

MAYOR STUBBS RECOVERING AFTER ATTACK

INTERVIEW WITH MAYOR STUBBS'
ASSISTANT, LAURI STEC



Even his little macho hat didn't help him.

As has been widely reported, the feline mayor of a small town in Alaska was attacked on August 31st, and his many friends and well-wishers, both locally and from all over the world, waited with bated breath to hear if he would recover.

His Honor, Mayor Stubbs, is an orange part-Manx cat, and has been the highly popular top official in Talkeetna for most of his 16 years. His owner, Lauri Stec, named him Stubbs because when she adopted him as a kitten he had no tail. Shortly thereafter, local residents became disenchanted with the human candidates for mayor, and Stubbs was offered as a write-in choice, winning the election with ease.

Talkeetna is located near the base of Mt. McKinley, the tallest peak in North America. It is in a designated historical district of Alaska, and tourism is a vital part of the economy. Mayor

MAYOR STUBBS

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ON FRACKING AND WILDLIFE

By E.M. FAY

Most articles about the myriad ill effects of hydraulic fracturing for gas ("fracking") focus on the harm to humans and the general environment. Although less has been written on the damage to wildlife, there is plenty of data documenting the deadly consequences for every species that lives in the area being fracked. Toxic chemicals used in the process, the contamination of water, destruction of habitat – it is all bad news for wildlife.

Campaigns against fracking have been mounted in many states where it is taking place, but it is usually a case of David against Goliath – two Goliaths, actually, because the giant oil-and-gas industry is abetted by governmental bodies in most instances. There is simply too much money and vested interest involved to make it a fair fight.

It was a pleasant change, therefore, to learn that in Great Britain a fracking company has been forced to close one of its exploration sites, due to concern about the safety of wintering birds. We feel that this is a good example to cite, and forecast that it will be replicated here.

The oil exploration company Cuadrilla has abandoned a site in Lancashire, and will have to restore the fields in which they have been digging since 2011. Their permission to drill hinged on there not being any threat to migrating bird species, including pink-footed geese and whooper swans, who spend their winters in the area. But an environmental impact assessment paid for by Cuadrilla found significant concerns.



Pink-footed goose bbc.co.uk

Cuadrilla is the sole company in Britain using current hydraulic fracturing technology. The technique is widely used in the U.S., with terrible results for wildlife and human residents wherever it is employed, but fortunately for British animals, the environmental laws there are stricter.

The forecast for British wildlife is not all rosy, though, as Cuadrilla may yet be permitted to drill elsewhere in the country. A representative of Friends of the Earth said: "Cuadrilla may have pulled the plug on one of its Lancashire sites, but the fracking threat has not gone away. The firm still plans to drill shale gas wells at other sites across the country."

In spite of spending at least £100m (approx. \$160 million) on the enterprise, Cuadrilla has not yet provided any gas or oil in the UK. Their drilling is known to have caused two small earthquakes in England already. Sufficient oversight has been sorely lacking – a charge frequently leveled at government officials and operators of

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MAYOR STUBBS

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Stubbs attracts considerable attention from tourists, spending his days either strolling from business to business in the community, or relaxing at Nagley's General Store, where he regularly sips catnip-infused water from a wine glass.

It was therefore horrifying when Stubbs was assaulted by a dog of the town, while he was carrying out his



[You can see what may have triggered the dog.]

official duties, strolling around, keeping a benevolent eye on his constituency. The assailant apparently dashed across the street and mauled him severely without any provocation. Mayor Stubbs was in very bad shape indeed, and for a time it was touch-and-go as to whether he would even survive.

When I spoke with Lauri, who is the manager of Nagley's, she was in the middle of a busy work day, but she kindly took some time to speak with me about the condition of her beloved cat.

"His injuries included a punctured lung and a fractured sternum," she said. Stubbs had to have some serious surgery, and needed strong pain medication afterward.

"He needs a period of quiet and rest because this was very stressful for him," Stec said. His veterinarian feels that he is likely to heal with a long convalescence.

No more surgery is planned at this time, just plenty of rest. After he came home from the hospital, she said, "I took off his pain patch and he

got rather pissed off with me about that."

She expects to keep him in the house for about 2 weeks, at least, hoping he might feel well enough to go back to work after that, at least on a part-time basis. The sternum takes an especially long time to heal, possibly 6 - 8 weeks.

