

The Wildlife Watch Binocular

PO Box 562, New Paltz, NY 12561

Fall 2016 - 2017

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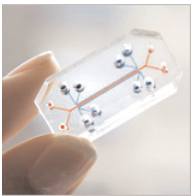
ORGANS-ON-CHIPS

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Citizens for Alternatives to Animal Research and Experimentation

The potential for organs-on-chips to revolutionize research and drug development while moving away from animals continues to grow impressively.



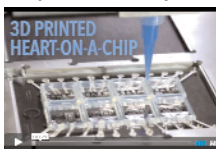
The tiny devices, no bigger than a computer memory stick, are lined with living

human cells in a miniaturized biological environment that can simulate real physiology. **The result is a compact system that can predict human medical responses with greater precision than animal tests.**

October 2016 proved to be an exciting month for progress in organs-on-chips.

The Wyss Institute, one of the leaders in the development of organ chips, **announced three new chips last month: a 3D beating heart, a smoking lung on a chip, and a chip that can model muscular dystrophy.**

The beating heart chip is entirely 3D printed and includes sensors which measure the strength of heart muscle contraction, along with multiple wells allowing the study of numerous drugs and tissues simultaneously. **This enables the chip to study long-term effects of**



ORGANS-ON-CHIPS

Continued on page 3

NYS MUTE SWAN BILL SIGNED INTO LAW

REPRINT OF PRESS RELEASE BY ASSEMBLYMAN STEVEN CYMBROWITZ,
NOVEMBER 29, 2016



Photo and poster by Sue Miller

Noting that the third time was the charm, Assemblyman Steven Cymbrowitz (D-Brooklyn) announced tonight that his legislation (A.9289) saving the state's mute swans from a government-sanctioned death sentence – vetoed twice previously despite igniting the collective passions of thousands of animal-loving New Yorkers and wildlife advocacy groups -- has been signed into law by Governor Cuomo.

"The people have spoken and I'm pleased that the Governor has listened," Assemblyman Cymbrowitz said.

"Tens of thousands of New Yorkers signed petitions, sent letters and emails to the Governor's office, and, in my community, called my office to tell me how much they enjoy watching the swans in Sheepshead Bay and

Manhattan Beach. People were very vocal about their support of this bill, and I have to believe it made all the difference," he said.

The new law will establish a two-year moratorium on the Department of Environmental Conservation's controversial plan to exterminate New York's mute swans by 2025 and declare the birds a "prohibited species." The law also requires DEC to demonstrate that the swans have caused actual damage to the environment or to other species, including humans.

In its most recent swan management plan released in March 2015, DEC unearthed a lone 1970 swan-on-human attack as evidence of the birds' aggressive tendencies. In the 1960s, world scientists declared the mute swan the international symbol of world peace.

MUTE SWAN BILL

Continued on page 2

MUTE SWAN BILL

Continued from page 1

The signing of this legislation serves as a major victory for the animal rights and environmental protection groups that joined Assemblyman Cymbrowitz in fighting DEC's plan, including the **League of Humane Voters, GooseWatch NYC, the Regal Swan Foundation and Save Our Swans.**

Sen. Tony Avella was the bill's Senate sponsor.

COMMUNITY CONNECTORS OR FOREST DIVIDERS?

Protect the Adirondacks is in the process of suing the state over trails that could be as wide as 12 feet. They say that far from being trails, they are more like roads that will destroy more than 31,000 trees.

While the DEC is selling the "trails" as "community connectors," Protect the Adirondacks isn't buying it. Protect the Adirondacks is pointing to the "forever wild" clause of the NYS Constitution that forbids substantial removal of trees from the Adirondack Forest Preserve.

The DEC says that trees must be 3 inches in diameter to be considered a substantial tree (tell that to the birds and insects who live there). The lawsuit was started three years ago, and finally the NYS Supreme Court will be hearing arguments, but after we go to print. To follow this outcome, please contact "Protect the Adirondacks" or Google.

