

Sustainable eNews

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IWMC
World Conservation Trust

Out of the UK - A Deer Sanctuary Where it's Cruel to be "Kind"

By Janice Henke, Anthropologist

There is an astonishingly sad story out of the UK, where many people are known for their all abiding kindness to animals. In the case of the Baronsdown red deer sanctuary near Dulverton in Somerset, kind intentions and a refusal to act in the best interests of captive animals have resulted in miserable starvation of several hundred animals, held "safe" in an enclosure where hunters may not cull them.



Gordon Pearce is an employee of the sanctuary, and for many years it was his job to humanely kill sick or injured animals. He has finally "gone public" with the news that his organization, the League Against Cruel Sports, has for the past year, routinely refused to allow him to euthanize old or sick deer so that the others might have enough food, and be free from disease. He now reports that most animals in the herd of 350 are either sick or are dying from starvation, and that "if they were domestic stock, the owners would be prosecuted for neglect."



Other problems on the preserve are rampant inbreeding, as stags are seen to be breeding their own offspring or their own dams. Consequently, according to Pearce, the stock is developing animals that are inferior and stunted, as well as being starved from lack of adequate pasture and forage in their "sanctuary".

In This Issue

Out of the UK - A Deer Sanctuary by Janice Henke	Page 1
Essentials of Resource Conservation Editorial by Eugene Lapointe	Page 2
PETA, Greenpeace and the ELF	Page 3
Out of India	Page 5
Fur in a not-so-cold climate	Page 5
Important Date	Page 7

Fantasies and Fortunes Sierra Club Dilemma	Page 8
Hunting and Trapping by James B. Beers, Biologist	Page 9
The "S" Files / Open Jaws - Closed Minds by Ric D.T. Wilson	Page 10
Subscriptions / Submissions	Page 10

IWMC notes that a similar problem once occurred in the eastern US, in a forest preserve where hunting was prohibited. The white-tail deer there became so starved, inbred and scrawny that adult males weighed barely 35 pounds at maturity. This miserable failure at wildlife management was all because of a cultural preference by some to manage a deer herd by doing nothing to keep them at numbers suitable for their environment. When the carrying capacity of a forest is vastly exceeded by the animals fenced within it, miserable death by starvation is the inevitable result. This is not kindness in action. It is cruelty of a most basic and evil kind.

IWMC congratulates Mr. Pearce for bringing this situation to the attention of the public and the press. He is a man of integrity and courage. His efforts to persuade the League Against Cruel Sports to take appropriate action for the welfare of the herd have been in vain. IWMC urges that all good and kind people in the UK demand that action be immediately taken to end the suffering of those red deer, and to cause their legislators to ensure that such conditions shall never be allowed to be perpetrated again. Is it not ironic that such a call for action must come from all those devoted to the principles of proper wildlife management through hunting, given that this extreme cruelty is the work of anti-hunters?

Essentials of Resource Conservation

Editorial by Eugene Lapointe

When we think about the renewable resources of the planet, and the conditions, under which they either flourish or disappear, it becomes obvious that certain elements are necessary before effective conservation can take place. First, there must be a stable civil government, whose leaders' goals include maintenance of law and order and responsible stewardship of resources. This stewardship must be maintained through the oversight of effective honest law enforcement, with adequate personnel, a responsible court system, and a just structure of penalties for violation of environmental laws.

In those nations whose governments allow corruption of officials, or whose leaders otherwise have no interest in stewardship of resources for the good of the people and their environment, then disastrous results soon follow - poaching, unsustainable taking of

wildlife with no law enforcement, no scientific authority to recommend sustainable use guidelines, and no respect for the rights of people to live with and through use of their own resources. Such is the case in Zimbabwe, where civil strife and an apparent total lack of wildlife law enforcement is contributing to the destruction of the populations of elephants, hippos, big cats, and every other form of wildlife that can be killed, captured, or sold on the black market. The resources of this once rich land are being rapidly destroyed as the population tries to live in the unimaginable horror of lawlessness and hunger, unemployment, and poverty. The basic essentials of resource conservation are absent in Zimbabwe, and the environmental effects of irresponsibility are spilling over into neighboring States, whose residents are dealing with fleeing herds of elephants, in farming areas that can not sustain them.