When he is sufficiently recovered, Stubbs will be back in the store. Stec plans to ensconce him in a large fenced-but-see-through enclosure, so his constituents can enjoy his company and pet him, and he can continue the sociable existence he has had all along.

Perhaps Mayor Stubbs will see fit to change the law, but for now it is legal for dogs to have the freedom of the streets in this usually peaceful community. (The offender is now *persona non grata* and has been officially banned from returning to Talkeetna.)

Stec has been overwhelmed by the outpouring of concern for Stubbs, with people calling from all over to ask after him. She is also grateful for the generosity of those who have sent donations to help her with the medical bills, including one from Morris the Cat's namesake, famed Spokescat for the Nine Lives Cat Food Company.

FRACKING

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fracking sites in the U.S., as well.

Nonetheless, this small victory for migrating birds does show that **it is possible to get a fracking operation to close down**. This may be only one minor instance, but it is an example that should be emulated. Citing the welfare of wildlife brought success in Lancashire. **Losing their fracking permission was specifically motivated by concern for wildlife, and not solely the welfare of humans.**



whooper swans bbc.co.uk

Read full story in the Guardian:
<http://tinyurl.com/pybcdce>



She emphasized to us that she is not asking for any help. However, if any of our readers would like to contribute, they may send to Lauri Stec, at Mayor Stubbs' office address, Nagley's General Store, 13650 E. Main Street, Talkeetna, Alaska, 99676.

Everything over and above Stubbs' medical needs is going to the local veterinarian in Talkeetna who is just starting a clinic and needs lots of help; the rest will go to the nearby animal shelter.

Update: Mayor Stubbs was reported to be back at work at his office in Nagley's by the third week in October. Needless to say, we are much relieved.

How you can help:

Some state legislatures are considering requiring companies to disclose the list of chemicals used in fracking; to institute stronger safeguards; and to test water in fracking areas. Numerous towns in NYS have banned fracking within their borders. New Jersey's State Senate has passed a ban on processing and treatment of hydraulic fracturing waste. Many municipalities and states have activist groups that are trying to prevent fracking operations from setting up in their area. Consider joining a grass-roots organization that is fighting fracking, and let your local and state representatives know that you are opposed to the practice.

EYE ON THE NEWS

Moose Dying: Victims of Global Warming

The most majestic - and certainly the largest - member of the deer family, Cervidae, the moose is an awesome sight. A full-grown moose can stand from 4 ½ to well over 6 feet at the shoulder, with a male, or "bull" moose, weighing from 800 to 1500 lbs., and a female, or "cow," weighing from 440 to 790 lbs. Their distinctive broad antlers and long faces are very appealing to many people.

Although moose can be found in the moist northern forests of Europe, North America, and Asia, all the

moose on earth belong to one species, *Alces Alces Linnaeus*. "Alces" means elk. Their common name, "moose," is an Algonquin word, meaning "eater of bark." They have a cool-temperature dependency, because they cannot sweat to reduce excess body heat; plus, they manufacture additional heat through the fermentation that occurs in their intestines as they digest food. Thus, they could not thrive in a warm climate.

These lovable large mammals are now, unfortunately, seriously threatened



Photo by Jamie Beits on Flickr

by that scourge of all things natural - global warming. From British Columbia to Montana, Minnesota to New Hampshire, moose have been dying in unusually large numbers, and it is an alarming trend. According to a report on MSN.com (Oct. 15, 2013), one population of Minnesota moose has decreased drastically - from 4,000 members to less than 100, just in the past 20 years. Biologists have theorized probable causes ranging from more parasitic ticks in winter than previously existed (also caused, many believe, by climate change), to destruction of forest habitat by pine bark beetles.

Whatever the cause or causes, climate change is a likely culprit. There is no doubt that North America, as elsewhere, has been experiencing shorter and milder winters, on average, for many years now. Shorter, warmer winters encourage proliferation of many insects, including ticks that spread dangerous infections to moose. Besides this, increased instances of heat-related stress are caused by the prevailing higher temperatures, thus weakening the population further.

It is all terribly sad. Just as with the increased mortality of polar bears caused by warmer temperatures, moose (and numerous other species) seem doomed to pay the cost for humans' hyper-consuming lifestyle.