According to a snowmobile association, New York offers more than 10,000 miles of trails for riders on private property and state lands and generates 868 million dollars annually for the state economy.



EYE ON THE NEWS

Alexandria, Egypt

"Babsy Rock" Rescued by Egyptian Animal Lovers!

A small dog fell into a deep fissure between two mounds of cement. Mariem Taha heard whimpering while she was having dinner, and she traced the sound to the little dog who became known as Babsy Rock. Thanks to lots of social media, Egyptian animal protectors came to the rescue.

Here are some of the heroes who saved her:



Dr. Abdelmaksoud

been critical of Egypt's record on animal welfare. Mau Hamada says that there a range of factors which can result in the mistreatment of animals; "the fear of stray animals, sadistic individuals and some people that say that dogs are not a welcome part of Islam, although they are in the minority."



Volunteers trying to rescue Babsy Rock

After Mariem posted to social media it brought many volunteers to the site and operations got underway.

The veterinarian who checked out Babsy Rock after her rescue was **Dr. Abdelmaksoud.**

"Dr Abdelmaksoud is an incredible man, a hero. Many volunteers call him to check up on the animals they have rescued and he offers his services for free," says **Mau Hamada**, who is the founder of one of the animal rescue groups in Alexandria.

Mau Hamada (mentioned above) added this: *Campaigners have often*



Animal activists even engaged the city to help.

Asked how Babsy Rock is getting along, Mariem said "She is naughty."



Mariem Taha, her daughter, and Babsy Rock after her rescue.

To read the full story visit:
<http://www.bbc.com/news/blogs-trending-36985697>

ORGANS-ON-CHIPS

Continued from page 1

a drug which is nearly impossible using animals.

The smoking lung on a chip is a novel and **life-like imitation of**



inhaled cigarette smoke, unlike animal studies which place them into a smoke-filled chamber.

While it is already known that smoking causes lung damage, the chip elucidates the precise mechanism of smoking's effect on human lung tissue, improving research into the effects of second-hand smoke on non-smokers, COPD and health impact of e-cigarettes.

A chip to study muscular dystrophy, created from stem cells of actual

patients, models the deficits in muscle strength characteristic of the disease. **The chip shows promise to succeed in developing treatments where decades of animal research has failed.**

Other recent advances in organs-on-chips are moving us into a new era for replacing animals in research.

Biotech firm, Emulate, Inc. is teaming up with pharmaceutical and research companies to use Emulate's organ-chips along with a "plug-and-play" software package to allow companies to customize their research.

Last month Emulate announced it has entered a partnership with Covance Drug Development,

one of the world's largest contract research companies using animals. To see Covance now exploring organs-on-chips demonstrates how promising this technology has become for replacing animals.

Emulate also announced a new collaboration with the Ellison Institute at University of Southern California to use organ-chips to



advance cancer research, **demonstrating how the chips are moving from drug development and into disease research.**

As pharmaceutical and R&D companies acknowledge the high failure rate of drug development and disease research due to animal tests, the tide is beginning to turn.

Organs-on-chips offer a way to produce human-centered results at much lower cost and without the suffering and deaths of millions of animals each year.

To view the entire article and link to video visit: [Citizens for Alternatives to Animal Research \(CAARE\)](http://www.caareusa.org/moving_into_the_next_era_with_organs_on_chips?utm_campaign=chips_progress&utm_medium=email&utm_source=caare), http://www.caareusa.org/moving_into_the_next_era_with_organs_on_chips?utm_campaign=chips_progress&utm_medium=email&utm_source=caare

EYE ON THE NEWS

ZEBRA FINCHES SING TO THEIR EGGS



When the weather is hot, zebra finches in Australia sing to their eggs - and these "incubation calls" change the chicks' development, a study has found.

According to experts, the surprising discovery suggests that the birds are preparing their offspring for warm conditions after they hatch.

