

# The Wildlife Watch Binocular

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## Vegetarianism Our Best Hope for the Planet

By E.M. FAY

Vegetarians have long been considered fair game for jokesters – often relegated to the same frivolous category as UFO believers or the Flat Earth Society. Some people who don't know the facts about vegetarianism behave as though eating a plant-based diet were some newfangled fad, suitable only for celebrities or impossibly ascetic types. This, despite the fact that



vegetarianism has been a natural way of life for people worldwide for millennia, and it is a far more sustainable mode of eating than the meat-heavy diet consumed by the average American and others today.

Fortunately, this ignorance is being defeated on a number of fronts by better education regarding vegetarian living; easier access to a wider variety of fruits, vegetables, and other edible plants; and the promulgation by some imaginative chefs of a vast array of delicious vegetarian recipes.

### Vegetarianism

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## SAVED! BEACHLAND WOODS!!! FLORIDA CITIZENS KEEP WOODLANDS FROM BEING TURNED INTO A PARKING LOT!

By ANNE MULLER



Florida is precious. I never tire of visiting because of the amazing wildlife that calls Florida home. Sadly, the state is becoming more and more developed. The photo above is typical of what you will see in many communities. Except for national and state parks, and national wildlife refuges, there's little wild land left.

When even a small parcel of land is threatened with development in a community, it could make all the difference in the world for the wildlife that calls it home.

Development causes the loss of homes for so many wild animals. They are then pushed into backyards where they are considered nuisances and often killed by "nuisance control officers," or they are hit by cars on the roads. Some slow-moving animals like gopher tortoises are even buried alive during construction!

In early April, Wildlife Watch received an e-mail from Laura Guttridge of Vero Beach, Florida. She was devastated that the Beachland Elementary School was planning to construct parking in the last safe haven for wildlife in that area. Wildlife Watch helped Laura to develop a plan of action and this is what happened:

Laura wrote the following letter to her newspaper, and they published it:

*Don't let woodlands behind Beachland Elementary become concrete wasteland.*

*Earth Day is near, and instead of celebrating wildlife, the residents of Central Beach are fighting to save it.*

*I am disheartened after learning about the project to extend a parking lot through the lush woodlands behind Beachland Elementary School. These woodlands are the last safe haven for the*

### BEACHLAND WOODS

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## Vegetarianism

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### Health Factor

The health benefits of “going veggie” are widely known and largely agreed upon, with many mainstream medical entities firmly on board. No less an authority than the venerable Mayo Clinic states that, “A plant-based diet, which emphasizes fruits and vegetables, grains, beans and legumes, and nuts, is rich in fiber, vitamins and other nutrients.....People who eat only plant-based foods — aka vegetarians — generally eat fewer calories and less fat, weigh less, and have a lower risk of heart disease than non-vegetarians do.”

[www.mayoclinic.com/health/meatless-meals/my00752](http://www.mayoclinic.com/health/meatless-meals/my00752)

Even the USDA, notorious for turning a blind eye to the animal abuse that is rife in the meat farming industry, admits in an article entitled, “Plant-Based Diet Is A Healthy Choice,” that

“Vegetables, fruits and other plant foods are rich sources of antioxidant nutrients (like vitamins C and E, beta-carotene and other carotenoids) that may protect our cells from damage by cancer-causing agents, halting the earliest processes that lead to cancer. In addition, they contain thousands of phytochemicals (natural substances in plants, like indoles, isoflavones and polyphenols) that appear to protect against cancer in a variety of ways.”

[www.ars.usda.gov/News/docs.htm?docid=9246](http://www.ars.usda.gov/News/docs.htm?docid=9246)

The myth that you can't achieve a good balance of essential nutrients without eating animal-based products can be put to rest for once and all. One only needs to do a modest amount of research into which foods possess essential elements for a healthy diet – and that's no more difficult than following the changing edicts that conventional nutritionists announce from time to time. From the “7 Basic Food Groups,” that Baby Boomers grew up with, depicted in the shape of a wheel, to the more current Food Pyramid. Government agencies tout such models, hand-in-hand with specific agricultural lobbyists (Milk Boards, National Pork Producers Council, etc.). Although the pyramid is slightly different from the 1950s' wheel, both insist on including meat, poultry, and fish in our daily regimen.

