

Coyote Chronicles



PROJECTCOYOTE.ORG | FALL 2023



**Victory in Oregon:
Wildlife Killing
Contests Banned!**

**Mobilizing in Illinois
to End Wildlife
Killing Contests**

**Creating New
Coexistence
Resources for
Northeastern
Farmers**

Lisa Antell,
#CaptureCoexistence Contributor



Photo by Sheryl Hester

SEASONAL COEXISTENCE TIP

As the weather cools and coyote pups quickly grow to near-adult size, coyote families experience shifts in their social dynamics. Just like many human teenagers, eager to establish themselves as independent beings while fearful and sometimes unprepared for life beyond their family, adolescent coyotes begin to tentatively explore beyond their parent's home range. Although sometimes a juvenile remains in their parent's territory to be a "helper" during the next pup season, most coyotes disperse (leave their family) in the fall. If you see a new, lone coyote wandering through your community, or sleeping in an unusual location, she or he is likely a dispersing juvenile. Recently displaced coyotes behave in a way that may seem somewhat bold compared to your community's longer term coyote residents. As with any adolescent being, some patience (and caution) is appreciated. However, if a young coyote begins sleeping or spending long periods of time resting in your yard and you live in a highly populated area, or do not wish for a coyote to make your yard part of their home range, you may need to humanely haze the individual. Shouting, clapping, and making other loud noises when the coyote appears can discourage them from moving into human residential areas (see our [Coyote Hazing Field Guide](#) for humane hazing techniques). Ensuring that possible attractants are cleared, such as pet food left outside, unsecured garbage or compost bins, and fallen fruit, can also make your yard less attractive for wild neighbors. Please do your part to protect wildlife and promote coexistence by keeping wildlife wild!

If only we can overcome cruelty, to human and animal, with love and compassion we shall stand at the threshold of a new era in human moral and spiritual evolution – and realize, at last, our most unique quality: humanity.

~ Jane Goodall

NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

It's been a very busy season for us at Project Coyote. From Oregon to New York to Illinois, our team has been working hard to ban Wildlife Killing Contests with recent coalition victories in both Oregon and New York and active campaigns in several other states to ban this barbaric practice.



We've also been advocating on behalf of wolves in Wisconsin, Montana and throughout their range – pressing for re-listing under the Endangered Species Act at the federal level, and an end to trophy hunting and trapping at the state level.

Your voices make all the difference. I am so grateful for our active supporter base. You respond to our action alerts soliciting letters and testimony. You reach out to friends, family and fellow wildlife advocates, encouraging their engagement. It is this grassroots support and action that gives me the greatest hope for wildlife and planetary healing.

And while we fight tooth and claw to protect North America's wild carnivores, we concurrently work to promote peaceful coexistence with our wild neighbors in both rural and urban areas as you'll discover in this newsletter.

Our vision is a North America where wild carnivores and humans coexist and ecosystems thrive. We would not be able to do this work without you. Thank you so much for believing in our mission and helping us manifest this vision.

With gratitude – and enjoy this fall edition of Coyote Chronicles!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Camilla". The signature is stylized and fluid.

For the wild ones,
Camilla Fox
Founder & Executive Director

P.S. Thanks to your support we continue to grow our pack – check out our latest employment opportunity below and please help spread the word so we can continue to attract the most talented wildlife advocates across the country!

VICTORY!



**Oregon
Becomes
Ninth State
to Prohibit
Wildlife Killing
Contests!**

VICTORY IN OREGON: WILDLIFE KILLING CONTESTS BANNED!

The Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission unanimously voted on September 15th to ban the barbaric practice of wildlife killing contests for coyotes and other species classified as unprotected mammals on public lands. Project Coyote, along with 21 local and national wildlife and conservation organizations and hunters, wildlife management professionals, scientists, veterinarians, and advocates across Oregon submitted testimony in support. “The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife sent a strong message that they will no longer tolerate cruel and wasteful treatment of their state’s wildlife.” said Renee Seacor, carnivore conservation advocate for Project Coyote, “During an extinction crisis, with wildlife populations around the world plummeting, indiscriminate killing of wildlife for prizes is ethically indefensible, ecologically reckless and runs counter to sound 21st century wildlife management.” Furthermore, [scientific studies](#) show that these contests do not reduce coyote numbers or prevent conflicts with livestock, and may even increase them. Instead, more humane and effective methods are available to help Oregon farmers coexist with native wildlife. Thanks to the strong support of wildlife advocates across Oregon, the state became the ninth to ban wildlife killing contests, following Arizona, California, Colorado, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Mexico, Vermont, and Washington. New York may soon join this growing group of states, as their [state legislature recently passed a bill](#) to end wildlife killing contests. The legislation now awaits the governor’s signature.



