

# The Wildlife Watch Binocular

PO Box 562, New Paltz, NY 12561

Fall 2011

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## HUG FARM

BY ANNE MULLER

The enjoyment of the summer has been greatly enhanced by the wonderful VEGANIC food that we've been blessed with from the Huguenot Street Farm – or Hug Farm for short.

For those of you who are unfamiliar with CSAs (Community Supported Agriculture), they are farms that get their support from people who prepay for food in the winter to be collected during the summer and fall seasons. Here in New Paltz, we're lucky to have so many organic CSAs to choose from. There's one farm that is particularly outstanding because it is beyond organic, it is VEGANIC. No animal products or by-products are used in the growing of produce. Hug Farm, until this fall, has been owned and operated by **Ron and Kate Khosla**, and let me not leave out their brilliant farm manager, **Gavin Rinkor**, who has been producing amazing food through hurricanes, freak snow storms, lashing winds, and weirdly freezing temperatures. I think Gavin's middle name is Houdini.

To get an idea of how special this place is, visit <http://flyingbeet.com/> and check out the videos, and especially the description of what veganic farming is and why the Khoslas do it.

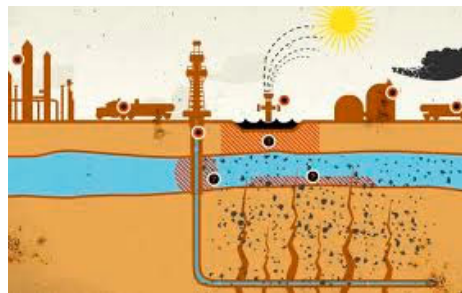
New Paltz was declared a disaster area following the hurricane that hit the northeastern US. People's homes washed away and farms were flooded. Much attention was paid to the pumpkins that floated down the Wallkill River, never to become Jack-o-lanterns or pumpkin pie. That, of course, put a huge strain on the farmers who toiled

### HUG FARM

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## IMPACT OF HYDRAULIC FRACTURING ON WILDLIFE

BY E.M. FAY



There is considerable debate about the environmental effects of the natural gas extraction method called hydraulic fracturing, or "fracking," for short.

Interested parties include energy corporations, landowners, politicians, state "conservation" agencies, and individuals concerned with the damage to water, soil, and air. The risks of fracking to humans have been extensively discussed, but less time has been devoted to the deadly impacts on wildlife.

Conventional well-drilling uses under 80,000 gallons of water per well. But a more recent, aggressive technique, "high-volume horizontal hydraulic fracturing," requires millions of gallons of water per well.

High-volume hydraulic fracturing releases natural gas from the ground by high-pressure injection of water, sand, and chemical agents into horizontally drilled wells. Rock layers are cracked by the pressurized mixture, the fissures held open by the sand; then gas is released from shale and flows up through the well. ([www.propublica.org](http://www.propublica.org))

Natural gas is touted as a "greener,"

alternative fuel that burns more cleanly than coal or oil. Available in the US, its proponents claim it could provide energy independence for America – an attractive suggestion, given the often-troubled geo-political scene. But at what cost?

Of particular interest to drillers is the Marcellus Shale, an enormous tract extending from New York to West Virginia. Opponents have pressured state officials to study the potential consequences of hydraulic fracturing in this area; the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation says it has done so.

Fragmentation and destruction of wildlife habitat is unavoidable when cutting forests for drilling and road building. As the "NYS DEC Revised Draft Supplemental Generic Environmental Impact Statement," released Sept. 7, 2011, states: "Habitat loss, conversion, and fragmentation (both short-term and long-term) would result from land grading, clearing, the construction of well pads, roads, pipelines, and other infrastructure associated with gas drilling." **Other problems for wildlife are "increased mortality, increase of edge habitats, altered microclimates, and increased traffic, noise, lighting, and well flares."**

"Habitat fragmentation from human infrastructure has been identified as one of the greatest threats to biological diversity."

<http://www.dec.ny.gov/energy/75370.html>

### HYDRAULIC FRACTURING

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## HYDRAULIC FRACTURING

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### ALL LIVING BEINGS NEED CLEAN WATER



Dead cattle found near LA fracking

Hydro-fracturing threatens water quality. Duke University researchers found high levels of leaked methane in well water collected near hydro-fracking sites. <http://tinyurl.com/3p6l99t>

The EPA has found methane and benzene in ground water near gas wells.