Replacing meat protein with plant-based equivalents is often of especial interest to novice vegetarians. Even though adults do not require as much protein as growing children, there are numerous non-animal sources to fulfill anyone's daily requirement, including whole grains, beans, lentils, legumes, nuts, and seeds. Some of these come in a wide variety of sub-sets, and some, like soy, can be used in many forms.

In addition to the above-noted health benefits, there is the specter of multiple food-borne illnesses and pandemics caused by unsanitary and unethical animal-raising practices. Bovine spongiform encephalopathy (“mad cow disease”), Avian Flu (H5N1), SARS, and swine flu are just a few of the diseases that affect livestock and, eventually, humans, because of inherently cruel and unsanitary methods of keeping animals enslaved for our consumption. The over-use of antibiotics, meant to minimize illness in food animals, has also harmed humans, as our bodies become resistant from ingesting so many drugs via the animals we eat.

Improving our health is but one motivation to go vegetarian, however. Scientific data amassed over recent decades reveals the enormous stress we are placing on all ecological systems simply because of eating meat.

### Global Warming

Breeding animal species for human consumption requires that we clear vast tracts of land for cattle and sheep to graze on. This destroys the habitat of countless other species of wildlife. The four main species that humans choose to eat – cows, pigs, sheep, and chickens – themselves need to consume massive amounts of food and water. Further, they produce mountains of waste, and emit methane and other greenhouse gases. These gases, we now know, contribute to global warming more than all forms of transportation (cars, planes, etc.) combined! A 2006 UN report, “Livestock's Long Shadow,” estimates that livestock causes 18% of annual greenhouse gas emissions. And a more recent report by other analysts shows livestock and attendant by-products accounting for 51% of GHG (greenhouse gas). [www.worldwatch.org/node/6294](http://www.worldwatch.org/node/6294).

### Land Use and Scarce Resources

With the world human population at over 7 billion now and on course to exceed 10 billion by 2050, there simply isn't enough room to continue to raise animals for food. With a billion or more people suffering from hunger, livestock production means the majority of the world's crops are unavailable for starving humans in order to feed animals that more well-off humans eat. And, although “developed” countries eat more meat by far, there is a worrying trend in “developing” nations towards emulation.

A shocking 30% of the non-frozen land on Earth is devoted to livestock and their feed requirements. Overgrazing of land leads to infertility and flooding. And deforestation of the planet, especially in the once vast tropical rainforests, has not only negatively affected the global climate – causing unpredictable weather patterns, an increase in the number and severity of disastrous storms – but has wiped out whole populations of plant and animal species that once thrived and provided invaluable ecological diversity, as well as sources of medicines vital to human health.

Even more alarming is the amount of water used in the raising of livestock. Entire rivers have been diverted to cattle facilities. The Colorado River has become a mere trickle. As droughts across the globe become more prevalent and long lasting, many scientists are predicting the near-inevitability that potable water will be insufficient to sustain life on Earth as we know it, and will lead to wars such as those currently fought over oil.

Add to this the wholesale contamination of land, sea, and air by giant agribusinesses' use of chemical fertilizers, pesticides, harmful food additives, and the expulsion of animal waste into rivers, streams, and oceans, and we can see that continuing a meat-eating culture is literally poisoning the planet.

### The Humane Factor

Factory farms are today responsible for 99% per cent of American meat production. Jonathan Safran Foer's 2009 book, *Eating Animals*, is only one of

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## Vegetarianism

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## BEACHLAND WOODS

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wildlife in the Central Beach community.

I have spotted bobcats, tortoises, and other various species either exiting or entering those woods. My daughter and I often see this beautiful little painted turtle; he ventures out occasionally to graze on the low grasses at the edge of the woods.

How heartbreaking it would be to see his home turned into a concrete reserve parking space, after that turtle has flourished there for so many years.

Furthermore, there are two confirmed active gopher tortoise burrows located almost directly in the line of fire.

If this project goes through, I suspect we will see many of these animals lying dead as road kill, simply scraped up off the pavement and discarded like trash.

There are numerous options to resolve the parking concerns at the school. What kind of an example is this "future project" setting for the children?

Why not make good use of the woodlands to help teach these children about nature and natural processes in an otherwise artificial environment?