[Some moose facts courtesy of <http://www.mooseworld.com/mooseman/index.htm>. (c) Stefan Sattler]

THE ALMOST TOO SHORT TALE OF ARTHUR & AUGUST



Arthur is the tabby and August is black

In August, as two young felines risked eight of their nine lives wandering along New York City subway tracks, the MTA suspended subway service for 90 minutes, cutting 600 volts of electricity to the third rail, while officials began an extensive search for the kittens.

It is hardly unusual for New Yorkers to see wildlife in the subway tunnels, but it is more often rats and mice than cats.

Some people were not happy about the rescue effort. "It's a waste of money. They could have been doing something else," one subway rider said.

Others were more sympathetic. "The announcer said it had to stop to rescue some cats," commuter Sandra Polel said. "I didn't mind. I wanted to get home, but I also wanted the kittens to be safe."

The evasive kittens seem to have roamed around for at least 7 hours,

well after the time the third rail was re-electrified and trains were running again, so they were very lucky - or clever, indeed - not to have been killed. They finally reappeared around 6 pm and were captured by two police and an MTA worker and taken to a nearby shelter.



Arthur and August have since been adopted by Katherine and Keith Lubeley, a lucky couple who had to compete with hundreds of adoption requests. They say the two are adapting quickly to their new home in Brooklyn Heights, as the "after" photo proves.

Wildlife Watch commends the MTA and police for their humane actions in saving these two precious young lives.

If you'd like to write to the MTA to thank them, here is the address:

MTA New York City Transit, Carmen Bianco, President, 2 Broadway, New York, NY 10004

More at: <http://tinyurl.com/pvsqznh>

Update from:

http://www.cnn.com/2013/10/24/us/subway-kittens-adopted/index.html?hpt=hp_bn1

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.

DAISY THE CANADA GOOSE GOES TO POPCORN PARK ZOO Bonding has Consequences for Animals and Humans



Daisy trying to lift off runs along pier

Towards the end of the summer, the Wildlife Watch Hotline brought in a call from a Brooklyn family who had cared for a Canada goose gosling they found on their property. The gosling was alone, there were no other geese nearby, and the entire summer, she grew up with this family. As she began to grow, they realized that she could only "fly" horizontally by skimming above the water or land, but she couldn't lift up to really fly, though she seemed otherwise normal. They spent their days with her, trying to help her to "take off" — but not being able to take off themselves, they were poor role models for her. Nevertheless, she had a family who loved her, spent their days with her, swam with her, fed her, worried about her, and watched after her. The call to Wildlife Watch came about the time they planned to leave their summer home to go back to their

place in Brooklyn, NY, and taking Daisy was not an option. The family's neighbors were not going to be staying either. Through word of mouth they located some farmers who were willing to take Daisy temporarily. Sadly, the only time Daisy flew high in the air was when Renate, her dear friend and protector, was leaving the farm and the gates closed behind her. In distress, Daisy then flew to the top of the ten foot fence to try to go with her. The people who said they would care for Daisy pulled her back. Some time later, in checking up on Daisy's condition, her loving family discovered that Daisy was considered a "nuisance" by the "caretakers" and was being kept in a crate.

They drove many hours to pick up Daisy who was languishing in confinement and returned with her to their summer home to wait until they could find a suitable home. During that time, Daisy returned to "normal" life, enjoying the lake in freedom. Wildlife Watch reached out to find a place for Daisy where she would have shelter, food, and other goose friends in the winter. **Betty Butler**, a friend and someone who has been a savior of so many Canada geese and swans in New Jersey, immediately recommended **Popcorn Park Zoo**. Before you get upset, you need to know more about Popcorn Park. It is a wonderful place that only takes in injured, orphaned, disabled, or human-bonded wild animals who would not otherwise be able to fend for themselves in the wild.

Through Betty's connection, **John Bergmann** of Popcorn agreed to take

in Daisy. The idea of turning her over was so difficult for the family, especially after what Daisy had been through with their last attempt, and the weather was still so mild that it took until the end of October before they brought Daisy to Popcorn. Popcorn has promised that Daisy will have human and goose friends, veterinarians when needed, and she will be free to visit the many other animals in their care. The best part is that she will be evaluated and if she ever can take off with other geese, she is free to go as well.