<http://www.cnn.com/2010/US/08/31/wyoming.epa.water/index.html>

**State regulators have documented over 1,000 incidents of groundwater contamination. "...fracking generates enormous quantities of highly toxic—and even radioactive—wastewater...."** [www.waterdefense.org](http://www.waterdefense.org)

As harmful as fracking is for humans, wild animals are at even greater risk. Wildlife doesn't have the multiple resources that we have. If our water source is polluted, we often have the option to get water elsewhere. **Wildlife has one choice and one choice only: whatever water is in their immediate vicinity.** When animals have to travel farther to find safe water, crossing more roads, many more individuals are run over by vehicles.

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We welcome letters/articles/photos  
for consideration.

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## ANIMAL STUDIES

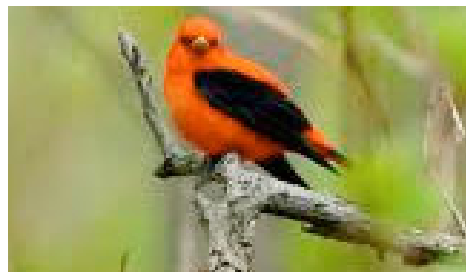
**Harm to wildlife from fracking has been reported on Animal Planet's website. From October 2009: "Dead and tumoured cattle, deer, chipmunks, and other wildlife near fracturing sites have surfaced in various locales." Also: "On September 16<sup>th</sup> [2009], 8,000 gallons of frack fluid leaked into Stevens Creek near Dimock, Pennsylvania, causing minnows, salamanders and tadpoles to swim erratically and die. Cabot Oil & Gas was responsible for three frac gel spills within a few weeks time...." And: "....between West Virginia and Pennsylvania, much of the entire 38 miles of Dunkard Creek ecosystem has died in a very short time in mid-September, and officials suspect fracking fluid is to blame."**

**Over 10,000 fish, plus salamanders, frogs, crayfish, aquatic insects, and freshwater mussels, were killed in that instance.**

**Biologists called it "the worst environmental disaster of their lifetime." It's now being treated as a crime scene, since someone may have illegally dumped fracking fluid rather than treating the chemicals.**

<http://tinyurl.com/6deww9t>

In Pennsylvania, a mapping project showed that scarlet tanager populations could decline by as much as 23



percent because of drilling in their habitat; and the black-throated warbler, whose breeding grounds overlap the Marcellus region, would be even more drastically affected.

Pennsylvania brook trout are especially sensitive to water temperature, sediments, and contaminants. Their now severely shrinking population depends upon watersheds in Marcellus shale areas. Drilling is highly likely to have an extremely negative impact on the trout.

More problems for animals are documented by ProPublica's Abraham Lustgarten and Nicholas Kusnetz, in an article on Sept. 16, 2011:

**"In September 2009, Range Resources began drilling a natural gas well near the home of Beth Voyles in one of the most heavily drilled counties in southwestern PA. The following spring, Range began filling a giant waste impoundment near Voyles' home, and wastewater accumulated in puddles on the dirt roads.... The family immediately noticed a stench, and its dog, which lapped the fluid from the puddles, got sick.."**

**A veterinarian determined that the dog had been exposed to ethylene glycol, a component of antifreeze that is also used in hydraulic fracturing. The dog's organs began to crystallize, and ultimately failed, the vet told Voyles, and the family had to euthanize the dog. A short time later the family had to euthanize a horse after it exhibited similar symptoms."**

When Voyles began to suspect drilling might be the cause, she had her doctors run blood tests for chemicals known to be used in the processes. The results came back showing high levels of benzene, toluene and arsenic.

After more complaints came in, the DEP finally asked Range to treat the impoundment pond for hydrogen sulfide, a toxic gas that can be fatal at high levels and cause nausea, vomiting and headaches in lower amounts. The impoundment was briefly emptied in June, but filled again in August. Voyles has lost much of her sense of smell, and she says everything tastes like metal.