Furthermore, Green areas not only provide us with aesthetic value, but they also increase our property value. They are also important to our environment as a whole, by doing their part to help control air pollution.

Earth Day has been celebrated for more than 20 years. It is my hope that the school district will reevaluate its environmentally destructive project, and consider one that reflects being the good stewards of the Earth that we are meant to be.

Then Laura leafleted all of her neighbors:

"Green areas not only provide us with aesthetic value, but they also increase our property value. They are important to our environment as a whole by doing their part to help control air pollution. Please join us for a peaceful protest on Earth Day, Sunday, April 22, from 12-2 in front of Beachland Elementary School. Bring a sign to support saving the woodlands."

Laura and other concerned residents created a Facebook page called "Save



Laura, her husband, Bobby, and her daughter, Celeste

Beachland Woods," and then created an event page under "Protest to save Central Beach Woodlands" suggesting that everyone call The Indian River County School Board to voice their opinion!

Wildlife Watch provided numbers of wildlife rehabilitators in her area and also put her in touch with LOHV-FL, the League of Humane Voters in Florida.

What a difference a month can make! Between 4/3 and 5/4/2012, saving the woodland was accomplished. Laura wrote, "Hi Ann, Just wanted to up-date you on the progress. We have won a reprieve for the woodlands!!!! They have backed off for now. So instead of an Earth Day protest it will be an Earth Day celebration Rally!!!! The next move is to get them to work with The Indian River County Land Trust to make the woodlands a permanent reserve. Phew!!"

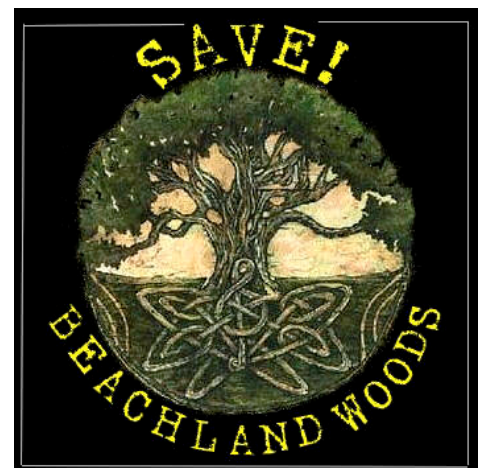
The local paper reported: "A new plan directing traffic to pick up children down Date Palm Road near the school has since been proposed, but that also was opposed by residents at a meeting last week. After last week's meeting with Beachland neighbors, district officials said they would revisit options.

Organizers say they hope to see the Indian River County School District work with the Indian River Land Trust to create a conservation element to protect the hammock (slightly elevat-

ed, wooded piece of land) permanently. 'It would offer Beachland Elementary School a very unique opportunity for its students to learn about nature, and natural processes in an untainted setting. Furthermore, green spaces benefit the community as a whole,' said Save Beachland Woods member Laura Guttridge in a prepared statement.

Guttridge, who lives on Date Palm Road, said she and her neighbors are concerned about the additional traffic proposed for the road. However, she said they would prefer that to seeing the woodlands cut down. 'We're happy the woodlands were spared,' she said."

So, there you have it: A total plan for organizing and saving land, the home of wildlife. Let's call it the Laura Plan!



# 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.

## CAROLINA WATERFOWL RESCUE (CWR)

BY SANDI BUSH

Carolina Waterfowl Rescue, located in Indian Trail, NC, just outside of Charlotte, is fast becoming known as the "go to place" in the region for help with injured or abandoned ducks, geese, swans, and other water birds. From helping individuals who have found an injured or abandoned bird, to helping with major rescues due to weather, hoarding, or neglect, CWR is frequently in the news. This all volunteer-run group, headed by Director Jennifer Gordon, now intakes and helps more than 2000 birds a year. This is an amazing story given that just 2 years ago, birds were housed in volunteer garages, houses, and back yards. The group rented their first facility - an old turkey barn - in the fall of 2009, which provided a much greater ability to care for birds. From the hospital, to specially constructed baby pens, to "time out" areas for resident male sex offenders (sometimes the male/female ratios get skewed so we have to put the male ducks in time out - interestingly, this never happens to geese, just to ducks).

