



# The Wildlife Watch Binocular



PO Box 562, New Paltz, NY 12561

Summer 2011

© 2011 by Wildlife Watch, Inc. All rights reserved.

## SPIKED FENCES CAUSE UNNECESSARY AND HORRIFIC SUFFERING

BY E.M. FAY



Photo courtesy of Morgan Dunbar

Fences have many purposes, among them the marking of property lines, the exclusion of trespassers, and decoration. When the intention is to prevent entry, an element of menace is often added. In ancient times, sharply pointed wooden poles might discourage invaders; in more recent times, barbed wire and electrified fencing have been effective at keeping unwanted visitors out. One of the most widely used types of fence in recent centuries has been a series of cast-iron vertical stakes, often painted black, and usually topped with forbidding spikes.

This style is commonly seen surrounding public parks, private estates, and many older cemeteries, even though the threatening aspect is no longer necessary.

The 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries saw a rise in the creation of "garden" type

cemeteries, attractive places that protected public health by properly interring corpses, and allowed people to visit the last "resting place" of their loved ones. Some of these graveyards were so beautifully laid out in sylvan settings with paths, statues, and water features that people visited them as they would a public park. In fact, when NYC's Central Park was opened in 1857, some people described it favorably as being like a cemetery without the monuments.

In order to maintain the boundary, keep out wandering wildlife, and protect graves from after-hours miscreants, spiked iron fences were frequently installed. Eventually, fences themselves became considered an important visual or historical element of the cemetery. Such is the case in Williamsville, a village northeast of Buffalo, NY, where a number of gruesome deaths caused by a spiked fence has resulted in a conflict between animal advocates and historic preservationists.

The nearly 200-year-old Williamsville Cemetery presents a pretty picture of a typical, park-like sanctuary, with mature trees and well-maintained gravesites. The tranquillity has been shattered on numerous occasions, however, by the agonized screams of deer who have impaled themselves on the cemetery's sharp spiked fence while trying to jump over it. Residents of the otherwise pleasant neighborhood have been horrified to find helpless deer horribly caught

### SPIKED FENCES

Continued on page 2

## FLOTSAM, JETSAM, AND BALLOONS

By Taffy Williams



Image Credit: Karen Dias/Gulf News

Balloons are everywhere. But is anyone at a festival, memorial service, fund-raiser, graduation, balloon race, cancer walk-a-thon or the thousand other events that have become another venue for the release of balloons actually asking themselves, "Now, just where do all those balloons go?"

Perhaps if this question were asked, we would have far fewer, if any, balloons and their fragments, ribbons and strings fouling the guts of shore birds, marine mammals, and any hungry creature that tragically mistakes them for food.

*Dubai's breast cancer walkathon is the site of the annual release of thousands of pink balloons.* (Dubai turns into a sea of pink for breast cancer campaign.

<http://gulfnews.com/news/gulf/uae/health/pink-caravan-spreads-word-on-breast-cancer-in-uae-1.787974>

Balloon releases have gained such

### FLOTSAM

Continued on page 4

## SPIKED FENCES

Continued from page 1

on the fence, and their only recourse has been to call local police who would then shoot the deer to end their suffering. In at least one reported case, an impaled doe was pregnant.

According to Erie County SPCA's Wildlife Administrator, Joel Thomas, most deer are quite capable of jumping over barriers of from 4 to 8 feet high; the cemetery fence ranges from 4 1/2 to 5 1/2 feet in height. Even accomplished athletes can miscalculate a hurdle, though. When deer are leaping over a natural boundary, such as a hedge or a stream, a stumble or fall is not likely to be fatal. When it comes to man-made barriers, the outcome can be horrific, for deer cannot be expected to realize that iron spikes will not yield the way shrubby does. Deer being pursued by hunters also miscalculate in their panic.