Voyles' lawsuit against the DEP argues that they ignored concerns about chemicals from the waste nearby, never advised her that its tests showed her well water was also contaminated with an industrial solvent, and never issued any violations to Range. The waste impoundment did not meet minimum state regulatory

## HYDRAULIC FRACTURING

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# OSTIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE TURTLE MONITORING AND HARVESTING

Following our publication of the devastating effects of sea turtle egg harvesting in Costa Rica by Capt. Paul Watson of Sea Shepherd, the Embassy of Costa Rica contacted us requesting to print a response. We are honoring their request. Due to our publication deadline, Captain Watson's response will appear in the next issue of the Binocular.

The Embassy of Costa Rica in Washington, D.C. has been receiving notes of protest with regard to an article with inaccurate information that has been published and shared among many. This article is about the Ostional Wildlife Refuge in Costa Rica, which was declared a protected area in 1982. It includes pictures of the humble villagers of Ostional collecting Olive Ridley sea turtle eggs, which were taken in broad daylight.

The Development Association of the Ostional Wildlife Refuge (ASIO) permits and monitors the harvesting and marketing of the eggs hatched only by the first wave of sea turtles (known as the *arribada*). Prior to the legalization of egg harvesting and marketing, selling turtle eggs was out of control. Also, scientists from environmental organizations and from the University of Costa Rica found that the first wave of eggs laid was often excavated by turtles arriving after the *arribada* or by high tides. Scientists also found that if the first eggs were not excavated, they contaminated the



Photo courtesy Embassy of Costa Rica

healthy eggs left by turtles arriving to the coast after the *arribada* or exposed all eggs to environmental factors, and were devoured by pigs, dogs or vultures.

In 1987, these scientists along with Government officials began to develop a project that allows local people through community cooperatives to legally collect and sell a percentage of the eggs from the first three days of each *arribada*. Since then, the population of these sea turtles has gradually increased.

Therefore, harvesting the first eggs laid facilitates the survival of the subsequent waves of eggs laid after the

*arribada*. Moreover, thirty percent of the income from the primary egg harvesting is used to pay the guards that patrol the nesting beaches and also invested in research to better understand and care for the turtle population.

Ostional Wildlife Refuge is the only place in the world where it is legal to harvest turtle eggs. The project can be visited by guided tour groups. The best time to visit is just before and during an *arribada*, which is usually at the start of the last quarter moon. Even though these turtles arrive throughout the year, the best months to visit are from July until December, during the rainy season.

If you would like learn more about the Olive Ridley sea turtles at the Ostional Wildlife Refuge and the organization's environmental principals and policies please visit the website:

<http://www.costarica-national-parks.com/ostionalwildliferefuge.html>

Submitted by Minister Counselor, Anna Maria Oduber, Embassy of Costa Rica, Washington, D.C.

## EYE ON THE NEWS: "I OWN A TREE"

This September, a significant Green Initiative project was carried out in Bangalore, India. Sponsored by the Kshiti Foundation and the Bangalore Midtown Rotary, their Eco-Club began "I Own a Tree." The club's goal is the planting of 1000 trees on the campus of Bangalore University.

The idea was to help people build a personal, hands-on relationship with trees. Schoolchildren were involved in the program, acquainting them with the need to keep our planet as green as possible. Deploing the rapid defor-



estation of the globe merely "for the sake of convenience," the organizers noted the innumerable benefits offered by trees. Animal habitat, the regulation of weather and climate, and the health of us all depend on maintaining sufficient numbers of trees.

Kshiti Foundation's mission is "to create sensitivity towards the environment and to awaken the philanthropic side of mankind."

**"Mother Nature has given us enough. Now it is our chance."**

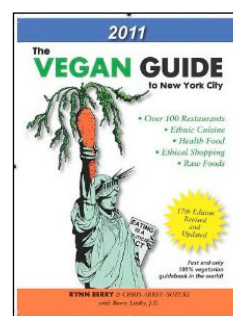
Read more and see a charming video at:

<http://www.ourecoclub.com/>

## The Vegan Guide to New York City

2011 by Rynn Berry et al.

**This is the first and only 100% vegetarian guidebook in the world!**



Now that the year is coming to an end, we are happy to ship this out to you as a Wildlife Watch Christmas Special and Hard Times membership at a mere \$5 plus the cost of postage (\$2). If you live in NYC or come only once to visit, you will find most of the places in the book still there. The Vegan

Guide also includes where to find organic foods and other vegan items.