As with most rehabbers, spring is our busy season, with babies falling into storm drains, hatching in retention ponds with no exit, or courtyards, and of course we get lots of calls from concerned citizens about our area ducks and geese who for some reason, seem to love nesting in our busy parking lots and along side busy highways. And they don't just do this once of course, but every year we get the same calls about the same birds.

Our dream has always been to have a facility of our own, where we can help our birds but also provide training,



educational opportunities, and the ability to continue to grow. The old turkey barn is bursting at the seams. Just recently, a wonderful donor came forward with a proposal to buy us a place of our own, with enough land to really give our birds the space they need to heal and learn how to either go back to the wild, for our wild birds, or be prepared to go to a new home with one of our many adoptive families. That reality is now happening and we are in the midst of a major project to prepare our new home. We had hoped to be in our new place before babies arrived but with our very warm weather, babies are here very early.

Jennifer is working very hard to juggle all the responsibilities of keeping our current facility running while planning our new facility to include all those things we always hoped to have but never could, like multiple ponds, a garden, shelter for the birds from the heat of the summer, walking trails for visitors, and a good viewing area for prospective adoptive families to see birds available to go to new homes.

She keeps our Facebook page current ("friend" us! We love an audience!), while giving help and advice to people all around the country who need help with injured birds. She is also licensed to care for raptors, and while our local injured raptors go to the Carolina Raptor Center, we sometimes have an overnight guest or two awaiting transport.

We have a few residents, including Pringles (the Toulouse goose) and Marmalade (the rooster). Mr. T (our wild/domestic mixed male turkey who doesn't think he is a turkey as he is afraid of the lady turkeys) doesn't have his own Facebook page yet but we are sure it's coming. He is the current favorite of visitors as he just wants to follow you around and be petted.

What do we wish for? Patient drivers who allow birds to cross the street; fishermen and fisherwomen who don't leave their hooks and line around for birds to get tangled in; people to stop shooting Canada geese with BB guns and arrows; construction workers who clean up their trash so birds don't get tangled in plastic fences and plastic tape; and snapping turtles who would stop chomping on the feet of our birds.

Check us out on Facebook or our website at [www.carolinawaterfowlrescue.com](http://www.carolinawaterfowlrescue.com). If you are interested in volunteering or adopting, click the links on our website.

And of course, your donations are always welcome.

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**Sandi Bush** has been a volunteer at **CWR** for three years. Although we hear that the description "wonder woman" would be a good title!

# SHARK CARTILAGE IS GOOD FOR YOU? - DON'T BUY IT!

Sharks are amazing animals in many ways, with abilities and assets we comparatively feeble humans can only wonder at. Unfortunately, human interest in the attributes of sharks is not always benign. They are killed in the tens of millions every year for food, for "sport," and for supposed medicinal applications of the cartilage in their fins, among other parts.



likely contains a neuro-toxin – beta-methylamino-L-alanine – that is linked with both Alzheimer's and Lou Gehrig's diseases. Seven species of shark have been found to contain a compound derived from algae, which encourages development of these neuro-degenerative conditions.

Shark cartilage has long been touted as both a joint-health supplement and a cancer preventive. Even a federal lawsuit discrediting the latter claim has not slowed the wholesale slaughter of sharks whether for "medicine" or for shark fin soup, very popular in restaurants throughout Asia.

Because of the continuing shark massacres worldwide, there has been a precipitous decline in the entire population.

The destruction of this fascinating and prehistoric species may slow somewhat – we can hope – with the recent discovery that shark cartilage

Sharks are at the top of the oceanic food chain, thus, they accumulate more contaminants, such as dangerous heavy metals mercury and cadmium, as well as the BMAA compound, than most other fish because they eat those species who eat the BMAA-tainted algae in the first place. Agricultural runoff and sewage dumped in the oceans are to blame for creating BMAA in the massive algae blooms that are appearing alarmingly in our polluted oceans.

The study was originally published in the Marine Drugs journal. Read more at:

<http://well.blogs.nytimes.com/2012/03/08/shark-cartilage-may-contain-toxin/>

EMF

# WILDLIFE WATCH NEEDS VOLUNTEERS FOR HOTLINE CALLS!!!



Connect callers with nearby wildlife rehabilitators, also educate the public about how to best help wildlife.

If you are able to receive and make calls for about 4 hours during the day or night, we would like to set up a schedule to take some of the pressure off of our office. Right now the calls are being handled by ONE person. Calls come in 24/7.