Scientists collected eggs and incubated them in controlled conditions, playing recordings of the incubation song.

Compared to a control group, hatchlings that received these calls grew more slowly and coped better in the heat.

Previous studies have mostly concentrated on egg-bound embryos learning particular calls from their par-

ents.

"We knew it could have some short-term effects on cognition and learning, but our study is the first to show that it has an effect on their growth and their development - and that those effects last until adulthood," Dr. Mariette told BBC News.

"It means that the acoustic environment before birth has more impact than we thought."

When she started to study this squeaky serenade in detail, combing through Dr. Mariette found that the birds were specifically singing it in the few days before eggs hatched - and only when the day's ambient temperature rose above about 26C.

Read more here:

<http://www.sciencemag.com/science/2016/06/01/zebra-finches-sing-to-their-eggs-and-their-babies-060116>

PHOTO CREDIT:
iStockphoto.com/Andreas Gahr

HANGAWI



Eating with conscience,
vegetarian meals that nurture the body and soul.

If you happen to find yourself hungry in NYC, HANGAWI is a new vegan restaurant. It's on 12 E. 32nd St. Visit: [/www.hangawirestaurant.com](http://www.hangawirestaurant.com)

[Please let us know your favorite vegan restaurant and we'll let our readers know.]

BIRDWISE AND PLANE WISE

BirdWise is what Wildlife Watch would call "Plain Wise." It's a bird deterrent system that is non-lethal and gets the job done.

The system, developed by Xsight Technology has been installed at several airports worldwide, including Boston Logan, Bangkok, and Tel-Aviv Ben-Gurion International Airport, and will be installed soon at Seattle Tacoma International airport.

According to the CEO Alon Nitzan it offers every element necessary to reduce bird strikes on runways. It's a comprehensive solution, changing the paradigm as to how runways are managed, and introducing one again, innovative technology to the airfield.

The system scans the area for birds, if found it emits a tone that repels the bird. It's not a one size fits all tone, the tones have been determined by biologists to be annoying to specific types of birds.

You would think that following the Captain Sully's (Sullenberger) landing in the Hudson River due to a "bird strike," LaGuardia Airport in NY would be first in line to have one. Let's hope

that they install this system soon.

Visit:

www.xsightsys.com



Landing on the Hudson

Attention: It's Sir Nils Olav



e Norwegian Guard CREDIT: AFP PHOTO / MOD / CROWN COPYRIGHT 2016 / MARK OWENS

Resident king penguin **Sir Nils Olav** is an honorary member of the King of Norway's Guard and gets to inspect the soldiers when they visit the Scottish capital. **Already a knight, the famous penguin has now been given the new title of Brigadier Sir Nils Olav.**

See full story at:

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2016/08/22/knighted-penguin-sir-nils-olav-inspects-his-guard-and-gets-promo/>

THE WORLD PEACE DIET

We've let you know about this book before, but now the book has become a movement!!

If you read nothing else about veganism, you must read:

THE WORLD PEACE DIET by Dr. Will Tuttle.

Dr. Tuttle writes:

It's invisible in our society that we are all born into a herding culture organized fundamentally around confining and using animals for food. Until we are able to recognize the devastating effects of this, our efforts for peace, justice, freedom, and sustainability are ineffective and merely ironic because we fail to get to the roots of our dilemmas.

Fortunately, each of us can make an effort to understand the consequences of dominating and abusing animals, and we can also share this understanding and help our culture evolve in a positive direction.

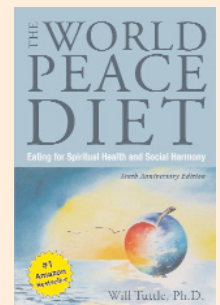
We just completed our 11-month Vegan For Life lecture tour, working with local groups to offer about 250

presentations in 31 states and 6 foreign countries since last November. Heartfelt thanks to the many groups and the dedicated activists and angels who lovingly arranged these lecture presentations that reached thousands of people with the message of kindness and respect. We are seeing lives changed, and people grateful to learn of the benefits of being vegan, and becoming more effective advocates for conscious living.