**We are grateful to the author, Rynn Berry, for making a contribution of his remaining 2011 Guides to Wildlife Watch.**

To order the 2012 Guide as it becomes available, visit <http://www.veganguidetonyc.com/Home.html>

## HUG FARM

Continued from page 1

so hard to produce their crops. It also took a heavy toll on the wild animals who couldn't fly away. Small mammals



in particular were drowned in the raging river. That's not even to mention the freak snowstorm that dumped 10 inches of snow in October on all the new food that was starting to grow after the hurricane!

During that time of severe flooding, as Kate tells it, Ron was out kayaking in the floodwater, inspecting the damage from Hurricane Irene, and he found a bunny floating on a piece of blown-down greenhouse plastic. He put the



bunny in the kayak and brought him to the house (instead of just out of the flood) because he wasn't sure if the bunny was old enough to be on his own. Kate said, "I watched over him 'til the flood was over and he proved he would be okay alone out there. We only kept him for a few days, because he was eating and pooping and doing everything he was supposed to be doing...so once the flood was gone we put him back out in the field. Hopefully he's still doing well!"

We thank Kate and Ron Khosla for making us healthier and happier! Be sure to read all about their amazing philosophy and practice of farming. Once again, visit <http://flyingbeet.com/>

## EYE ON THE NEWS: BULLFIGHTING BANNED IN CATALONIA!

A tradition of cruelty that is over 600 years old has been ended in Catalonia as that region became the first part of mainland Spain to ban the bloody "sport" of bullfighting. Barcelona, the chief city of Catalonia, and home to the giant arena, La Monumental, will no longer allow the sadistic slaughter of the magnificent animals, as lawmakers there voted for the ban in answer to a petition signed by 180,000 people.



Joan Puigercos, a lawmaker from Catalan, insisted this was not about politics or national identity but rather "the suffering of the animal. That is the question, nothing more. **We have a responsibility that goes beyond the borders of Catalonia. It is a responsibility to civilization.**"

"**Today has been the day we were hoping for,**" said Leonardo Anselmi on behalf of PROU, the animal rights groups whose signature-collecting campaign caused Catalonia's Parliament to debate the issue and vote last year.

### You can read the full story at:

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2041057/Death-bullfight-Last-spectacle-Barcelona-Catalonia-bans-matadors.html>

### Please see more details of the law at:

<http://www.prou.cat/english/index.php?c=proposta.php>

## Meet Eileen Jefferson, DVM



Wildlife Watch is pleased to let you know about a compassionate veterinarian who makes house visits within Ulster County, N.Y.: Eileen Jefferson, DVM. Dr. Jefferson can be reached at 845-707-3148. Visit her website at: [www.ethicalveterinary.com](http://www.ethicalveterinary.com) Dr. Jefferson states on her website: *My veterinary practice is part of an ever-growing social movement that works to gain the same ethical regard for animals as exists for other members of society. I seek to minimize the far-reaching repercussions that inevitably arise when animals are treated as property rather than sentient and valued members of society.*

## WILDLIFE WATCH NEEDS YOU!

Wildlife Watch needs your help more than ever to continue providing our vital services 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>

# LIVING IN HARMONY WITH RACCOONS: A Different Perspective

BY SUSAN BEATTIE

Planet Earth is home to many beings, each here for a specific purpose. **Species Human is the only one with the power to insure the survival, not the destruction, of other creatures.**

The purpose of this article is to help maintain a peaceful environment for raccoons. The premise is simple and can be applied to all living things: TOLERATE and COEXIST. Respect nature and let everyone live peacefully.

Raccoons are intelligent and curious animals. They do best in the wild but adapt to habitat close to man, ironically their greatest enemy. They are cute to watch from a distance, but must be left undisturbed and wild.

It is easier to prevent problems rather than reverse them. To avoid conflicts with raccoons, remove food sources. Plain and simple. Don't leave food outdoors or in screened enclosures; the odor travels and attracts animals. Keep in mind that raccoons will rip screening to get the scraps.

Domestic pets should be fed indoors, then their dishes cleaned so the aroma won't be airborne. Outdoor grills need scrubbing after use and kept closed. Keep garbage cans indoors until the morning of pick up, and use turn-twist trash cans. Sprinkle problem areas with cayenne pepper, which is an offensive odor for raccoons and a safe deterrent.

