger to get his hunting buddies out.



Fans of Pete's Humor

www.ebaumsworld.com/pictures/view/557305#

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