

**New York State Wildlife Management Association  
Providing Problem Animal Solutions For Home Owners and Businesses**



NYSWMA Meeting Minutes  
12-4-2010

The December meeting of the NYSWMA was held 12-4-10 at the Ling Ling Restaurant in North Syracuse. It was attended by Dale Stockton, Vice President and News Letter Editor, Bob Meakin, Treasurer, Bert Mead, Secretary, Dan Ebel, Director, and Price Morris, member. Cody Baciуска, President, joined by speakerphone.

The Treasurer's Report and the Secretary's report, as published in the Newsletter were accepted.

The primary discussion was planning the Seminar.

### **The Seminar**

The Friday session will include Rick Shadel with his course on the use of a metal brake to construct custom flashing and other items useful to NWCO's in their work or as an added service to their clients, and the NYSDEC Beaver Cable Restraint Training Course. It was decided that we could pay the travel expenses for the DEC trainer if the State would not cover them. The Metal Brake and the Cable Restraint training will run concurrently.

The Friday sessions will begin at 1:00. The Hotel facilities will be available at noon. The Seminar cost will be \$100 for Pre-registration (prior to February 15). The cost after February 15

or at the door will be \$160. There is no charge for the Cable Restraint training.

The quarter page Seminar ad in the WCT will be replaced with a half page ad if the added cost is less than \$100.

The basic Hotel room charge will be \$85 per night.

The Seminar schedule and Membership renewal notice will be sent to each member soon. (note-This has been done since the meeting)

Other items.

Election of Officers and Directors for 2011 to 2013. Nomination forms for 2011-2013 Officers and Directors will be sent to members soon with a deadline of January 5, 2011 for response to Bert Mead, Secretary.. A ballot with the nominees listed will be sent to members for vote. The ballots are to be returned to Dan Ebel Director by February 28, 2011 for counting. The results will be published in the March Newsletter.

### **Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be January 8, at noon, 2011 at the Ling Ling Restaurant in North Syracuse

Respectfully Submitted Bert Mead,  
Secretary

**Buy, sell, & trade:** Any buy, sell, or trade items to include in the NYSWMA

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Newsletter; send to Dale. They should be limited to items connected with our profession.

**January meeting**

Review last meeting minutes  
Review treasurers report

Discuss old business;

Discuss new business;

Seminar topics

**Rt. 81 South Take the TAFT RD exit- EXIT 2 toward N. SYRACUSE. 0.3 miles turn RIGHT onto E TAFT RD 0.7 miles turn onto S MAIN ST/US-11. 0.2 miles Ling Ling is on the immediate left**

Dan Ebel  
North Country Snares  
1037 Co. Rt. 3  
Redwood NY 13679  
315-324-6392  
ADC Beaver Cable Restraints & assorted supplies

**Liability insurance; Address, Jim Pace Christian-Baker Co. Camp Hill PA. 17001 1-717-761-4712 or email him at [jimp@buybestins.com](mailto:jimp@buybestins.com)**

**Address for NYSWMA  
Correspondence, should be sent to the following address.**

**Bob Meakin  
5721 Middle Rd.  
Munnsville, NY 13409**

Send pictures you want posted on the web page be to [Cody@loomacres.com](mailto:Cody@loomacres.com) or [www.Loomacres.com](http://www.Loomacres.com) If they are acceptable he will put them on it.

Mike Skeele is contact person We also have a NYS insurance company that will write policies for NWCO's in NY. It's the Skeele Agency, their address is: Skeele Agency Inc. (315) 655-2878 [skeeleagency@skeele.com](mailto:skeeleagency@skeele.com) [www.skeele.com](http://www.skeele.com)

**Web site address is [www.nyswma.org](http://www.nyswma.org).  
Cody's contact information is below.**

Don't forget the nominations for officers are due to Bert Mead by January 5<sup>th</sup>.

Seminar speakers schedule will be sent out in the in the next week.

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**Sites of interest you need to visit, especially the  
Assembly and Senate**

New York State Assembly/Senate web sites

[www.assembly.state.ny.us](http://www.assembly.state.ny.us). [www.senate.state.ny.us](http://www.senate.state.ny.us)

[www.conservewildlife.org](http://www.conservewildlife.org)

**Sites that may be of interest about animal rights  
activists and the state of their finances**

[www.guidestar.org](http://www.guidestar.org) [www.activistcash.com](http://www.activistcash.com)

The following was submitted by Lynn Braband

- DECEMBER 23, 2010

**Bunnies Are in Deep Doo-Doo When They 'Go Nuclear' at Hanford**

***Detectives at Old A-Bomb Plant Track Radioactive Critters, Rogue Tumbleweeds***

By **JUSTIN SCHECK**

RICHLAND, Wash.—The little pellets that government contractors found near a building here in October looked like any other pile of rabbit droppings. A Geiger counter told a different story.

The scat was radioactive, and that could only mean one thing: There was a cottontail on the loose with access to sensitive nuclear material.

"There was an emergency with this," says Brett Klinetobe, who manages pest control for a federal contractor that's cleaning up a section of the U.S. Department of Energy's Hanford nuclear site along the Columbia River.