Raccoons have babies during spring and /or fall months. Sometimes they seek the shelter of a house overhang or find refuge in an opening on the roof leading to the attic. They also can climb down



chimneys. It is important to check these areas for openings or weak vulnerable spots. Securing your home will stop a pregnant mom from turning it into a nursery. And trim tree limbs which make rooftop access easy.

**If a raccoon does take up residence in the attic, remember that it is only TEMPORARY. The best thing to do is nothing more than monitor it. Baby raccoons open their eyes at 3 weeks of age and by week 6-7 they are active, running around and eager to be taken out of the attic and into the world by mama raccoon.**

Mama will leave the babies until they are ready to venture out. She comes and goes to nurse them. She licks them clean like a mama cat does her kittens. When it is time to leave, she carries them in her mouth, one at a time until all are out. Only she knows how many babies are there.

It will be very noisy as the departure time gets closer. Once they are gone, it will be silent. Stuffing some newspaper at the point of entry will prevent easy access. If the opening is undisturbed for 24 hours, then mom has them all out and it's time to secure the openings.

If a trapper is called, they charge in excess of a hundred or more dollars

and will destroy the animals. They charge additional for each baby and since mama is constantly moving them there is no way to guarantee all are out. The litters are 2 to 6 babies.

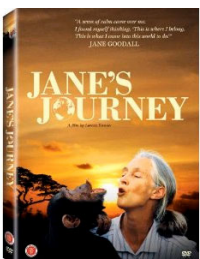
If a baby is left behind, s/he will die. Dead baby raccoons rot in the attic. The odor will be horrid and the body will attract rodents and snakes. This can be much worse than just letting mama nurse the babies until it is time for her to remove them.

If a trapper says he will 'relocate' the animals, it is doubtful. Most states, Florida included, have laws prohibiting the release of wildlife in other areas. It is much easier and more economical for trappers to kill the raccoons. There is no regulation as to how trappers dispose of their catch. It is often a brutal and cruel end.

Even if they do release them, the stress on the raccoon makes it difficult for them to survive in a new environment. They can be taken to an already overpopulated site, or one that has diseased animals. It is a no-win situation.

We at Wildlife Rehabilitation and Refuge Center urge TOLERANCE and CO-EXISTENCE. It is the only way that humans and other animals will live in balance on Planet Earth.

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**Susan Beattie is Director of the Wildlife Rehabilitation and Refuge Center, Inc.,** Palm City, Florida. She may be reached at 772 221-1231. Susan is happy to take calls from people in need of individual help with raccoons.



## Jane's Journey:

For those many Jane Goodall fans, you will want to see the documentary **Jane's Journey**. Although the movie may not be up to Hollywood standards for fast action and plunging necklines, it is an important film about an important woman

who brought the world's attention to our close relatives and their similarity to us - from using tools to having grudges and compassion for each other. Dr. Goodall's goal is to make the world a better place for animals and humans. She leaves us a precious legacy to that end.

You can order this DVD through Amazon.  
Also visit: <http://www.janegoodall.org/>

# 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 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 at that 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.

## THE WILD BIRD FUND OF NEW YORK CITY



Don't let the name fool you. The Wild Bird Fund will also take other wild animals.

If you are from a rural or semi-rural area, you may wonder why in the world a wildlife rehabilitation center is needed in New York City. Well, consider that of the thousand or so calls that annually come in on the Wildlife Watch hotline, about 20% are from NYC. Yes, wild animals are alive, though sometimes not so well, in the Big Apple.

As you can imagine, many of the calls are about birds, and a large number of the bird calls in NYC are about pigeons.

Because so many rehabbers in Manhattan simply don't have the facilities to handle the volume of pigeon calls, we've been giving out the number of the Wild Bird Fund for years, and in particular, a woman named Rita, and they have NEVER TURNED DOWN AN ANIMAL!

Cleverly teaming up with Animal General, a popular veterinary hospital in the West 80's, Rita is called in when someone picks up a wild bird who needs help. Recently, space became available across the street from Animal General. With the help of Animal General, The Wild Bird Fund went for it and raised the money needed to get a 10 year lease! They are now trying to raise more funds for everything that a wildlife rehab center would need.