The Williamsville Cemetery's spiked fence has been responsible for an unknown number of deer tragedies over time, and well-intentioned local people have made efforts on occasion to have the spikes removed or modified. But as noted on April 15<sup>th</sup>, by Buffalo News Columnist, Donn Esmonde, "The sad news is the slaughter should have stopped years ago. Officials at Forest Lawn — which owns the Williamsville Cemetery — knew as early as 2003 that deer were killing themselves on the fence's spikes. It took them three years to approach village officials with a remedy. When they did, village officials sent them on their way."

There is plenty of blame to go around. Williamsville's Historic Preservation Commission (WHPC) was adamant



Photo by Morgan Dunbar

about maintaining the historic visual nature of the fence, including its deadly spikes. In 2003, a village resident wrote to the President of Forest Lawn, Joe Dispenza, about the horrendous cries from an impaled deer. Three years went by and more unnecessary deaths occurred. Then, in 2006, Dispenza proposed a method of covering the spikes, but it was rejected by the WHPC. Williamsville's Mayor, Mary Lowther, is quoted in the Buffalo News as saying, "Since we only had one [resident] complaint, it was not something we saw as that involved. So we let it go." This arguably negligent attitude meant that more deer were condemned to a merciless fate over the following years.

Recently, the advocacy group, **Animal Allies of Western New York**, has taken action on behalf of the neighborhood deer population. **Morgan Dunbar, Founder of Animal Allies**, learned about the deadly fence a few months ago, and was put in touch with a local gentleman who had been trying for years to solve the problem. The WHPC had been intransigent. Dunbar immediately started rallying people via computer, asking them to write letters to the cemetery and the commission. Fortunately, the owners of Forest Lawn were responsive to Animal Allies.

One sticking point has been the insistence by the preservation commission on keeping the fence true to its historic nature — as if an inanimate object were more important than the suffering of living beings. Affordability was also an issue. Any modification in the fence could also make the owners financially liable for future problems. Add to this the fact that the WHPC didn't want to cover the spikes in any way, and the deer seemed to have little chance.

Nevertheless, after members of

Animal Allies met with cemetery officials and the International Chimney Corporation, specialists in steel structures, a number of possibilities were considered.

Media coverage kicked in vigorously in April. WIVB, Channel 4, televised a story on the most recent incident of a deer coming to a miserable end (<http://www.wivb.com/dpp/news/local/fence-poses-as-dangerous-threat-to-deer>). The Buffalo News, as well as local weekly, the Amherst Bee, covered the story, with the latter's reporter Kate Mockler attending Village Board meetings.

After considerable research, the final choice was C-shaped metal caps that can be installed over the spikes. The caps are resistant to impact and rotation, and expected to protect deer jumping from either side of the fence. The Village issued a "certificate of appropriateness" for the caps, Mockler told Wildlife Watch.

The cost of the caps is approx. \$10 apiece. With 4400 spikes to cap, the full cost is a daunting \$44,000. This does not include labor, which the Forest Lawn Group has offered to cover.

Concerned local citizens are trying to obtain a grant, and a **Sweet Home High School** (Amherst, NY) student, **Sarah Peden**, who is also a member of Animal Allies, organized fund-raising efforts on her own. Donations are being accepted to help with this humane project. Tax-deductible donations can be made at "Protect the Deer Fund" at this link:

<http://www.williamsvillecemetery.com/news-and-events/news/fence-solution#fund>

The cemetery will be installing the deer shields as money comes in, placing them first in the areas where most fatalities happened. Dunbar said she is "Trying to pinpoint the hotspots." The first area being worked on is where the most recent death occurred. Most of the deer seem to approach the cemetery from the quieter rear and back sides. As the front of the cemetery is on busy Main Street, fewer deer attempt entry there, so that will be the last section covered.

## SPIKED FENCES

Continued on page 7

### **The Wildlife Watch Binocular**

is published quarterly by Wildlife Watch Inc., a 501(c)3 Corp.  
P.O. Box 562, New Paltz, NY 12561

Phone: 845-256-1400,

e-mail: [wildwatch@verizon.net](mailto:wildwatch@verizon.net)

Website: [www.wildwatch.org](http://www.wildwatch.org)

Anne Muller - Editor;

E.M. Fay - Assoc. Editor

We welcome letters/articles/photos for consideration.