**Ending Wildlife
Killing Contests
in Illinois**

© Jorn Vangoidtsenhoven

MOBILIZING IN ILLINOIS TO END WILDLIFE KILLING CONTESTS

During the past year, we’ve been spearheading efforts to end wildlife killing contests in Illinois. As part of those efforts, Project Coyote, The Rewilding Institute and Illinois Sierra Club petitioned the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) to prohibit killing contests in the state via agency rule-making. However, the IDNR recently denied our request, noting that “it is the position of the Department that any such ban would need to be brought to the Illinois General Assembly”. Despite this setback, our coalition is energized and committed to continue our outreach efforts and end these contests in The Prairie State.

We have been coordinating with our partners at Illinois Sierra Club to attend public events across the state and hold educational presentations with screenings of award-winning advocacy films addressing killing contests. Last month, we were at the [Mississippi Earth Tones Festival](#) in Alton, and a few days later we held a presentation and screening at the Forest Park Nature Center in Peoria, hosted by the Illinois Sierra Club’s local ‘Heart of Illinois Group’. We will also be holding an educational presentation and screening on October 10 in Alton, hosted by the Piasa Palisades Sierra Club Group, and are looking forward to more collaborative public outreach events designed to inform and empower action to ban this barbaric practice. For more information, you can visit our [Illinois campaign website](#), which will be updated with all campaign events.



Working to Ban Cyanide Bombs on Public Lands

Since our inception, Project Coyote has been dedicated to exposing and ending the indiscriminate and inhumane killing practices of the rogue federal U.S. Department of Agriculture Wildlife Services program. One particularly abhorrent practice is the use of M-44's or 'cyanide bombs' to kill native carnivores on our public lands. According to Wildlife Services data, M-44s were used to intentionally kill more than 88,000 animals from 2014 through 2022, averaging around 30 poisonings per day for a significant portion of the past decade. Tragically, these devices also caused the unintended demise of 2,200 non-target animals during the same period, including endangered species, domestic livestock, and beloved pets. The Intercept recently published [a report](#) detailing the use of M-44s and just a few of the numerous tragedies involving people and companion animals that result from this "Wildlife Services" practice, including the injury of a 14-year-old boy named Canyon and the death of his dog in Idaho. After years of advocacy work from Canyon's family and wildlife conservation organizations, members of Congress introduced "Canyon's Law" ([H.R. 4068/S. 1940](#)) to ban the use of M-44s on public lands. This legislation has been reintroduced in the 118th Congress by Rep. Jared Huffman, Rep. Steve Cohen, and Sen. Jeff Merkley. With increased public awareness about the barbarity of sodium cyanide and its inherent danger to non-target animals, we now have a chance to end the use of this deadly poison on our public lands. We need YOUR voice to raise awareness and ban these destructive devices. Ask your representatives, with just one click, to [support Canyon's Law](#) and share this action alert or [our social media post](#) with your community.



Condemning Wisconsin's Wolf Policies

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) recently released their updated Wolf Management Plan (WMP), which will guide all management and efforts related to wolves in the state. As wildlife advocates and scientists that have been engaged in the process for years, scrutinizing both the use of scientific evidence in the plan and the WMP's update process, we feel the responsibility to publicly denounce that the process has not been "transparent, deliberative, [or] inclusive", as stated on the WDNR's WMP website. What has transpired instead is an undemocratic, unscientific, unethical, and institutionally racist process that has prioritized the desires of individuals that want to kill wolves for entertainment or [revenge](#). As a result, if federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) protections are removed for wolves, they will once again have a target on their backs in our state, to the detriment of not only their wellbeing, but that of Wisconsin ecosystems, domesticated animals, their guardians, and most Tribes in Wisconsin, who are left without recourse against having their relatives killed for the mere entertainment of a few trophy hunters. [Read our full statement here.](#)