Other essentials that are vital to the success of resource conservation include adequate infrastructure for the human population - safe and adequate water and sewage facilities, health care, roads and electricity, and an adequate communications network. These are essentials for any growing human population before its leaders will spend money and effort on conservation of natural resources. Without that infrastructure, people suffer sickness, hunger, and the inability to conduct business essential to a healthy economy. An inadequate economy means widespread poverty, and with that, unsustainable use of wildlife and forest resources is inevitable, because people must have both food and fuel with which to live.

In the absence of modern infrastructure, people will first seek to feed and warm themselves, from day to day, before any higher goals may be conceived of or reached. The people of suburban India, whose most urgent needs include adequate and safe water supplies and waste disposal, should not be

condemned for inadequate concern about their wildlife resources. They lead desperate lives of day to day existence. We can only hope that their government leaders can find ways to improve the vital infrastructure they need, before it is too late for the conservation of their land and water, wildlife and forests.

Those of us fortunate enough to live in societies with well-developed economies and infrastructure, responsible scientific authority, and adequate honest law enforcement, need to understand the down to earth problems that impede natural resource conservation, and help others to overcome them, instead of condemning them for their inability to manage their forests, wildlife, water, and other resources. IWMC urges understanding and support for those governments whose leaders are responsible, and who need help to accomplish all the goals of supporting their people and their environments.

PETA, Greenpeace and the ELF

To be (exempt from the Laws of the Land) or Not to be That question needs to be addressed

When does the freedom of individuals and organized groups to voice their opinions and preferences, impinge upon the freedom of others to lead secure lives in an environment of law and order? That question has been asked of those who support clandestine, illegal behavior in the name of animal rights, environmentalism, and hatred of humanity. Their response seems to be that as long as they are not physically impeded from carrying out their actions, they shall do whatever they wish in order to carry out their antisocial ideals, and the freedom of others be damned.

PETA (People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals) has both openly and clandestinely supported those who have carried out acts of arson, destruction of animal research facilities, destruction of domestic animal enclosures and slaughter houses, slashed tires of vehicles used in the animal industry, smeared "warnings" on the homes and cars of those whose businesses or professions use animals, and in general, made dangerous nuisances of themselves. PETA officers have even stated that they wish animal facilities would explode.

The PETA tactic has thus been to (at the least) verbally support acts of domestic terror carried out by the ELF (Earth Liberation Front) and by the ALF (Animal Liberation Front), whose members may or may not be the same perverted criminals. Farmers, hunters, trappers, furriers, medical researchers, pharmaceutical firms, food processors, vehicle dealerships, loggers, - all kinds of people and their interests have been attacked and further threatened by this network of terror mongers. It is even possible that some of the arsonists responsible for the recent fatal fires in southern California, were ELF members. No suspects have been apprehended to date, but two young men in a van were seen to be hurling incendiary materials into roadside vegetation that subsequently started one of the major fires near San Diego. Rod Coronado, a "darling" of PETA, claimed that he supported the principle of arson fires in southern California, although he himself, of course, was not in any way involved. ELF members allegedly believe that the environment there should not be used by vast numbers of humans. Violence is their answer to perceived overpopulation of the desert southwest.

More recently, it has come to our attention that Greenpeace has been indicted because some members illegally boarded a ship bound for Miami, that allegedly carried a cargo of big leaf mahogany timber. Greenpeace objects to the harvest of tropical timber from the Amazon rainforest, and its activists boarded the ship hoping to unfurl a banner damning President Bush for allowing the import of those products. The indictment was under an 1870s law that forbids the illegal boarding of ships "bound for port" by those who wished to persuade sailors to frequent their brothels. Although green activists

dispute the relevance of the ancient law to the present situation, the implications of the indictment and a possible conviction could be a serious review of the eligibility of the organization to keep its tax exempt status with the Internal Revenue Service.



And that is the crux of this entire matter. Many citizens believe that neither PETA nor Greenpeace should be allowed to break the laws of the land, or encourage others to do so, without penalty. Some 5,000 people have now signed an Internet petition calling for the IRS to revoke PETA's charitable, tax exempt status. Revocation could even happen to Greenpeace, should the organization itself be convicted of planning and directing a felony act.

IWMC and our many supporters feel it is appropriate that irresponsible and criminal acts against society be punished, regardless of the preferences of the "politically correct". If charitable organizations are found to be guilty of felonies, then their tax-exempt status should be revoked immediately. End of story.

Out of India Integrity is worth more than gold

IWMC wants all our supporters and readers to know about the steadfast heroism and integrity of Father Thomas Kochery, the "Fisherman Priest" of India. Father Kochery has long fought for the rights of India's fishermen to sustainably fish their waters without depredation by pollution or foreign fleets, and he has become an advocate for fishermen who call for an end to marine pollution by large industrial organizations such as oil companies.