Finally, The World Peace Diet continues to spread globally and we're looking forward to upcoming presentations next month in China, Taiwan, Vietnam, and Singapore to share the vegan message. Then on to Hawaii – hope to see you there or somewhere along the way.

Follow Dr. Tuttle's schedule at:

www.worldpeacediet.com/upcoming-events



R.O.C.K. - Rehabbers Offer Care and Kindness

The Wildlife Watch Hotline – 877-WILDHELP receives hundreds of calls every year from across the country, and a few from Canada. Police departments, conservation agencies, SPCAs, veterinary offices, and federal, state, and municipal offices have referred callers to

Wildlife Watch for help.

Your contribution to Wildlife Watch will help us to expand our volunteer service by allowing us to cover phones 24/7 and update our lists as new wildlife rehabilitators come on the scene.

IN PRAISE OF THE NOBLE WORK OF WILDLIFE REHABILITATORS & THE CARING PUBLIC

Every time we get a call about an animal, our heart goes out to the animal in distress and our gratitude goes out to the person who cares enough to help. Although we are in NY, a deer I've never known in Utah can take up my thoughts and prayers for a long time.

Despite the numbers of people who participate in killing animals legally and illegally, it's comforting to know that there are those who, driven by compassion, wish to help them.

Despite the fear mongering of game agencies and health departments about touching wild animals, there are those who still help a suffering fellow being. So, in addition to wildlife rehabilitators - those noble souls who give so much of their own money and time to wild animals in need - we wish to also honor the callers who are the first responders. Our hats go off to them as well.

Just a few days ago, we received a call from someone in Western North Carolina who was distressed over a hawk who was flopping around on his property. The NC Forestry Dept. referred him to Wildlife Watch's Hotline.

We checked the lists we have and located a couple of wildlife rehabilitators who were licensed to take raptors. During our follow-up call, we discovered that one of the rehabbers had not only answered the phone on a holiday weekend, but had agreed to meet the couple and take the bird back to her facility.

Upon follow-up, we were saddened to learn that the bird had not survived. At first, the rehabbers thought the bird had been hit by a car, but upon further inspection, they discovered that s/he had been shot. Her femur was broken and there was blood in her mouth.



Photo: Blue Ridge Wildlife Institute

While how it happened may not make any difference to the bird, it does make a difference to us at Wildlife Watch to know that the injury was intentionally caused by a human. It's both sad and infuriating.

SO, WHO TOOK THE RED-SHOULDERED HAWK?

Her name is **Nina Fischessern**, <https://www.facebook.com/fischessern> She's the **Director of the Blue Ridge Wildlife Institute** Their mission is: *Recognizing that the planet and its life*



Photo: Blue Ridge Wildlife Institute (caption ours)

forms have an inherent worth, and that we have a responsibility to treat the earth and its processes with respect, The Blue Ridge Wildlife Institute is dedicated to the stewardship of the earth through environmental education, research, and the rehabilitation of sick, injured, and orphaned native North American wildlife.

The Blue Ridge Wildlife Institute affiliated with **Lees McRae College** is a 501-(c)3 Non-profit Organization that receives NO Government Funding and relies completely on tax-deductible contributions. The Blue Ridge Wildlife Institute holds both state and federal rehabilitation and education permits and takes in over 1000 animals a year. To support them, please visit their website:

https://www.facebook.com/pg/BlueRidgeWildlifeInstitute/about/?ref=page_internal

R.O.C.K. - ABBE FREELAND ANIMAL SANCTUARY

Located in Western New York

This is an EXCELLENT rehabilitation facility that is constantly trying to keep hunters off their property as they have so many wonderful animals they are caring for.