Contributions are tax-deductible.



# AUGIE THE BORDER COLLIE DOGGIE

You may recall in our Spring issue that Wildlife Watch helped to place 25 domestic geese from the State University of New York (SUNY), New Paltz campus, at **Wings of Hope Sanctuary** in Marydel, DE. It was a first step in the non-lethal dissuasion of Canada geese from the campus. **Nancy Pikulik**, the founder of Wings of Hope, generously agreed to take all 25 geese. The relocation was done in anticipation of using a border collie on the campus to dissuade Canada geese from using its very attractive ponds. The domestic geese would otherwise have been constantly disturbed by the border collie; instead



they are where they can be happy and peaceful.

On the same day following their placement, SUNY's Director of Environmental Health and Safety, **Mike Malloy**, picked up **Augie** from a border collie training center in VA.

Augie did beautifully back in NY and quickly bonded with Mike, but sadly, early on in his new career, Augie fell through the ice and developed a water phobia. Wouldn't you? With TLC, he has regained his confidence and is now able to shoo the Canada geese away, a far better alternative to humans rounding up and killing them.

Some critics felt that Augie was too much of an expense, however, Mike

**Will the real Augie please stand up!**



said the cost is covered by savings resulting from discontinued clean-up expenses no longer needed for removal of goose feces from the school's turf.

Augie's veterinary care, including medication and preventive costs, is being donated by **Dr. Michael J. Halstead, owner of the Lake Katrine Animal Hospital.**

Mike was quoted in the Oracle (student newspaper): "The previous proposal was \$85,000 to 'humanely' destroy the domestic geese and feed the local human food shelters and have a dog service for three years. I found an actual home where the domestic geese are being cared for, so I think it is a win-win situation."

In a follow-up report, Mike said: *In addition to the real Augie we have made silhouettes of Augie to place in our athletic fields and by the ponds, so when Augie and I are not on campus, there would be a visual deterrent that*

*would move in the wind .. I had our Art students cut them out of plywood and had three Highland High School students paint them (for their community service credits)! What a great idea, Mike: Augie clones all over the campus!*

Mike said "Augie never harms the geese and totally leaves goslings alone. He is a very smart dog."

To see the complete story as published in the New Paltz Oracle, please visit:

<http://oracle.newpaltz.edu/augie-the-border-collie-arrives-on-campus>



## MUST-SEE WEBSITES

### PILOTS N' PAWS

Pilots N Paws, established in 2008, is a non-profit group that organizes volunteer pilots and plane owners to transport animals rescued from euthanasia and other dangers by flying them to new homes. Pilots N Paws has rescued thousands of ani-

mals in the past 3 years.

They are seen here helping animals who survived the horrific tornado that hit Joplin, Mo.

<http://pilotsnpaws.org>

On right: Pilot Sarah Owens, husband Jim and Pilot Tom Renfro with their passenger!



## FLOTSAM

Continued from page 1

widespread appeal that what is essentially an exercise in littering is being gleefully used by mainstream organizations, charity fund raisers, even sports events. Even memorials for the dead have embraced a policy of creating airborne litter. In one such painful event, the 60th commemoration of Nakba (the occupation of Palestine), 21,915 black balloons were released, one for every day of occupation. As the number of participating cities grows each year, the number of balloons increases as well. In Roanoke, VA, a National Autism Awareness Month event featured the mass release of blue and yellow balloons

(<http://www.roanoke.com/news/nrv/wb/283168>). Tens of thousands of pink balloons have been released during Dubai's annual Breast Cancer Walkathon, despite the known links between latex and health problems. Latex balloons have been banned from many hospitals across the US as concerns for latex-associated rash, asthma and even fatal anaphylactic shock increase.