The family plans to visit Daisy, and so does Wildlife Watch. If you would like to join us at Popcorn one day, please let us know. Also, to learn more about Popcorn Park Zoo, please visit their website at:

<http://www.ahscares.org/page2.asp?page=popcornpark>

If you get there before we do, please ask for Daisy.



Daisy trying to lift off skims along water

See more R.O.C.K.

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More R.O.C.K.

Continued from page 4

When Wildlife Watch receives calls about birds who have flown into windows, we suggest placing the bird in an open box, propping him or her up with a soft cloth or paper towels, and keeping the bird quiet, dark, and warm. A bird who flies into a window is always in shock and you should not try to give food or water at that time. The healing process can take anywhere from 15 minutes to even overnight, so we normally suggest that the person wait for a couple of hours, then take the box outside, open the lid, and see what happens. In most cases, the bird is able to get his bearings during that time of R&R and take off. Birds should only be released in daylight. If it's about an hour before dark, then try opening the box outside after 30 minutes. The bird may just take off.

LOVE HEALS BEST OF ALL

In early October, E.M. Fay sent the following email:

I just had a worrying but finally okay 15 minutes with a nuthatch. Poor thing crashed into my sliding glass door, in spite of the stuff I have hanging on it trying to prevent that. (When you think of the millions who slam into skyscraper windows every year it is too awful.)



Anyhow, he/she was discombobulated, lying on her back and flapping on the patio. I was so worried something might have broken, as it was a hard hit.

I have had lots of chickadees, etc. do this. But this one seemed more upset.

Anyhow, I got out there immediately and picked her up, trying not to let her see my face and my "big predator eyes," as a wildlife rehabilitator said it was scary for them.

Instead of putting her in a box and keeping her upright in a quiet place as I usually do, I decided to hold this one to give her my warmth; it happened to be a cold day. I also wanted to see if she was injured. I held her to my front, making sure her wings were unencumbered, and kept my face averted, hoping my heartbeat would be soothing and not creepy.

She did not struggle, and I kept my grip very loose and only underneath so she would know she could go when or if she recovered. I kept her facing outward to the trees, and after 10 tense minutes, she moved to a different part of my chest, then clung to my sleeve for a bit, and then — hurray! — she took off. I was so relieved! If only all these stories had a happy ending.

TO KNOW ABOUT

If you have not yet seen BLACKFISH, or if you wish to see it again, visit: <http://blackfishmovie.com>

It may not be up for long. This is the shocking documentary of the capture of wild sea mammals for amusement parks and marinas. You will no longer enjoy your visits to such places once you know the truth of the animals' plight.



Learn About Why Frogs are Important to You Visit:



<http://ed.ted.com/lessons/disappearing-frogs-kerry-m-kriger>

Elizabeth O'Nan of North Carolina sent the following bit of good news:

First lady Ann McCrory of North Carolina has appointed Kristen Fields to the position of Chief of Staff to help the first lady's initiatives, including pursuing legislation to make sure that dogs are treated fairly.

WILDLIFE WATCH HOTLINE BRINGS ALL KINDS OF ANIMAL EMERGENCY CALLS

Wildlife Watch does not encourage buying exotic birds or other exotic "pets," and wild birds are illegal to keep unless you are a wildlife rehabilitator. BUT if you have rescued an exotic, or bought a bird before knowing better, as several of our friends have, then you need to know what to do in an emergency.

Wildlife Watch recently received a call from a panicked family. The husband was clipping their parrot's nails and blood started to gush forth. I quickly Googled to find the answer to stopping the flow of blood, and discovered this great site.

<http://voices.yahoo.com/tech-talk-trim-parrots-nails-7386922.html?cat=53>

It says:

"Because birds' nails have a quick, or vein that runs through the center, make sure you've got some kind of substance to stop any potential bleeding should you actually cut a nail too far back. Corn starch works well. You can also purchase styptic powder and silver nitrate sticks that are used for stopping the blood flow. However, use powders in moderation. Use only what is needed to stop the blood flow as the bird will likely pick at it as soon as you let him go."