These reasons led Project Coyote, the Great Lakes Wildlife Alliance (GLWA), Animal Wellness Action (AWA), the Center for a Humane Economy (CHE), and Friends of the Wisconsin Wolf and Wildlife (FOWW) to decline participation in the Administrative Rules hearing which sets wolf hunting permanent rules, and ask the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) to reconsider the changes made to their Wolf Management Plan before submitting it to the Natural Resources Board (NRB) for approval. Our organizations feel a responsibility to publicly share the extreme shortcomings of the process through a letter which will be submitted to the Natural Resources Board and WDNR. [Read the full media release here.](#)

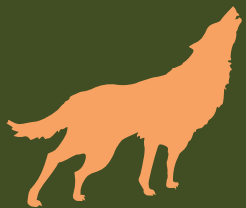


Image: Renee Seacor, Sarah Gorsline, Liz Shaw, and Chris Schadler gathered for our new educational videos supporting Northeast wildlife coexistence.

Creating New Coexistence Resources for Northeastern Farmers

With generous support from The Schwemm Family Foundation and The Volgenau Foundation, we launched a new series of educational videos to support our efforts to enhance coexistence across working lands. Different regions of the U.S. face unique challenges; thus, we aim to offer tailored wildlife coexistence resources nationwide. Recognizing the need throughout the U.S., but particularly in the Northeast, we developed regional educational videos, featuring new interviews with carnivore biologist, Project Coyote NH and VT representative Chris Schadler, who specializes in the natural history of eastern coyotes and wolves in the Northeast and co-founded New Hampshire Wildlife Coalition, as well as sheep farmer Liz Shaw, who operates a non-lethal coexistence model farm in Vermont. These videos expand and greatly enhance our resource library of coexistence efforts throughout the U.S., with successful coexistence models shown in California, Montana, and Vermont. Watch these new videos [here](#), [here](#), and [here](#).

Special thanks to the Northeast Project Coyote team: Renee Seacor, Carnivore Conservation Advocate; Chris Schadler, New Hampshire and Vermont State Representative; Sarah Gorsline, Multimedia Associate and Video Editor, and videographer Kyle Bardwell, for their exceptional contributions to this new series.



It is not enough to understand the natural world; the point is to defend and preserve it.

~ Edward Abbey

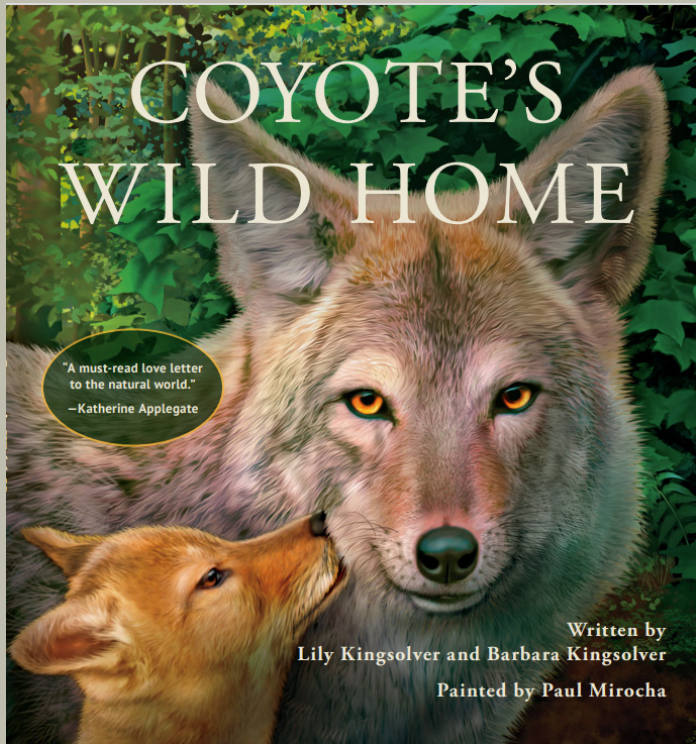


(Photos: (above) Tory Klinge and Cory at The Whittier Narrows Nature Center open house, (below) Chris Schadler presenting at Chesterfield Public Library)

EDUCATION & OUTREACH

Project Coyote is fortunate to have passionate representatives across the country to help us promote compassionate carnivore coexistence through educational presentations and tabling at events.