In advertising, the image of balloons floating off into oblivion is used to evoke a sense of "freedom," in everything from the use of birth control pills (Bayer's Yaz), to ease in learning a new language (Rosetta Stone). Perhaps there is a sense of just "having fun!" associated with the release of balloons. Disney seems to think so; the entertainment giant holds the world record for the largest balloon release when it sent 1,592,744 inflated balloons into the air simultaneously. The irresponsible message from Disney, et al: **"It's OK to create airborne litter. After it disappears, it's no longer a problem!"**

**Nothing could be farther from the truth.**

Jerry Tupacz saw the ribbon first, dangling from the mouth of a petrel frantically flapping on the beach at Cape Island, one of the remotest islands in the remote Cape Romain National Wildlife Refuge.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service bio-technician was out on a sea turtle nest watch patrol last summer. The bird was too distressed to ignore, too desperate to fly off when Tupacz approached to pick it up. The ribbon, as it turned out, hadn't entangled the bird. The ribbon had been swallowed.

**"I pulled and pulled and pulled**

**and along came a string of shriveled-up, bright red balloons,"**

Tupacz said. The bird died two hours later; Tupacz couldn't say if the balloons played a role in killing it. But the problem is endemic, he said. "We pick up balloons every day. I can easily pick up two or three or four balloons on that island any day of the summer."

How do they get there? Cape Romain — the island home for more than 1,000 sea turtle nests each summer — is so directly downstream of predominant summer winds in the Charleston area that the state has placed an air-pollution monitor there. Sea turtles, among other wildlife, will eat shriveled or exploded rubber balloons; they look like jellyfish.

<http://wildshores.blogspot.com/2011/01/do-balloon-releases-kill-marine-life.html>

When the National Aquarium rescued an ailing pygmy sperm whale, they found several large pieces of plastic and a mylar balloon blocking its digestive system. The calf, named "Inky," was one of the lucky ones. Biologists were able to remove the offensive materials and successfully release the whale. For most wildlife that ingests balloons or their fragments, by the time they are found it is too late.

On a two-mile stretch of beach on Long Island Sound, volunteers for the **New Canaan Nature Center** filled thirty large garbage bags with deflated balloons. Stating the balloons can take up to 4 years to degrade, depending on environmental conditions, the facility **has banned balloon releases at its events and parties.**

One study conducted by researcher Dr. Peter Lutz found that after swallowing balloon fragments, the length of time that the latex remained in a turtle's intestinal tract ranged from a few days to four months, with a peak time period of eight weeks. He found that

when hungry, turtles will actively ingest latex balloons, which resemble plankton and jellyfish when floating on water. A Baleen whale scoops thousands of gallons of water into its mouth at a time, but can't pick out the balloons and their tethering devices that end up in its mouth. Everything is swallowed and then the internal havoc begins.

What is the balloon industry's answer to the release dilemma? The chosen mantra, "Balloons are 100% biodegradable," now appears in virtually all advertisements for balloons and their releases. They tell us that balloons break down at the rate of an oak leaf or a piece of compost. However, oak leaves, with an admitted biodegradable comparability to balloons, take at least 6-8 months to disintegrate, and even longer depending on conditions and levels of moisture and exposure to sunlight. Oak leaves are not a known hazard in oceans.

The shelf life of a rotting oak leaf is two years or more, said Kelly Thorvalson, South Carolina Aquarium sea turtle hospital manager. "Balloons can do a great deal of harm in that time period."