It is a godsend for The Wild Bird Fund to have Animal General across the street as they will continue to have access to the veterinarians, medications, cages, and medical equipment of Animal General until they can be on their own.

The Wild Bird Fund currently is caring for 69 birds – and that number is growing. They have sparrows, robins, pigeons, kestrels, a blue jay and a cardinal, and they all need your help.

Visit: <http://wildbirdfund.com/about/> to learn more about Rita McMahon and Karen Heidgerd who operate the Wildlife Bird Fund, and please click through the videos of healing. Be sure to donate by clicking on the "donate" button after you see how much they do!



## WILDLIFE HOTLINE HELPS FAWN IN SONOMA, CA.

Wildlife Watch receives close to a thousand calls during the baby and warm season between mid-March until mid-Sept. When we received a call from Virginia from Sonoma County, CA, about an "abandoned" fawn, we asked her to attach a photo to an e-mail.



After getting the photo, we told Virginia that we thought his or her mom would return, but that she seemed old enough to

eat on her own. I asked Virginia to speak to a wildlife rehabilitator to get a second opinion.

Virginia sent this letter the following day:  
Good Morning,

*Thank you so much for your input! You were right, its mother came back yesterday! I am so relieved. Everything you told me was correct! Many thanks.*

Many thanks to Virginia as well... through Virginia, we learned about **Wildlife Fawn Rescue** in Sonoma, CA. You can visit them at [fawns@fawnrescue.org](mailto:fawns@fawnrescue.org)

## HYDRAULIC FRACTURING

Continued from page 2

requirements. Voyles' suit does not seek compensation, but asks that DEP investigate her complaints according to state regulations. ProPublica says that the DEP did not respond to calls requesting comment.

<http://www.propublica.org/article/science-lags-as-health-problems-emerge-near-gas-fields/single>

### FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AWARENESS

Government regulation is notoriously lax where energy corporations are concerned, but Congress is aware of fracking dangers. A House Committee on Energy and Commerce report states that between 2005 and 2009, 14 oil and gas companies used over 750 chemicals and components. A few are "seemingly harmless," such as salt and citric acid, but many are known to cause cancer and birth defects.

Methanol is widely used, even though a known "hazardous air pollutant." Some other chemicals used in fracking are benzene, toluene, formaldehyde, ethylene glycol, and hydrochloric acid. Very small quantities of benzene, a known carcinogen, are capable of contaminating millions of gallons of water.

<http://tinyurl.com/42u9dwd>

Breathing benzene harms developing animal fetuses. Exposure to food or water contaminated with benzene damages their blood and immune systems, and can cause cancer.

<http://www.eco-usa.net/toxics/chemicals/benzene.shtml>

And the EPA says that inhalation or oral exposure to benzene has the same effects on animals and humans.

### NEW YORK STATE

**Regardless of hazards, whenever big money is a factor, jobs involved, and the public ill informed, wildlife's welfare is invariably trumped by vested business interests. As the NRDC reported, in "Drilling Down," October 2007: "Unfortunately, the oil and gas industry now enjoys significant exemptions from the Clean Water Act's storm water permit requirements."**

Although hydro-fracking is occurring in many states, NY's deeper wells would require approx. 200 tanker trucks to

transport the massive amount of water for each well. Extra traffic would bring added dangers for wildlife near every well and all roads leading to wells.

**A broad spectrum of citizens protested fracking in NYS, so a moratorium was imposed on any new drilling permits. The DEC is accepting public comments until Dec. 12, 2011. Visit**

<http://www.dec.ny.gov/energy/76838.html>

Some members of the NY Assembly and Senate have proposed a bill, A02108 (S893), with language concerning the dangers of fracking. An extract reads:

**Numerous hazards have been associated with this type of industrial activity. Chemicals used in fracking may be toxic, cause life-threatening illnesses, including cancer, and can be non-biodegradable and difficult or impossible to remove once they enter the natural environment.**

The bill notes that well pads may take up to five acres of land each, which implies the destruction of much wildlife habitat; and millions of gallons of water will be used for each well – again, detrimental to wildlife. **It states that fires, explosions and earthquakes may be caused, and that "Open pits of chemically-laced water, laden with salt, heavy metals and radioactive elements have been known to kill wildlife and farm animals that have mistakenly drunk from them, and upon evaporation, contribute to air pollution."**

In June, the DEC announced that it would recommend no drilling in and around watersheds serving New York City and Syracuse, or near primary aquifers or state-owned land, including parks and wildlife areas. This seems to be a tacit acknowledgement by the DEC that drilling could endanger water quality.