The World Forum of Fish Harvesters and Fish Workers held a conference in New Delhi last June, which was attended by over 150 delegates from 32 fishing nations. On that occasion Father Kochery, the founding director of The National Fish Workers Forum

in India, was awarded a \$150,000 grant from the Pew Foundation, which he publicly refused to accept. The grant was in recognition of his many years of advocacy for fishermen's rights, but Father Kochery declined to accept it because the Pew Foundation is sponsored by the Sun Oil Company, which the Fisherman Priest calls "one of the worst polluters of the sea."

Father Kochery felt that to accept money that originated from Sun Oil would have been a betrayal of all those whose lives and livelihoods depend on unspoiled marine resources.

IWMC applauds Father Kochery for setting an example of integrity for all of us.

Fur in a not-so-cold climate by Vanessa Friedman

(Source: Fur Revival, Financial Times, London, GB, Tue, 16 Dec. 2003, 10:29:23-0500)

(FT.com site; Dec 12, 2003)

Oddly, it was the supermodels who made it official. Who, after all, is better placed to note the emergence of style trends and assess their staying power than those on the frontline? So when Naomi Campbell, Kate Moss, Cindy Crawford and Claudia Schiffer - many of the girls who famously and frontally proclaimed "I'd rather go naked than wear fur" in an advertising campaign - started showing up a few years ago in mink and fox, it was hard to escape the conclusion: for fur, fashion is no longer a cold climate.

"In five years, the number of shops selling fur around the world has grown 400 per cent," says Tom Steifel-Kristensen, director of international communication at Saga Furs of Scandinavia, the association of fur breeders that supplies 65 per cent of the world's farmed mink and 70 per cent of the farmed fox. "Last winter, retail turnover increased 10.8 per cent from the year before." No mean feat, given the luxury goods climate (in fact, fur was the best-performing luxury item in 2002). Meanwhile, the average age of a fur buyer has dropped from 49 to 35.

After a decade when fur fell as far from favour as a fabric can get, it is once again having a moment. In fact, it's been having a moment since 1997. It's just that said moment has finally reached Britain, notoriously the most anti-fur country in the world, over the past decade or two. Although the UK is far beyond the fur-embracing ways of Spain, Italy and the US, walk down any high street, check out any department store, and there's no avoiding the fact that skin is in.

"This year, the sale of fur, fur trim and fur accessories has increased by 35 per cent compared to last year," says Andrea Martin, press and PR officer of the British Fur Trade Association.

At Spanish leather house Loewe, which "almost stopped selling fur in the UK during the 1990s", according to chief executive Fabien Debaedker, select pieces made from the fur of Bengali cat, mink and fox, as well as trimmed leather, are slowly being re-introduced - though they are kept on the store's lower level, out of sight. "The customer was asking for it," says Debaedker simply. Similarly, London-based retailer Hockley, which in 2000 got an injunction against fur protesters who were approaching clients, has stopped feeling a need for legal recourse.

The reasons are multiple. There is, bizarrely - given fur's history as an in-your-face symbol of the establishment - an element of rebellion to the current trend that has attracted a new generation of twenty-somethings. Tired of being preached at, they associate wearing fur with the slightly dangerous, and favour second-hand fur tippets unearthed on Portobello Road and shaggy goat moon-boots. It's a form of protest, as well as part of the hip-hop, P. Diddy democratisation of fur.

Then there is the fact that, truthfully, the rampaging anti-fur campaigns in the 1990s have had an effect: now, fur is generally farmed responsibly and the fashion houses that use it in their collections (pretty much every fashion house) have become pro-active about researching the origins of their materials.

Marni compares its fur to "organic beef" in terms of how the animals are raised and treated. At Revillon, designer Rick Owens says: "We are careful about using only responsibly farmed fur." And at Loewe, "we pay a great deal of attention to the provenance", says Debaedker. The European Fur Federation has recently introduced a fur labelling initiative so that each garment or item sold will be labelled with its English as well as Latin name.



"Consumers have grown far more sceptical of stories they are fed, and much more interested in seeking information for themselves," says Steifel-Kristensen. "This has worked to the advantage of the fur trade. Whereas the animal rights movement had made the picture very black and white, now consumers understand there is a history and morality at work."