Wildlife Watch suggests that you take the bird to a veterinarian, but if you are going to cut the nails of any animal, PLEASE learn how to do it



BEFORE you start, learn what problems can occur and have the necessary items ready. Be sure not to cut too far and be careful that the bird doesn't push toward the clipper as you are cutting. That's how most accidents occur. Knowing how to hold the bird without putting pressure in the wrong places is essential. Here is a YouTube video: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kic-ij38Xaw> but frankly you can see how dangerous this can be for a non-professional to attempt it. **We urge you to take your bird to an avian veterinarian.**

Let's Go Wildlife Watching

Point Au Roche State Park

Located on the northwestern shore of Lake Champlain, near Plattsburgh-size: 825 acres http://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/administration_pdf/0413consmafweb.pdf

This 825 acre park is on the northwestern shore of Lake Champlain and has a mixture of open and forested areas. **The park does not allow hunting**, which should improve the wildlife watching experience. Families who wish to spend some time there will have much to do, as there are trails for hiking, biking, and winter cross-country skiing.



Contact: 518-563-0369, Website: www.nysparks.com

TEATOWN LAKE RESERVATION Westchester, NY

This gem is open 365 days a year and does not allow hunting.

It is described in New York Wildlife Viewing Guide this way:

Forested hardwood swamps, shrub lands upland meadows, vernal pools, rock outcrops, wet meadows and small streams, and three lakes. It has 15 miles of hiking trails,

The trails are open dawn to dusk. They also have wildlife related events throughout the year.

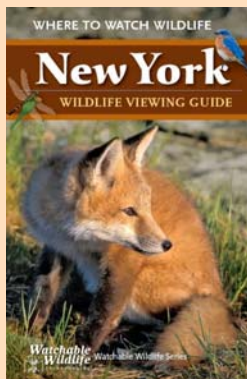
www.teatown.org/visitor-information/hiking-trails.html

The New York Wildlife Viewing Guide

Watchable Wildlife has just published the New York Wildlife Viewing Guide. To order this excellent book, please visit

<http://utyxa.ffpbe.servertrust.com/ProductDetails.asp?ProductCode=13-022>

Be sure to visit the Watchable Wildlife home page to see all that this wonderful organization does: <http://www.watchablewildlife.org/>



**WANT TO BE A SUCCESSFUL WILDLIFE WATCHER?
THEN THINK LIKE AN ANIMAL**

Find out how to do that on page 20 of the Guide.



Teatown

BIRD WATCHING OFFICIALLY TAKES FLIGHT IN CAYUGA COUNTY FOR THE FIRST TIME

BY ANNE MULLER

In memory of **Rita Sarnicola**, founder of CROW (Citizens Respectful of Wildlife), an Auburn-based group, I would like to say how honored she would feel that a Cayuga County bird watching pamphlet has been published by the Office of Tourism.

In 2006, **CROW** and **Wildlife Watch** hosted a wildlife watching event during one of the most spectacular wildlife "performances" to grace



Auburn: the morning and evening crow flights. Crow watchers came from around the state, many from New York City, and stayed overnight at one of the local hotels in order to

see the birds roost in the evening, and then take flight again in the morning. We carried our binoculars, cameras, and brought along a sound amplifying device to better hear the complex communication of the crows over the din of traffic noise. It certainly was a time I will remember forever. The tour was enhanced by **Dr. Anne Clark** of Binghamton University who had been studying the 50,000 crow roost of Auburn for years. She said, "Crows are commonly known to be the smartest birds on the planet. We know that they have a way of communicating with each other that we haven't begun to understand, and they use tools!"

Rita would be proud to see the

crow listed as a watchable bird. I think beyond watching a single bird and ticking off the name on a list, to be caught up in the exhilarating flight of these intelligent birds is certainly worth a mention. We would love for the next publication to include the flight of the crows as a bona fide wildlife watching experience. To read about CROW's Crow Watch, please visit:

<http://wildwatch.org/events/AUBevents.htm>

Sadly, Rita passed away in 2012, but with every crow I see, I remember Rita's love for them.

To order this pamphlet, please contact Cayuga County Office of Tourism, Auburn, NY 800-499-9615 or visit: www.tourcayuga.com

WILDLIFE WATCH PHOTO PRIZE GOES TO A CUTE LITTLE DEVIL



Photo by Sheryl Feng

Tasmanian Devil

Our friend, **Sheryl Feng**, took his photo during her trip to Australia this summer.