In addition to our recent events and presentations in Illinois to support our campaign to end wildlife killing contests, our in-person outreach during the past few months has rippled across diverse audiences in California and the Northeast. Southern California volunteer Tory Klinge and her husband Cory tabled and provided a “Coexisting with Coyotes” presentation at The Whittier Narrows Nature Center during their July 22nd open house. Project Coyote’s Keeping it Wild Youth Education & Outreach Coordinator, Sarah Killingsworth, provided an engaging wildlife conservation presentation and discussion for Dr. Adrienne Johnson’s Environment & Society class at the University of San Francisco on September 22nd. Carnivore biologist and Project Coyote VT & NH Representative Chris Schadler provided her signature “Becoming Wolf: The Eastern Coyote in New England” presentation to the Chesterfield, Rochester, Brentwood, and Hooksett Public Libraries in New Hampshire. She also presented “Knowing the Coyote in Your Backyard” to Dover High School and the Plainfield Philip Read Memorial Library in New Hampshire.



UPCOMING WEBINAR WITH LILY AND BARBARA KINGSOLVER

NOVEMBER 17TH, 12:00-1:00PM PT

We are thrilled to announce an upcoming webinar with Lily and Barbara Kingsolver to discuss their new children’s book “Coyote’s Wild Home”, which will be published on November 28th with Gryphon Press. The story “takes us into the woods, meadows, and streams of an Appalachian forest where a girl and a coyote pup each find their first woodland adventures.” Lily and Barbara seek to give predators better representation in children’s literature after centuries of wolves, bears, and other carnivores positioned as the bad or evil characters. They even include coyote coexistence tips on the back pages of the book, in addition to ecological and behavioral information. We were honored to review an initial draft of the book and can’t wait to hear more from the authors about their journey writing this children’s book and hope you’ll join us. You can register for the webinar [here](#).

GROWING OUR PACK

Welcoming Suparna Vashisht to Project Coyote's Advisory Board



It's an honor to introduce Suparna Vashisht as Project Coyote's newest Advisory Board member. Suparna has worked on three continents for Fortune 500 companies but her experience in the conservation and sustainability world now outstrips her experience in the corporate world. She is passionate about driving social change in the areas of sustainability, conservation and gender equality. She is a founder of Women Back to Work which aims to create systemic pathways to facilitate re-entry of women into the workforce. In 2014, she was one of the "100 Women of Influence" in Silicon Valley. Suparna has been a supporter of Project Coyote for more than a decade and is now lending her marketing and strategy skills to a dearly held goal – protecting native species for their intrinsic and ecological value.

GROWING OUR PACK

Welcoming Molly McCormick as #CaptureCoexistence Coordinator



We are thrilled to welcome Molly McCormick to the Project Coyote team as our new #CaptureCoexistence Coordinator. This campaign has grown rapidly, with over 40 contributors and over 2,700 signatures from photographers/videographers on our petition. Molly will be working to strategically grow this community and its impact to help end wildlife killing contests state by state. Molly is a professional wildlife photographer, and spends the majority of her time outside in nature. Through her photography, she's been able to visit beautiful places and see first hand how coexistence is key. She believes coexistence starts with conversation, and loves connecting with people who aim to drive that conversation forward. She has been nationally and internationally published, including: National Geographic, Remember Wildlife, National Parks Magazine, Rolling Stone, and many more. You can view her photography at mollymccormickphoto.com

GROWING OUR PACK

Welcoming Heather Cammisa to Project Coyote's Advisory Board



It's with great pleasure that we welcome long term supporter and volunteer Heather Cammisa to Project Coyote's Advisory Board. Heather has long supported Project Coyote as a Program Associate, but her wide ranging experiences and skills are now lending themselves to support Project Coyote's strategic growth. Heather is currently an officer with Open Door Veterinary Collective and a senior advisor with Adisa, a mission-based consultancy. Previously, she served as the Chief Executive of two nonprofit animal welfare organizations for 18-years in addition to gaining field experience as an animal control officer, animal cruelty investigator, and disaster responder. She is also a Certified Animal Welfare Administrator (CAWA), has a master's degree in economics from Rutgers University, and worked in financial and social economics prior to her career in nonprofit management.