Here is what you will need:

SKYPE or TOTALLY UNLIMITED PHONE SERVICE – MAGIC JACK – WHATEVER – We'll be happy to talk you through this.

You will need copies of the lists – we will provide them, some of them you can download.

You will need our Q & A sheet for the routine questions and scenarios that you will encounter.

Please contact Anne Muller at [wildwatch@verizon.net](mailto:wildwatch@verizon.net) and provide a phone number and location (state and county).

You can't imagine how many lives you will save by helping others throughout the country to help the orphaned and injured wildlife they have found.

## The Wildlife Watch Binocular

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We welcome letters/articles/photos for consideration.

Contributions are tax-deductible.

# Scotts Miracle-Gro Kills Birds!

The supposedly "cute" Scotts Miracle-Gro lawn products commercials often show their weed-killers zapping dandelions and other unwanted plants to death in order to maintain the billiard-table-like lawns so typical of suburbia. Not very nice for the unlucky plants, one might think; but there's more killing going on behind the scenes with Scotts Miracle-Gro products. At least two of their widely-sold brands of bird seed – Morning Song and Country Pride – have been *knowingly* coated with toxic chemicals that kill birds and other wildlife.



lion bags of the lethal birdseed in 2008 alone, likely sold to people who wished to be kind to the birds who visit their yards, but who were unwittingly causing untold harm to their feathered friends.

Scotts Miracle-Gro's horrendous mistake was discovered by one of their own chemists who is also an ornithologist. Yet they continued to sell the tainted goods after being informed. That there can be no genuine excuse for this reprehensible behavior is confirmed by the fact that Scotts Miracle-Gro pled guilty to the crime in a federal court this past March. They are also being prosecuted for selling other chemical-laden garden products unapproved by the EPA.



Read the full story at

<http://grist.org/list/scotts-miracle-gro-pleads-guilty-to-selling-poisoned-bird-seed/?postpost=v2>

## Vegetarianism

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many well-researched and sickening exposés of the heartless factory-farming industry. Far from being the jolly, pastoral places depicted in illustrations of the Little Golden Books from our childhood, modern “farms” are horrific places of incalculable animal suffering. As Foer put it, animals live in “overcrowded, stressful, feces-infested conditions and are routinely fed antibiotics with every meal to prevent sickness.” Every piece of chicken, pork, beef, or lamb that we put into our mouths is the direct result of causing pain, fear, and sorrow to a formerly living creature.

One person explained his now-well-known conversion to vegetarianism by describing a typical Sunday dinner at his country home. He and his family were sitting at the table enjoying the charming sight outside their window of young lamb’s gamboling in the grass. It suddenly dawned on them that these adorable youngsters were the same form of life as had provided the leg of lamb they were dining upon! This was a true epiphany for Paul McCartney and his wife, Linda. They forswore meat eating from that day forward. The McCartneys became staunch advocates of the vegetarian lifestyle, and Linda was later renowned for her vegetarian cookbooks and product line.

As Paul said in a Guardian interview in 2010, “When Linda and I brought our family up not eating meat, the original reason was our deep love of animals.”

As for figuring out vegetarian recipes, McCartney added, “Once we got the idea that many cultures’ cuisines contained meat-free dishes, we began to explore various options and soon found ourselves with a huge repertoire of healthy, and most importantly, great tasting food.”

### Historical-Philosophical Rationale for Vegetarianism

Although purposeful avoidance of eating flesh may originally have been for ritualistic reasons, and has very ancient origins, the “normal” use of a fleshless diet is thought to have begun around the middle of the first millennium BC. Vegetarianism appeared simultaneously in India and the Eastern Mediterranean region during this period, likely the result of an intellectual-philosophical awakening. Pythagoras and his followers, for example, believed in the kinship of all animals, and therefore espoused human benevolence towards them, which precluded exploitation of animals for food. Plato, Plutarch, and other Greek philosophers recommended vegetarian diets as part of their search for cosmic harmony. In India, Buddhists and Jains refused to kill animals for food, holding that humans should not cause harm to any sentient being. The fact that they considered all creatures to be sentient reveals the sophistication of their ethical thought processes.