Sadly, the little devils may be gone in 20 years if no cure is found for a contagious facial cancer that is spreading through the population. See more at:

<http://www.livescience.com/27804-contagious-devil-tumor-disease.html>

If you have a photo from a wildlife watching trip, please email to: wild-watch@verizon.net and give a drop of background. We will try to publish.



Photo by Anne Muller

Wildlife Watch reps coincidentally were in Poughkeepsie when an urgent squirrel call came in. A baby had dropped from a tree in front of a busy senior center. The baby would die without intervention. We rushed this baby to **Kim Punchar** who is a wonderful rehabilitator in the area and took this photo of the adorable little guy while she evaluated him. **"He's going to be fine," she pronounced, "he's a healthy little squirrel."** That was great news and could have fooled us.

TO "WIDEN" A COUNTRY ROAD OR NOT IS A LIFE AND DEATH DECISION

BY KAREN SCHUMAKER

Karen Schumaker can be called a genuine "deep ecologist." There's nothing superficial about Ms. Schumaker's understanding of nature. Karen points out all of the connections in nature and understands the terrible impacts of road building on the lives of the animals who are killed, injured, or displaced in the process; and then later killed on the roads themselves. Along a scenic road in a rural area of Idaho, Karen found out about a plan to expand the road. She quickly sent out the following alert, urging her readers to contact Dan Payne, Supervisor at North Latah County Highway District in Idaho. He can be reached at Dan.Payne@nlchd.com. She suggests writing the following: *I don't want the frog ponds or Long Meadow Creek to have sharp basalt gravel smeared into them. It results in the death of frogs, crayfish, fish and everyone depending on them, from raccoon to kingfisher. I love to see and smell the wild rose hedgerows in June and see and hear the warblers and dozens of bird species*

*who nest in the forbs, the alders, willows and hawthornes lining those creeks and ponds. I'm sure I don't have to tell you to be polite. Karen said Dan is a good guy who got them their "Slow, Wildlife Habitat" signs and works on trying to minimize road-caused damage. If you like where Karen is coming from, you can subscribe to Karen's newsletter, *Newhaven News*, by sending \$8 to **Karen Schumaker**, POB 217, Deary, ID 83823.*



Photo at Pinterest

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 empha-

sizes 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>

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E.M. Fay - Assoc. Editor

We welcome letters/articles/photos for consideration.

Contributions are tax-deductible.



**NEED HELP FOR
INJURED OR
ORPHANED WILDLIFE?
CALL THE WILDLIFE
WATCH HOTLINE!
1-877-WILDHEL(P)
(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 at our discretion up to the amount available. You can contribute by PayPal by clicking here

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 2013 WILDLIFE WATCH HUMANE AWARD GOES TO 14 YEAR OLD ALI KHALIL



L to R: Amal Maseer, Ali's mother; Supervisor Susan Zimet; Ali Khalil, Anne Muller

In early August, Wildlife Watch received a hotline call at 11:30 p.m. about a skunk who had gotten a Yoplait yogurt cup suctioned onto his face. Fourteen year old Ali Khalil, a high school student, spotted the skunk and wasn't able to sleep because he realized the skunk would die without human intervention. The skunk's

eyes, nose and mouth were covered by the cup and he was just walking around in a circle. Ali had tried to pull off the cup, but it wouldn't budge.

He confessed that he didn't really like skunks, but he didn't want to see the little guy die like that, so he Googled "Wildlife Help" and found our number. Anne and Peter Muller who operate the organization brought over a little olive oil, a turkey baster, and some steel mesh gloves. While Peter held the skunk, Anne drizzled a little olive oil around the rim of the cup and gently pulled. The cup popped off almost immediately and Peter released the skunk. Fortunately for all, the skunk ran into the woods without looking back to say "thank you."

New Paltz Town Supervisor, Susan Zimet, attended and gave a talk in honor of Ali's compassion for an animal in distress.

To see a YouTube video, visit:
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KYGxZnio-U&feature=youtu.be>

To learn more about Wildlife Watch, visit www.wildwatch.org

Please be sure to wash all recyclables well before throwing them into a recycle container. Food scent will attract animals. We keep a tub of water in the sink to soak recyclables, making them easy to clean.

Wildlife Watch will be speaking to children at the Unframed Artists Gallery about how they can protect wild animals by properly disposing of or recycling common products.