TRIBUTE

In Memoriam of James McConnell



We are deeply saddened by the passing of the extraordinary photographer, James McConnell.

Jim brought the enchanting world of ravens, coyotes, and night blooms to his audiences around the world and shared his passion for their conservation by collaborating with Project Coyote over the years. His photographs reveal the intricate relationships between creatures and their surroundings. Through his lens, he revealed the intelligence and humor of corvids, the mystery of night blooms, and the stealth of coyote packs.

Jim's work was a reflection of his own journey – an intimate connection with the land and its inhabitants. He allowed us to glimpse into the souls of creatures that often go unnoticed, capturing their essence in every shot. His photographs, whether drenched in moonlight or illuminated by candlelight, had an ethereal quality that resonated deeply.

As we remember James McConnell's remarkable journey, we celebrate the legacy he leaves behind. His images will forever remind us of the beauty that surrounds us and the intricate threads that bind us to the natural world. Farewell, Jim, and may your spirit find peace among the stars.

You can explore the legacy of his photography here: jamesmccormickphoto.com

PUBLICATIONS, PRESENTATIONS, PRESS, & WEBINARS

DR. FRANCISCO J. SANTIAGO-ÁVILA AND JANE MCBRIDE

- Ending Wildlife Killing Contests in Illinois. Presentation hosted by Illinois Sierra Club 'Heart of Illinois Group'. Forest Park Nature Center, Peoria, IL. September 20, 2023.

DR. FRANCISCO J. SANTIAGO-ÁVILA

- Lynn, W. S., Baker, L., Santiago-Ávila, F. J., & Stewart, K. L. (2023). Ethics, Wellbeing and Wild Lives. In A. H. Fine, M. Mueller, Z. Ng, J. M. Peralta, & A. Beck (Eds.), *The Routledge Handbook on Human-Animal Interactions, Interventions and Anthrozoology*. Routledge.

SARAH KILLINGSWORTH

- [What Happens When Everyone Wants to Photograph the Same Wildlife](#). Bay Nature Magazine. September 21, 2023.

RECENT WEBINARS:

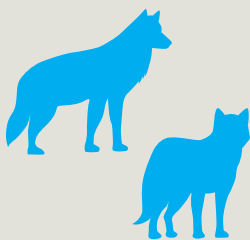
- [Wolves of the Great Lakes](#). Project Coyote & The Rewilding Institute's Heartland Rewilding Initiative featuring Dr. John Vucetich. August 24, 2023.

RECENT NOTES FROM THE FIELD BLOGS:

- [Uplifting Nonhuman Animacy & Agency by Mack Cote](#). Project Coyote's Notes From The Field blog. September 22, 2023.
- [Replacing Wildlife Killing by Building Communities of Coexistence by Renee Seacor](#). Project Coyote's Notes From The Field blog. September 29, 2023.

WORKING LANDS EDUCATIONAL VIDEOS:

- [Farming & Ranching with Wildlife: Overview](#)
- [Farming & Ranching with Wildlife: Guardian Animals](#)
- [Farming & Ranching with Wildlife: Coexistence Strategies for Farming in the Northeast United States](#)



We must fight against the spirit of unconscious cruelty with which we treat the animals. Animals suffer as much as we do. True humanity does not allow us to impose such sufferings on them. It is our duty to make the whole world recognize it. Until we extend our circle of compassion to all living things, humanity will not find peace.

~ Albert Schweitzer

WE'RE HIRING



WE'RE HIRING!

Public Engagement Coordinator

We are seeking a part time Public Engagement Coordinator to enhance Project Coyote's relationships with the public, volunteers, and community.

This role ensures consistent supporter engagement, from phone and email inquiries to volunteer communication. The role offers flexible working hours but necessitates at least one hour dedicated each day to ensure timely responses to public inquiries.

If you are an effective communicator and passionate about wildlife conservation, this position might be for you! Learn more on our [Employment & Volunteering](#) page.