Finally, there is fashion itself, which has embraced fur to such an extent that the material has been transformed in people's eyes. Gone are the "big confrontational fur coats", in the words of Owens. In their place are almost casual sheared mink jackets (best worn with jeans), patchwork multi-coloured confections, fur-trimmed jumpers, and accessories. Indeed, during Owens' first Revillon show last July, which was filled with "bias" fur waistcoats and jackets and stoles of mink strips linked by cotton tape "to air it out a bit", there were no coats below the knee.

In this, Owens is following the path of two leather houses which pioneered the imaginative treatment of fur: Marni and Fendi. It was almost a decade ago that Fendi first began producing its feather-weight fur coats of many colours, transforming the public's perception of skins and what they could be. Marni followed suit soon thereafter.

"I have always treated fur as one of the natural elements of the earth, along with silks and cashmeres," says the house's designer Consuelo Castiglione. Case in point: the black and white geometric patchwork goatskin coats and fox wraps in the current autumn/winter collection.

It was Castiglione's husband who told English furrier David Zilberkweit, chairman of Polar Furs, a supplier to companies from Dolce & Gabbana to MaxMara, as well as chairman of Hockley: "We had an image problem," and had to lighten up - literally. Now Hockley's own-brand lightweight reversible coats and knitted mink accessories are attracting a new and younger customer - not to mention the Ferre mink stoles and Valentino sable-trimmed cashmere they also stock. On the supply side, Zilberkweit is currently in talks with a number of British designers about collaborations for autumn/winter 2004 (he won't name names). Indeed, Stella McCartney aside, it's hard to find any designer who doesn't do fur.

"I think designers are attracted by the possibilities of the fabric," says Steifel-Kristensen. "You can groom it, you can dye it,

you can shear it to various levels, so it can be a skirt [Louis Vuitton] or a summer jacket [Marni]."

"For me, it's about the tactile nature of the material," says Owens, "the textures and possibilities of discrete luxury." Jean-Paul Gaultier went similarly fur-happy after visiting the Saga Furs design centre in Copenhagen, a kind of R&D headquarters. The result: dramatic marriages of fur and chiffon, and fur and jersey. John Galliano and Michael Kors have also made the trip, and fur has leapt, as opposed to crept, onto their runways.

But aesthetics are not the only reason for fashion's hot and heavy embrace of fur; economics come into it too. The emerging markets of Russia and China are the next frontiers for luxury goods, and fur is an integral part of both cultures. The prospective customers demand it. "Eastern Europeans are crazy about fur," observes Debaedker.

"Fur is never going to go away. Just as vinyl will never replace leather, fake fur can't replace real fur," says Owens, who has made a Revillon coat with fake fur on the outside and sable on the inside. "It will never become a staple, like leather. But there's something about high heels and perfume and fur. Like the right-hand diamond ring, it's something a woman now buys for herself." And there's the final reason for fur's resurgence: the sexual revolution. It's now also a sartorial one.

IMPORTANT DATE

Please note that the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (IAFWA) annual meeting will be held in Atlantic City, NJ from September 26 through October 1, 2004.

Fantasies and Fortunes Sierra Club Dilemma

If the people who constitute the organizational structure of the Sierra Club recognize Paul Watson as an undesirable element, opposed in principle to the ideals of the organization, why did they allow one such as he to run for and become a member of their board of directors? The present dilemma of the Sierra Club is that Watson is claiming he wants to "take over" the goals, strategies and budget of the organization. Supposedly, Paul would in some way influence the membership of the board through orchestrating the positions of an additional three members who would be willing to go along with his demented schemes. Watson allegedly would use the organization as a force to more actively oppose consumptive use of wildlife and public access to wild places in the United States. We think this is an unlikely fantasy on his part.



The Sierra Club has a membership of 750,000 and a huge annual budget, with which it wields power to lobby, to advertise its goals to the general public, and to appear to be a strong social and political force. Some others besides Watson also wish that their own vested interests might be served through a "take over" of the board. These include those who have an anti-immigration agenda. Therefore, the organization, which isn't very friendly to sustainable use and open access to wilderness lands anyway, is now threatened by even more left wing elements who wish to use its resources to further their own ends.

Watson has allegedly claimed that since only 8% of the members ever voice an opinion on organizational goals, that the "take-over" should be easily facilitated. If this is so, then it is simply an indication that this large and

influential organization has some serious internal flaws, and that it may well be fatally weakened in both power and influence if either Watson or his competitors manage to control the actions of the board. If such actions and goal changes are visible to Sierra Club members, they shall either abandon the organization or challenge the legitimacy of the new leadership. Other "nature oriented" organizations in the country will be observing the turmoil, will try to win the alienated Sierra Club members over to their group, and in other ways, will accomplish a shift in the balance of power among such NGOs.