This adorable - smiling-for-the-camera - beaver is one of their charges this year. He must know that this sanctuary is run by good folks!

Please visit their website at:
<http://www.afasrehab.org/>



"BLACKFISH" STILL EFFECTIVE IN PUTTING AN END TO AQUATIC MAMMALS IN THE ENTERTAINMENT INDUSTRY

Blackfish and YOU are bringing about change!



"Blackfish" is a movie that has received a lot of publicity. It highlighted the cruel training that aquatic mammals endure for the entertainment industry. It further exposed the dangers of holding killer whales in captivity by focusing on a SeaWorld orca that killed three people.

SeaWorld Entertainment saw a sharp

drop in its attendance following the release of the 2013 documentary "BlackFish" distributed by CNN.

SeaWorld blamed their loss on bad weather in Florida and a drop in Latin American tourists, but clearly Blackfish did its part. An earnings report showed that close to 500,000 fewer guests attended its parks in the first half of 2016. A decline of 7.6% compared to the year before.

A SEC filing revealed a planned elimination of 320 jobs which should reduce costs by about \$65 million. This is in addition to the layoffs of 300 jobs in 2014. These job cuts will take place in 12 parks which include Sea Worlds in Orlando, San Diego and San Antonio as well as Sesame Place in Pennsylvania and its Bush Gardens in Florida and Virginia.

SeaWorld announced this year that it

will phase out killer whale shows and stop holding them in captivity!

To read more, visit:

<http://money.cnn.com/2016/12/06/news/seaworld-layoffs-2016/index.html>

WILDLIFE WATCH NEEDS YOU!

Wildlife Watch needs your help more than ever to continue providing our vital wildlife hotline service to the public. We receive calls from across the country and occasionally from Canada from people needing help with injured and orphaned wildlife. Our easy to remember number 877WILDHELP is recommended by veterinary offices, SPCAs, and law enforcement agencies. Additionally, we publish the **Wildlife Watch Binocular** to inform the public about animals and the people who help them, to promote wildlife watching, and to provide the understanding that all animals are individuals deserving of kinder treatment.

**Will you help our work?
YES**

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

A PLACE TO KNOW ABOUT LAGUSTA'S LUCIOUS (...and all vegan) white chocolate strawberry bark

Lagusta's Lucious started making their own white chocolate from scratch after fruitlessly searching for good-quality vegan white chocolate for many years. The result: vanilla-rich, no weird processed soy or strange additives, just honest white chocolate—no animal products necessary.

This solid chocolate will last up to two months at room temperature.



Ingredients: organic and fair trade chocolate (cocoa paste, cocoa butter, vegan sugar, soy lecithin, vanilla), organic strawberries, organic vegan fair trade evaporated cane juice sugar, organic and fair trade cocoa butter, home-made organic vanilla, sea salt.

To see the whole story, visit:

<http://www.lagustaslucious.com/shop/bars-and-barks-and-more/white-chocolate-strawberry-bark>

Order Online or come to New Paltz NY

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Anne Muller, Editor

We welcome letters/articles/photos for consideration.

Contributions are tax-deductible.

Let's Go Wildlife Watching

No hunting here

CAUMSETT STATE HISTORIC PARK

While it's a challenge to find wildlife viewing areas that do not allow hunting, Wildlife Watch encourages our members to visit them. Here's one you may not know about close to home for many of our readers:

CAUMSETT STATE HISTORIC PARK

<http://www.wildlifeviewingareas.com/wv-app/ParkDetail.aspx?ParkID=686>

This 1,520 acre Long Island, NY, park is described as having woodlands, rocky shores, salt marshes and a freshwater pond and is host to more

than 200 species of birds.

Wildlife to Watch: If you visit the park in summer you'll get to see great and snowy egrets, tree swallows, frogs and nearly 60 species of butterflies. You also may glimpse fiddler and horseshoe crabs, as well as diamondbacked terrapins. Red-tailed hawks, red foxes, eastern gray squirrels and white-tailed deer are year-round residents. During winter, watch common loons in Long Island Sound and ducks at the freshwater pond.



