

## **TA Report 11.5.10**

**COYOTE TALK was held on Wednesday, November 3. Ralph Taylor presented information about coyotes and held a community discussion.** Ralph is the District Supervisor for Connecticut Valley Wildlife District, Mass Fisheries and Wildlife Division, and a town resident. If you have an encounter with a coyote that is overly aggressive, or acting erratically let Ralph know at 413-323-7632. He came this week to address the increasing coyote activity in our neighborhoods, especially Pelham Hill Rd. He taught us about who the coyote is, his family structure, their history and how they behave. Dominant pairs have a 20 mile home range while transient coyotes travel 200 miles. In 1960 coyotes were spotted in only 3 Massachusetts towns and now they are everywhere except for on the Islands.

Habituation to humans is happening rapidly and is the biggest problem. They are less fearful about encounters and will feed on anything available, berries, grasshoppers, kitty cats or small dogs. On rare occasion they have attacked adults but small children are at risk. Keep your eye on your little ones. You must always back away from a coyote. A child should try to make herself/himself look big by opening their coat. Screaming and yelling does not help. Make a loud noise but not a sound of panic. Children should find an adult to harass the coyote. Throw rocks, carry a stick, a sound maker, a horn. If you have a water source spray them with a hose or throw water. Harass them. Do not feed them. They are not pets and you don't want them to be comfortable in your yard eating your cat or dog food or tearing apart your trash. They will adapt and go for the easiest food source. A small dog on a dog run can be easy prey. They will develop new tastes. Chicken is always good. But pizza or blueberry pie isn't bad either.



What can you do? Keep your pets safe. Keep pets indoors when possible. Pack up your bird feeders. The birdseed attracts small rodents that attract coyotes. Coyotes are active 24 hours a day. A coyote den could be under your deck so close off crawl spaces. Ralph reported finding 3 bears sitting underneath a hot tub while the residents were soaking in it! Keep your yard clear of brush so coyotes have little cover when preying on other creatures in your yard. Use fencing and clear fallen fruit that they enjoy eating. Secure your trash and your compost.

The Environmental police can take out an animal that attacks. You can call police for help. Individuals have the right to protect themselves and their property but it must be done legally. To shoot an animal attacking your property you have to do so in accordance with MGL chapter 131 sec 37. The animal has to be in the process of attacking property and you cannot be within 500' of neighbors or 150' of a roadway. Make sure you abide by all

Massachusetts hunting, fishing and trapping regulations. Ralph's advice is if you shoot them you will not keep up to them. Their numbers increase in areas they have ready access to food. With an FID card you can get pepper spray. But that is used at close range so you might want to carry a big stick, a whistle and throw stones first. Best to harass and drive them away. If you can't beat 'em...

Don't be afraid and stop walking in the woods or stay in yours house. Be prepared and mindful of our shared foresst environment.

I want to thank Ralph for coming Wednesday. We learned a lot. There was a request that Ralph do a second night on bears and he is very willing to do so. Let me know if you are also interested so we can set up a good evening. I have believed the myth that bears hibernate in the winter but Ralph set us straight on that as well. They don't get cold!

**ELECTIONS DAY 11/2/10**

I was delighted to look up from my desk on Tuesday to find Representative Steve Kulik in my doorway! We had an actual real life political candidate hold a sign on the Shutesbury Common, and come in to visit with Shutesbury folks to see how things were going. He was running unopposed but ever mindful that his job is all about us. We are very lucky to have truly concerned, active representation for our town. The library held a day long bake sale with the best collection of baked good treats, apples and a buy one book get 9 books free book sale. And best of all our heartfelt thanks to all the Election Workers and our Town Clerk, Leslie Bracebridge, for running a smooth as silk election with a turnout of 916 (including absentee voters) voters.

**DAFFODILS TO CELEBRATE THE 250th** Meryl Mandell, Penny Jacques, and Chris Warren are organizing a planting in front of town hall of 250 daffodils. It would be a nice thing if residents in town added daffodils to their own gardens for the 2011, 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary town wide celebration. November is the time to plant for those who would like to spread the theme.

**SOLAR REPORT 4625.30 kWh produced in 1599 Hrs (of SUN light), 11/5/10 at 4:21pm**

October 30, 2010	eKW/1 DAY	CUM SUN HRS/1 DAY	CUM KW/h	CUM SUN HRS/
POLE # 1	1.2	8.0	909.5	1067
POLE # 4	1.2	8.0	864.6	1063
Start date 8/5 2 & 3				
start date 6/28	2.8	8.2	2752.2	1599
<b>Today's Total at 4:20pm</b>	<b>5.2</b>	<b>8.2</b>	<b>4625.30</b>	<b>1599</b>
<b>Rain &amp; clouds ss stands for sunshine)</b>	<b>5.2kWh</b>	<b>Oct 14 was</b>	<b>62kWh</b>	<b>Sun makes all the difference</b>
			<b>Best day</b>	