IWMC applauds the stewardship efforts of legitimate organizations whose goals include promotion of conservation through sustainable use, and through support for scientific research and wildlife management. We recognize that some large organizations appear to be pseudo-stewards; their goals are to diminish the ability of citizens to enjoy the wild places through hampering access to them. Such groups try to abolish wildlife management through opposing hunting, fishing and trapping. In the unlikely event that Paul Watson accomplishes his fantasy goal of "taking over" the business and the budget of the Sierra Club, it will not be the end of the world for conservationists in the US. It may, however, be a rallying point for pro-hunting and other sustainable use advocates, to convince the public and various government agencies, that the public interest and that of the environment is best served through conservative, science based, traditional stewardship. IWMC applauds all those who advocate lawful, democratic process as they support conservation through sustainable use and environmental law enforcement.

Hunting and Trapping

by James B. Beers, Biologist

Hunting and trapping are simply pursuits that provide food, recreation, fur, government revenue, business profits, and a rich tradition. They exist because we want to pursue them for various reasons and by so doing animals are kept in numbers and distributed to maximize their benefits to man and to minimize their harm. Several species of whales should be hunted to allow increases in highly desirable commercial fisheries. Elephants, crocodiles, and several big cats should be hunted in Africa to allow Africans the same opportunities for a safer and better life that Americans and Europeans have enjoyed since they minimized the presence of harmful animals in their backyards. Deer and elk and turkeys should be hunted because their populations can be so maintained; it creates personal enjoyment for millions and strong business profits; and it generates constant financing of environmental and wildlife management by government that is thereby transferred from taxpayers to users.

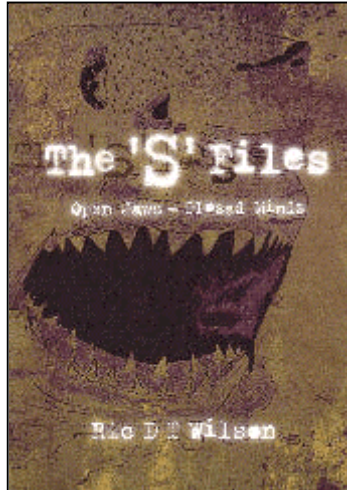
A note to environmental and animal rights activists and government press release writers; repeating an untruth doesn't make it so. Hunting and trapping are tools like guns and automobiles. They can be used for many things and in America we use guns and automobiles for many good ends and we punish those who use them for bad ends. Hunting and trapping in the past reflected the determined wishes of many citizens to create a safe, productive environment. Today and tomorrow hunting and trapping are more important than ever to preserve species by providing revenue and value to the preservation of animals while providing peace

and opportunity for rural folks around the world. We know more than ever how to regulate and direct these tools of environmental management and societal benefit. It is ironic that such misinformation is believed while we know so much better than ever before how hunting and trapping can benefit us all.



So the next time you read about hunting and trapping doing something bad, remember that killing elephants for their ivory or their meat or their hide or to prevent them from trampling children or crops or denuding forest isn't hunting it is a rational answer to large elephant populations, poor people, strong markets, and national desired to progress like others. Likewise killing certain whales that keep depressed fisheries down (just like wolves push struggling ranchers over the edge by decreasing narrow profit margins) reflects many things from a desire for more commercial fish to a more balanced diversity in the oceans. Hunting is merely the preferred tool of choice. Taxpayers paying for limited animal control is neither as efficient nor as comprehensive as managing hunters who pay you and proceed to hunt where and as directed. The fact that so many still swallow this line about hunting and trapping is reminiscent of what H.L. Mencken once observed, "That milking a cow is an operation demanding a special talent that is possessed by yokels, and that a person born in a large city can never hope to acquire it." From one yokel to another, certain cows need to be milked and certain animals need to be hunted.

The "S" Files / Open Jaws - Closed Minds by Ric D.T. Wilson



More than ever there is a need for a Federal Royal Commission or major review into the shark attack cover-up and safety fiasco in Australia. On a global scale the United Nations and western governments in particular need to examine this area at the highest levels - for the sake of the people.

The book can be obtained directly from:
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Additional information is available
at the IWMC Bookstore:
www.iwmc.org/bookstore/the-s-files

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