Ownership: NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation

Size: 1,520 acres **Closest Town:** Halesite

If you've had an enjoyable wildlife watching experience that others will be able to have as well, please share it with us. Photos needed.

EYE ON THE NEWS

NO JUSTICE FOR CECIL THE LION



CECIL THE LION, CECIL ON THE LEFT

Zimbabwe decided not to charge the American dentist, Walter Palmer, after it emerged he had legal papers allowing him to hunt.

Further, Zimbabwe has dropped charges against the professional hunter Theo Bronkhorst, who led the expedition that killed prized lion Cecil last year.

The hunt provoked worldwide outrage after it emerged that Cecil was not only a popular attraction for visitors to Hwange National Park, but that he wore a collar as part of an Oxford University research project.

Bronkhorst was charged with "failing to prevent an illegal hunt" when American trophy hunter Walter Palmer, a dentist, paid \$55,000 to shoot the lion with a bow and arrow in July last year.

Bronkhorst said he had the required permits to kill an elderly lion that was outside the national park boundaries. Cecil, who was 13 years old, was killed outside the reserve, which is not fenced.

Brent Stapelkamp a researcher with Oxford University's lion project in the Hwange National Park for nine years said, "He was not really playful – more regal," said Mr Stapelkamp. "He was a lion and he knew it, and everyone else be damned – he was the biggest cat on the block, and didn't have to be playful.

"... He was a total lion experience."

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2016/11/11/charges-dropped-against-hunter-who-led-expedition-to-kill-cecil/>

To read more and view truly horrifying photos of Walter Palmer's killings, visit:

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3670022/Not-care-world-dentist-daughter-Cecil-lion-bow-arrow-early-year-ago-were-reason-world.html>

As reported by

<http://www.alternet.org/environment/bigger-story-behind-killing-cecil-lion-media-overlooked> :

Dr. Walter Palmer was a member of Safari Club International (SCI). As Sea Shepherd's Paul Watson said, SCI glorifies a culture of death by celebrating the slaughter of animals — a ritual supported by an elaborate system that rewards killing. He writes: *What is truly despicable about this organization is that it encourages slaughter through awards. SCI's record book system ranks the biggest tusks, horns, antlers, skulls and bodies of hunted animals. Hunters are rewarded with trophies for completing a "Grand Slam."*

Just one such "slam" is killing the following:

The African Big Five Club (African lion, African leopard, African elephant, African buffalo and African rhinoceros).

Wildlife Watch is proud of the NYS legislators who are trying ban the import of the African Big Five trophies from coming through New York's popular ports.

Wildlife Watch
PO Box 562,
New Paltz, NY 12561



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

Another Cardiologist Goes Vegan



John C. Teeters, MD Chief of Cardiology Highland Hospital, NY

Dr. Teeters explains that he was born and raised in North Carolina where he learned to smoke his own meat, now he smokes veggies! His epiphany occurred when he heard a presentation at a cardiology conference about heart disease and veganism. Dr Teeters reflected that **"one of the sad things is that doctors don't get a lot of training in nutrition."**

The head of the conference, **Kim Williams, MD, the president-elect of the American College of Cardiology is also a vegan!** Dr. Williams often sees patients who are overweight and struggling with hypertension, Type 2 diabetes and high cholesterol. **One of the things Dr. Williams advises them to do is to change their diets. Specifically, he tells them to go vegan.**

If you have a heart problem, Wildlife Watch urges you to listen to this interview. You can find it here:

<http://wxnews.org/post/connections-highland-hospitals-chief-cardiology-goes-vegan>

You can see the complete NY Times blog post here:

http://well.blogs.nytimes.com/2014/08/06/advice-from-a-vegan-cardiologist/?_r=0