When under water, or in the bellies of animals where biodegrading sunlight can not reach, balloons will remain intact much longer. While degradation time beyond 6 months is dependent on variables, we know final dissolution of the latex can take a *very long time.*

How can it be that so many technologically advanced nations can be so ignorant with respect to the environmental damage caused by balloons? One eco-group fighting the release of balloons, NY4whales.org, writes on their NO BALLOONS campaign poster:

## FLOTSAM

Continued on page 5

## WILDLIFE WATCH NEEDS YOU!

Wildlife Watch needs your help more than ever to continue providing this vital national service for helping injured and orphaned wildlife. In addition to our national hotline, Wildlife Watch lobbies for wildlife protection bills, does direct rescue locally, and contributes to the local rehabbers for their care of the babies we bring to them. Through our publication, the **Wildlife Watch Binocular,**

Wildlife Watch emphasizes the unique spirit of individual animals and promotes wildlife watching as a means of spiritually and ethically relating to other beings, and as an enhancement of our life enjoyment.

**Will you become a part of our team?**

**YES**

<http://wildwatch.org/join/join.htm>





Photo, Ocean Conservancy

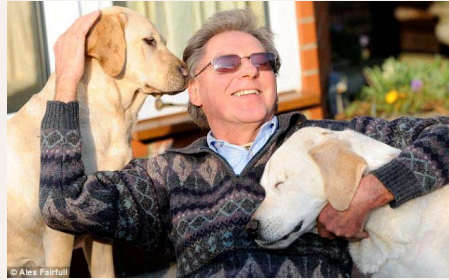
- Releasing balloons into the air is littering. Ultimately they will burst and return to the earth as litter or marine debris.
- Almost all balloons released are tied with ribbons and string which entangle, strangle and kill marine life.
- Latex balloons float for just 10 hours but can take a year or more to degrade, long enough to repeatedly wrap around or be ingested by turtles, sea birds and marine mammals.
- An infant sperm whale was found dead of starvation in New Jersey as a result of swallowing an inflated Mylar balloon which had lodged in its intestines. (Clean Virginia Waterways)
- Scientists who work with stranded whales, dolphins, seals and sea turtles have found balloons, parts of balloons and balloon string in the stomachs of many of these dead animals.

What can you do? Sign the petition to the Ad Council, Event Planners Associations and the UNEP Office of Marine Debris Solutions at <http://www.thepetitionsite.com/take-action/897/304/113/>

**Taffy Williams, New York Whale and Dolphin Action League**, PO Box 273, Yonkers, NY 10707. 914-793-9186 [www.ny4whales.org](http://www.ny4whales.org)

# EYE ON THE NEWS

## Guide Dog for Blind Guide Dog



In a touching example of loyalty and compassion, a blind Englishman has adopted a second guide dog not just for his own sake, but to maintain the quality of life for his original guide dog, Edward, who has himself lost his sight.

Graham Waspé, 60, of Stowmarket, Suffolk, has been guided by Edward, a yellow Labrador, for six years. When cataracts necessitated the removal of Edward's eyes, he did what a true friend should do – he found someone to help his pal, in this case, Opal, another yellow Lab guide dog.

"They've become quite good friends and get on happily together," Waspé told the Daily Mail. They are

best buddies, and Opal takes Edward to all his favorite places. "Edward is happier by having another dog around."

Together, man and dogs visit local schools to raise awareness about how the blind and guide dogs interact.

Waspé and his wife Sandra are determined to keep their happy family intact. He says they will take care of Edward "until the day that either we go or he goes."

Read more, with photos, at: <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-1364849/Guide-dog-aids-blind-owner-AND-leading-labrador-loses-sight.html>



## MUST-SEE WEBSITES

<http://www.mnn.com/earth-matters/animals/photos/14-amazing-camouflaged-animals/blending-in>

Amazing photos of animals' camouflage with insightful descriptions, such as this expert regarding the walking stick to the right: *While most animals need a specific backdrop for their camouflage to work, a few are so well-disguised they're incognito almost anywhere. Stick insects are a good example, with twig-like bodies that let them become virtually invisible just by holding still.*



Watchable Wildlife 2011 Conference  
[www.watchablewildlife.org](http://www.watchablewildlife.org)  
[info@watchablewildlife.org](mailto:info@watchablewildlife.org)

This wonderful group is arranging seminars across the country. If you are interested in using your land for wildlife watching purposes and as a business

involved with wildlife watching, they are the people to contact!