The principles of humanitarianism that were integral to the Age of Enlightenment in Western Europe

included concern for the suffering of animals. Voltaire, Shelley, and Thoreau were just a few luminaries who advocated and/or practiced vegetarianism. Later on, Tolstoy and George Bernard Shaw joined their ranks. For many such advocates, this humane form of nutrition was part of an integrated approach to living a generally wholesome and ethical life. It may well be that the current resurgence of vegetarianism signals a return to the enlightened principles and practices of our wise forebears.

In any case, given the clearly manifested and irreparable damage being done to our entire planetary eco-system by the raising of animals for slaughter and human consumption, it is undeniable that all species – plant and animal – have a far better chance of survival if vegetarianism gains a stronger foothold worldwide. Even if some humans do not acknowledge the moral imperative of treating all animals with respect and kindness as they deserve, the instinct for self-preservation alone dictates an immediate need for widespread change to a plant-based diet.

## Bruschetta

### Ingredients

- 3 roma tomatoes; slice into 4 spears, sprinkle with salt and olive oil and roast in the oven for a while (275F for an hour, or hotter and quicker if you're in a hurry)
- 5 fresh basil leaves, chopped up pretty fine, but still recognizable as leaves
- 6 kalamata olives, pitted and chopped up
- 2 pieces grainy, seedy bread
- clove of garlic, peeled

### Method

Mix the first three ingredients in a bowl and let it sit for about five minutes.

Toast the bread until golden and crunchy. Rub a peeled clove of garlic onto the bread, making sure your garlic is getting rubbed into the bread. You should still have most of a clove of garlic when you're done, that you can use for something else.

Spoon the tomato olive basil goo onto the garlicky bread and serve.

[www.vegan-food.net/recipe/334/Bruschetta/](http://www.vegan-food.net/recipe/334/Bruschetta/)



## 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 pick-ups 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?**

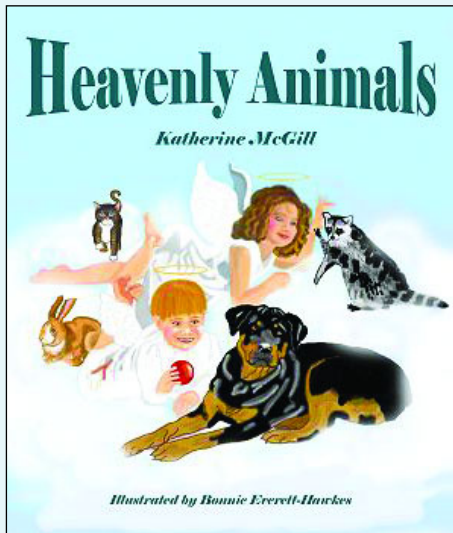
**YES**

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

# Book Review of *Heavenly Animals*

Author, Katherine McGill

By E.M. Fay



Anyone who has ever lost a beloved animal friend has probably asked at one time or another: "Will I ever be with this dear friend again? Does my friend have a soul? Can we meet in the afterlife?" It does not matter if the animal friend was a "traditional" companion such as a dog or cat, a "farm" animal kept as a companion animal, or a wild animal that was adopted because s/he could not fend for herself – any animal can inspire deep feelings of love and affection in the human heart, which makes their loss nearly unbearable.

A beguiling possibility as to the continued existence of our animal friends is offered in a charming book, *Heavenly Animals*, written by an experienced wildlife rehabilitator and educator, Katherine McGill.

Katherine told us: "I never intended to write a children's book. This story was actually based on a dream that awoke me one night and I couldn't **not** write it."

In the Introduction, we learn that McGill was blessed with family members, both human and otherwise, who inspired her from childhood onwards to respect the lives of every living being. She recognizes the individual personalities that each animal possesses, and hopes to engender in children of all ages an appreciation for the value of every species.

Aware that contemporary society

not only discourages any belief in animals having emotions – in spite of scientific research that demonstrates animals' capacity to feel love, joy, grief, and other feelings just as humans do – McGill deplors the human "Rule" that dictates that we should not love animals "too much." In the story, breaking this wrong-headed Rule is a virtue recognized by Mindy and Max, two twelve-year-old angels who, when they were alive on Earth, had not seen eye-to-eye on how to treat animals. Max was naughty with a slingshot from time to time, but his sister Mindy more than made up for it with her compassion for all of God's creatures.