(See [www.un-naturalgas.org](http://www.un-naturalgas.org) for more useful information.)

### WHOM DO YOU TRUST?

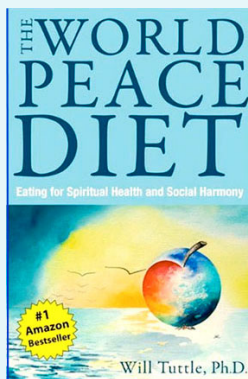
When state agencies say they will "regulate" or "monitor" hydraulic fracturing to reduce the known threats, we should not accept this as a guarantee. The quality of governmental oversight is often very low, when it is not downright non-existent. (This was evident with the BP oil spill of 2010.) Sometimes officials "look the other way" or don't do their duty for a variety of reasons. Finally, cutbacks at most agencies mean that enforcement is not consistently carried out. Therefore, those of us who care about animal welfare must keep constant pressure on our legislators to safeguard the health of our precious wild neighbors – just as assiduously as we protect our own.

To see the full version, please visit [www.wildwatch.org](http://www.wildwatch.org) and link to "Binocular," then link to "Fracking – the Whole Story"

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**E.M. FAY** reports on environmental and animal related issues. She is Associate Editor of the Wildlife Watch Binocular.

## This is the perfect time of year to read *The World Peace Diet*

*The World Peace Diet*, which became a #1 Amazon best-seller in March, 2010,



offers a compelling and liberating new understanding of our food and our culture. It has been called one of the most important books of the 21st century: the foundation of a new society based on the truth of the interconnectedness of all life. It is the first book to make explicit the invisible connections between our culture, our food, and the source of our broad range of problems—and the way to a positive transformation in our individual and collective lives.

*The World Peace Diet* by **Will Tuttle, Ph.D.** is an award-winning book. If you want to understand the big picture of our culture and why we have the unyielding dilemmas we face, and how we can solve them, this book is for you.

To order, please visit: <http://worldpeacediet.org/>



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

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## EYE ON THE NEWS

### Bolivia Proposes Mother Earth Law

Evo Morales, Bolivia's first indigenous President, has introduced a remarkable, precedent-setting concept at the UN. In April, he proposed granting Nature the same rights and protections as are expected for human beings. Bolivia is set to pass its own "Law of Mother Earth," with the intention of encouraging greater awareness of the importance of conservation and enforcing strong controls on industry in order to decrease environmental destruction.

Stating that all of Nature has the right to life, free of human interference, and ought not to be polluted or genetically altered, the law is sweeping in its scope. If implemented by nations worldwide, it could have a profound effect on the preservation of species, both animal and plant, and would certainly be a vast improvement on the reckless destruction of habitat and resources that is occurring globally today.

President Morales has long been a spokesman for environmental protection. Despite his country being one of the poorest in the hemisphere, a circumstance which has usually led to governments welcoming industrial development no matter what the cost to wildlife and nature in general, Morales is more concerned with stemming the tide of climate change which has already caused serious melting in the Andean glaciers. Sadly, his intelligent concern has been largely ignored by the UN as a



Evo Morales, photo Telegraph UK whole, with only a few nations showing support.

Canadian activist Maude Barlow is in accord with Morales. She said, "It's going to start first with these southern countries trying to protect their land and their people from exploitation, but I think it will be grabbed onto by communities in our countries, for example, fighting the tar sands in Alberta."

**Conferring what we usually think of as "human" rights on all of Nature – such as pure water and clean air, and the right to continue vital cycles and processes free from human alteration – could be a significant benefit to wildlife, too. The Law of Mother Earth should be considered seriously by all peoples.**

Read the whole story at: <http://tinyurl.com/3wthh4w>

Full text of the law (Google translation) at:

[http://f.cl.ly/items/2Z2n2D0g2x2E0X1B272Y/law\\_of\\_mother\\_earth\\_translation.pdf](http://f.cl.ly/items/2Z2n2D0g2x2E0X1B272Y/law_of_mother_earth_translation.pdf)