### NO WAY TO TREAT A RATTLESNAKE

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VkiA4Hhrjuo>

A nightmarish video of more legal human savagery directed at animals and turned into perverse amusement, much like pigeon shoots, for fun and profit.

No sooner do these snakes wake up from hibernation when they are snared, speared and skinned, decapitated, and cooked



— some while still alive! <http://www.rattlesnakeroundup.net> One obvious purpose is to inflict the most pain possible.

Please contact [www.lohv.org](http://www.lohv.org) if you'd like to see a law against these "rattlesnake roundups."

# R.O.C.K. - Rehabbers Offer Care and Kindness

Wildlife Rehabilitators are aware of the many perils facing individual wild animals in their daily existence. Some can be avoided by personal steps that we can take - others need to be dealt with through education or lobbying efforts.

Wildlife rehabilitators are **licensed by state game agencies, yet they are given no other support**, and

they are **not allowed to charge for their "services."** Sadly, animals often come to the attention of rehabbers when they are found by people who either don't want them near their house or don't know how to help them. When the DEC's, DNR's or police are called, they normally recommend killing or letting the animals die; and most veterinarians cannot take time from their busy schedules.

Calls come from all over the country to our hotline: 877-WILDHELP

Wildlife Watch fields about 30 wildlife calls daily during "baby season." Many of the calls this time of year are about "abandoned" fawns. Fortunately, most of the fawns are just

waiting for Mom to come by to nurse. Occasionally, though, a fawn will have a serious injury from a lawn mower or car, or will be left motherless due to a car accident or poaching. Wildlife Watch then refers callers to wildlife rehabilitators in their area.

## WOLF RUN WILDLIFE REFUGE AND EDUCATION CENTER, KY

One recent call came from a man in Kentucky whose dog dragged a fawn through the woods and mangled her leg. Through our contact list, the caller found out about **Wolf Run Wildlife Refuge**, in Nicholasville, KY 40356, which was in his neck of the woods.

**What a find!** <http://www.wolfrun.org> Please visit their website. We have never been there, but we thought you should know about them. It's so heartening to see that wild animals are cared for all over the country by kind people. Sadly, the little fawn did not make it, but s/he hopefully got to know some love on this Earth prior to passing.

**Please let your neighbors know (we know you know) not to let their dogs or cats loose at this time of year: IT'S BABY SEASON!**

Here are some photos from **Wolf Run** - the photos are from their website: [www.wolfrun.org](http://www.wolfrun.org)



They take the big guys

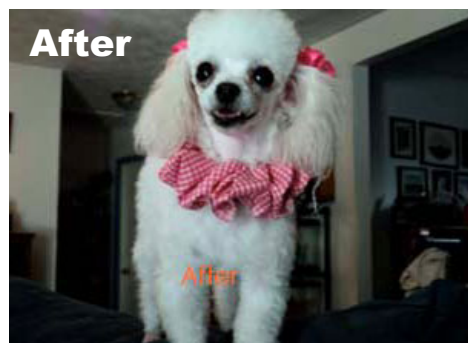


They take the little guys, too.



Before

They also take in domestic animals and specialize in senior citizens.



After

## Thank You *LETTER TO WILDLIFE WATCH*

Hi Anne,  
Thank you so much for calling me back today. You were a pleasure to talk to, and I enjoyed sharing my experience with you! I'll give you a quick re-tell of my wonderful day!

When I came home I spotted a fawn in my tall grass this morning - tall because it's rained forever! I went straight into the house to keep an eye on him from there. Fired up my com-

puter and Googled "baby deer" and your website popped up! It's so great that there is such great info in seconds. Your instructions were very useful, because oh, did I want to pet and cuddle that little bit of love! So I waited, and waited. And to think I couldn't get any bigger surprises this day, **I saw Mama approaching the little guy with another little guy/gal by her side!** Oh to catch the moment when they were reunited. Little guy

went right for the milk and mama started grooming him. What an amazing experience it all was. Thank you again, Ann, for calling me back and answering all my questions. Hope my little family comes back to visit often.