Now in Heaven, Mindy has been rewarded for her kindness by being put in charge of the Souls of Animals Department. Despite its SAD acronym, it's a happy place, where Mindy, Max, and other angels keep track of all the kind human actions towards animals on Earth. Not only do humans get heavenly credit for their good deeds, but the animals are assigned souls, too – a circumstance that seems only fair to many of us who have lost an animal friend.

McGill shows no favoritism to members of the animal kingdom. Although she herself mourns the loss of particular friends – her horse, Princeton, and a rescued raccoon, Zorra, among others – she values all animals equally, and, like the young protagonists of *Heavenly Animals*, hopes earnestly that more people will break The Rule at every opportunity. There can be no such thing as loving an animal "too much," no matter what some may think.

McGill adds: "We do need to ask ourselves today: 'What if...?' What if our actions towards all creatures are a test; if they really do matter more than we've been led to believe by other humans?' When your heart aches for the suffering of a 'mere nuisance animal,' how can one not question what we humans presume to know, or how we treat these animals every day? When that animal loves you back, as any animal can, your eyes and heart finally open."

I highly recommend this as an excellent addition to classroom bookshelves, either for youngsters to read themselves or for teachers to read aloud. The pictures, by Bonnie Everett-Hawkes are colorful and winsome. I especially liked clever details such as the angels' haloes hanging on hooks in their offices, and various animals being monitored on the angels' computers.

Although the moral of the story is inherent in the narrative, the frank Epilogue is instructive for adults. Most people do not realize the extent to which government agencies and policies harm wildlife, often, shamefully, under the guise of "conservation." McGill states clearly the need for public awareness of the unjust devaluation and maligning of certain species by government entities. Instead of allowing state agencies to treat wildlife as soulless "resources" to manipulate and profit from, we should insist that they recognize every individual's right to live its life, and never deny an animal's right to sanctuary. All animals are vital to a healthy eco-system, but if we don't take action to protect them, we cannot expect entrenched bureaucracies with self-serving agendas to care about them. As McGill says, "All Animals Matter!"

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**Heavenly Animals** is available through most major retail outlets, or you may order a personal, signed copy from the author at [www.SunChaserWildlife.com](http://www.SunChaserWildlife.com) Discount packages are available for fund-raising events.

[Besides her work as an educator and rehabilitator, **Katherine McGill** is a founder of the **National Urban Wildlife Coalition**, an organization that unites wildlife advocates in seeking 21<sup>st</sup> century reform of our state wildlife management system. [www.Uswildlife.us](http://www.Uswildlife.us). She is also the State Outreach and Wildlife Affairs officer for the **League of Humane Voters**. [www.lohv.org](http://www.lohv.org) ]



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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)

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Wildlife Watch, P.O. Box  
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## Let's Go Wildlife Watching

BY ANNE MULLER

During mid-May, my husband and I went to Florida for a wedding. Our hope was to do some wildlife watching as well. We gravitated toward Merritt Island from the west coast of the state. While at one of the restaurants in Cocoa Beach, we came across a brochure for a two-hour boat trip in a lagoon. Capt. Quinn told us to meet him no later than 11 a.m. at a small park by a large lagoon. It took 45 minutes for our boat to get close to the opposite shore where, to our delight, Captain Quinn started to point out dolphins, osprey, and then right by our boat he pointed out the adorable manatees. We couldn't believe how friend-



Baby clinging to mama are shown here.

We can't recommend Capt. Quinn's lagoon tour more highly. He can be reached at: 321-446-8977. His wildlife watching boat takes a maximum of six people, but if you go on a Monday morning off season as we did, you may have the boat to yourself with a couple of friends. Capt. Quinn's eagle eye was developed over years and I don't believe he missed any of the lagoon's inhabitants!

Please share your wildlife watching experience and include a photo or two. You can email

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



This manatee can't believe what he sees!

ly they were, and how curious they were about the humans who were visiting the lagoon. They stuck their huge heads out of the water to get a better sense of us. My digital camera does not have a view finder, and that, coupled with my not too great vision and extreme sun glare, led me to just take photos like crazy without knowing what I was photographing. Basically, I just pointed down to the water near the boat and hoped for the best. When we downloaded our photos, there were some amazing shots. A few



Manatees doing a sidestroke while touching each other