The radioactive rabbit had to be found at all cost. Mr. Klinetobe dispatched his four-member team with orders to bring the bunny in, dead or alive.

His aim wasn't just to remove the rabbit that left the nuclear waste. More importantly, his team had to figure out how it got radiated in the first place—and ultimately to remove the waste that the rabbit somehow ingested.

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Sleuthing for atomic flora and fauna is serious work at Hanford, which once had nine nuclear reactors and produced plutonium for the Fat Man bomb dropped on Nagasaki in 1945.

Since 1989, Hanford has been the site of a cleanup that's cost over \$30 billion. Most of that work is decommissioning reactors, demolishing tainted buildings and burying waste.

But animals tend to root around contaminated areas at the 586-square-mile site, so federal contractors closely monitor plants and critters to curb the spread of radiation.

Earlier this year, contractors found four radioactive mice, which they traced back to water and soil where material leached from old buildings.

They've also chased down at least 30 atomic tumbleweeds so far in 2010, found among the thousands of tumbleweeds a year the site's staff tests for radiation. The plants can grow in contaminated soil, then drift around throwing off neutrons for miles.

Last year, a Hanford contractor used about \$300,000 from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act stimulus program to hire helicopters, outfit them with Geiger counters and scan a sensitive part of the site for radioactive waste. The choppers found plenty of waste, including telltale droppings, and contractors are still working out the safest way to clean it up.

Government scientists say there are no signs radiation is making its way into plants and animals outside the site. Since the 1960s, says Ted Poston, a biologist with the Department of Energy's Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, Columbia River whitefish haven't shown signs of contamination. Deer and other off-site animals show contamination levels consistent with normal background radiation, he says.

But on-site wildlife keeps finding nasty stuff. In total, says Ray Johnson, a biologist who's been dealing with nuclear pests here since 1981, site managers have found 81 species of atomic flora and fauna. Cameron Hardy, a Hanford spokesman, says that in recent years, "we're averaging less than five [radioactive] animals out of the more than 2,000 sampled every year." For the past five years, they've all been mice and rabbits. But over nearly three decades at Hanford, Mr. Johnson and others have seen other species.

These include cottontails, jackrabbits, pocket gophers and pigeons. He's dealt with desert termites and harvester ants that dig radiation from underground. He's encountered atomic toads, radioactive swallows and nuclear snakes, and has his staff keep an eye on other animals. "Whenever they find a badger, they test its scat," he says.

Radioactive animals can be elusive. Hanford workers have caught five this year—the rabbit and the four mice. Last year, Hanford found 33 instances of radioactive animal waste but couldn't track down any depositors.

Even trickier is finding the radiation source. In 1998, after workers with Geiger counters detected hot spots in a dumpster full of old cantaloupe rinds, Mr. Johnson sent a technician out to investigate.

She homed in on a radioactive speck. "Her meter was going up, and all of a sudden the speck flew away," Mr. Johnson says. "She called and told me about it, and I said 'Yeah, right.'"

Mr. Johnson soon learned the specks were radioactive fruit flies. His team traced the flies back to a box with pipes used to transfer waste. It was sealed with a sugar-based coating that contained radioactive material. The flies had noshed on the sealant and flown the radiation to the dumpster.

Other scans have turned up nuclear on mud-dauber wasp nests on phone poles, Mr. Johnson says. Workers found the wasps had slurped contaminated mud outside a reactor and used it to build their homes. Mr. Johnson cordoned off the area with yellow "radioactive material" warning signs until workers with shovels arrived to destroy the nests.

Rabbits, in particular, seem prone to going nuclear. According to incident reports by Hanford contractors obtained through public-records requests by Hanford Challenge, a Seattle environmental group, workers in 2008 reported "several rabbit droppings with high levels of contamination" that November.

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The "recommended corrective action," wrote one employee: "A detailed radiological survey of the surrounding area to determine extent and source of the contamination, followed by a rigorous Elmer Fudd type hunt for the offending bunny."

The rabbit droppings that workers found this October were troubling because they were fairly close to the Hanford site's boundary. Mr. Klinetobe's workers set 60 traps baited with carrot greens. He had two men patrol the demolished building with air rifles and infrared scopes that could detect hiding animals.

Workers captured about 20 rabbits over the next few weeks. But the atomic bunny eluded them until November, when a sharpshooter nailed it from 30 yards. "We euthanized it with a pellet gun," Mr. Klinetobe says.

Tests found the rabbit had swallowed radioactive cesium, likely from water that leached atomic material during the cleanup. Workers collected and disposed soil tainted by the water and discarded the rabbit in an orange bin labeled "radioactive waste," which was then dumped into a gigantic lined pit in Hanford's desert hinterlands that was engineered for low-level atomic waste disposal.

But more atomic scat popped up after the rabbit's demise—this time of the mouse variety. On a near-freezing Monday early this month, Mr. Klinetobe, in a hard hat, orange vest and work boots, walked past a lineup of small metal traps. They were empty.

For all he knew, Mr. Klinetobe says, the nuclear mouse may have succumbed to the cold or a coyote during a Thanksgiving freeze. But he was still looking. "If it's out there," he says, "we'll get it."

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