Sincerely, Kim K. NJ

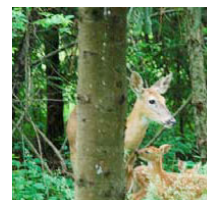


Photo by Kim K.



## SPIKED FENCES

Continued from page 2

There will continue to be danger for the deer until the full cost is raised.



Animal Allies of WNY founder Morgan Dunbar, left, and Joe Dispenza, president of Williamsville Cemetery, stand next to the fence with protective caps

Still, public reaction to the tragedies has been heartening.

As Dunbar summed up the situation: "This issue has created a consciousness of compassion not just in Williamsville, but across Western New York and beyond! The plight of the deer living inside and around the Williamsville Cemetery has served to remind the public that these beautiful individuals are deserving of basic protections. As an animal advocate, I have been overwhelmed by the positive public response to this issue. People from all walks of life have come together to support the deer and end their suffering. After becoming aware of this issue, I believe that many people not as tuned in to the plight of wildlife have started to understand these animals as neighbors and not nuisances. This is a true turning point. Through everyone's dedication to this issue, we are laying the foundation for a larger awakening and consciousness about that wildlife we share the planet with."

Anyone interested in the vital work of **Animal Allies of Western New York** may view their website at [www.animalallieswny.org](http://www.animalallieswny.org)

An excellent commentary by Buffalo News' Donn Esmonde can be read here:

<http://www.buffalonews.com/city/columns/donn-esmonde/article393404.ece>

Fixes to these fences include cutting the spikes off, putting a flat bar across the spikes, or capping them as seen in the photo here. If you have other ideas, please let Wildlife Watch know.

E.M. Fay is Associate Editor of the Wildlife Watch Binocular.

## Excerpts from: **The Emotional Lives of Animals:** Grief, friendship, gratitude, wonder, and other things we animals experience.

By Mark Bekoff



Photo by Paul Huber

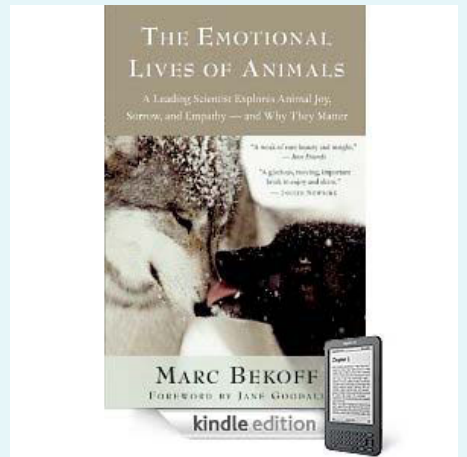
I watched a red fox bury her mate after a cougar had killed him. She gently laid dirt and twigs over his body, stopped, looked to make sure he was all covered, patted down the dirt and twigs with her forepaws, stood silently for a moment, then trotted off, tail down and ears laid back against her head. After publishing my stories I got emails from people all over the world who had seen similar behavior in various birds and mammals.

**Marc Bekoff** is a former Professor of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology at the University of Colorado, Boulder, and **co-founder with Jane Goodall of Ethologists for the Ethical Treatment of Animals.** He

has won many awards for his scientific research including the Exemplar Award from the Animal Behavior Society and a Guggenheim Fellowship. Marc has written more than 200 articles, numerous books, and has edited three encyclopedias.

With Marc's permission, **The Wildlife Watch Binocular** will occasionally reprint some of **Marc Bekoff's** excellent writings demonstrating how similar animals are to humans in their capacity to care about their world and loved ones

You can order the book through Amazon.



## LET'S GO WILDLIFE WATCHING! Brace Mountain, Dutchess County, NY



It's the highest point in Dutchess where three states come together (New York, Connecticut and Massachusetts). You can see hawks migrating in the fall, and also hermit thrush, dark-eyed juncos and much more can be observed at this location at other times of the year. It is a two-mile hike and not considered to be too easy. For more information visit:

<http://www.berkshirehiking.com/hikes/bracemt.html>

### PLEASE LET US KNOW ABOUT YOUR WILDLIFE WATCHING EXPERIENCES

The Wildlife Watch Binocular would like to let their readers know about a place that you've enjoyed because of your wildlife encounters or observation. It should be a place that people can visit and have an enjoyable wildlife watching experience. Please keep your description to 250 words or less and please enclose a photo. You can e-mail: [wildwatch@verizon.net](mailto:wildwatch@verizon.net) or mail to POB 562, New Paltz, NY 12561



**NEED HELP FOR  
INJURED OR  
ORPHANED WILDLIFE?  
CALL THE WILDLIFE  
WATCH HOTLINE!  
1-877-WILDHELP  
(1-877-945-3435)**

Wildlife Watch maintains current lists of wildlife rehabilitators around the country. Our hotline helps us to help hundreds of people and animals annually.

Please help us by becoming a Wildlife Watch member for \$25 annually and please make an additional contribution for the R.O.C.K. Project that will be put into a fund and used to help a rehabber help wild animals. R.O.C.K. Project funds will be distributed upon request at our discretion up to the amount available.

You can contribute by PayPal by clicking here

[www.wildwatch.org/join/contrib.htm](http://www.wildwatch.org/join/contrib.htm)

✓ Contribute by phone with a credit card. 845-256-1400

✓ Contribute by mail: Wildlife Watch, P.O. Box 562, New Paltz, NY 12561

## THE NEW YORK STATE DOG MAY SOON BE ...THE RESCUE DOG!!!

In an excellent example of bi-partisan and animal-friendly cooperation, **NYS Assemblyman Micah Kellner and Senator Joseph Robach** announced



Photo of Ichabod courtesy of Ulster County SPCA. [www.ucspca.org](http://www.ucspca.org)

their intention last month to make the rescue dog New York's official state dog. "Rescue dogs" refers to canines adopted from shelters, and as shelter dogs are from many breeds, including the mixed varieties we all love as "mutts," they are uniquely suited to be their state's representative. **New York has traditionally welcomed all types and nationalities of humans – so it can be said that our state dog should be multi-faceted, too.**

Choosing a state dog is more important than just deciding on a favorite breed. **As Kellner and Robach said, their bill is meant to raise awareness of the desperate need for adoption of stray animals and keeping the population of homeless pets under control.** Robach has two dogs from a rescue operation, and said, "I think this would just promote adoptions, the importance of spaying and neutering, and humane education."

The idea of designating rescue dogs rather than a particular breed is especially humane. Kellner said NY would be the first state to do so. **"What we're trying to do is encourage people if they want to get a dog, don't go to a pet store. Go to your local rescue**

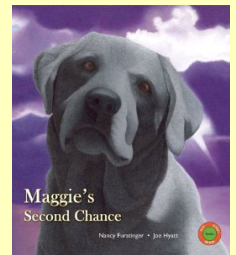
**group, go to your local shelter. There is a perfect dog there for you."**

Animal groups across the state have lauded the bill, saying it would help their own educational and adoption efforts. **We should all support this bill, A6681, S5363, and encourage our representatives to vote for it.**

Please also visit: [www.lohv.org](http://www.lohv.org)

## Maggie's Second Chance

MAGGIE'S SECOND CHANCE is about an adopted dog. It is based on a true and personal story by Nancy Furstinger, author of at least 100 other publications about animals.



It is designed to raise awareness of the dogs who were given up and their need to find forever homes. The book can be ordered from Amazon.

*One reviewer said: A great gift for*



*anyone who loves dogs, has rescued a shelter dog, or anyone who has that instant connection*

*to humankind's best friend.*