



Scribbles 'N' Stuff

Vol 8 Issue 1

Newsletter Date: Summer

July is National Raccoon Appreciation Month

Following our normal routine of abnormal month dedications, we come to National Raccoon Appreciation month. In this newsletter we will be discussing some problems and other stuff relating to the raccoon and several other animals as well.

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Did you know?

- Raccoons can run up to 15 mph
- Raccoons have been kept as pets (bad idea)
- Raccoons occupy parts of Europe, Turkey, Asia, and Russia
- Raccoons are clumsy and do not hibernate

Quote

“A very interesting book can be written about the raccoon and, with it's industrious energy and resourcefulness, it deserves to be elevated to the status of national emblem in place of the parasitical, carron feeding Bald Eagle.”- Ivan T. Sanderson in Living Mammals of the World.

Raccoons and the environment

A environmental public service announcement

Let's start off by saying that the raccoon is very important to human society. There I said it. Forget the trash can tipping and focus on what really matters, the ecosystem. Right now the ecosystem, which is the delicate balance between species and predator and prey, is going, well, down the toilet. Why? Well let's focus on something close to home. I'm sure almost all Massachusetts residents have heard of the Asian longhorn beetle. It is a small beetle that comes from Asia, simple? No. Actually this bug is very destructive to native Massachusetts plants. What does this have to do with raccoons? Well like any animal, raccoons need food to live and food to them is anything that is eatable and provides nutrients, and the Asian longhorn beetle is no exception. But wait, how does this affect humans? The Asian longhorn beetle destroys native trees and plants which are part of a long line of the ecosystem or food chain. Now that bug will affect the entire ecosystem including grass. Grass, which cows eat, will die off and then the cows will die off from starvation, and then this will financially hurt the farmer. Another way the beetle will affect us and the ecosystem is that when the population of beetles increases so do the birds' population as well. As the birds' population increases the fish population decreases, as this happens the fishermen will also suffer financially. So in turn the raccoon can help humans by lowering the population of beetles so that they don't affect the ecosystem that much.

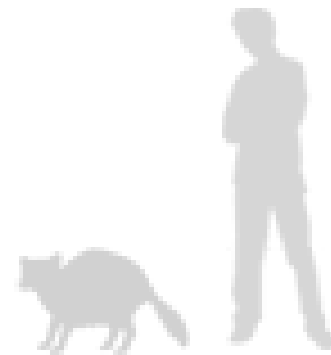
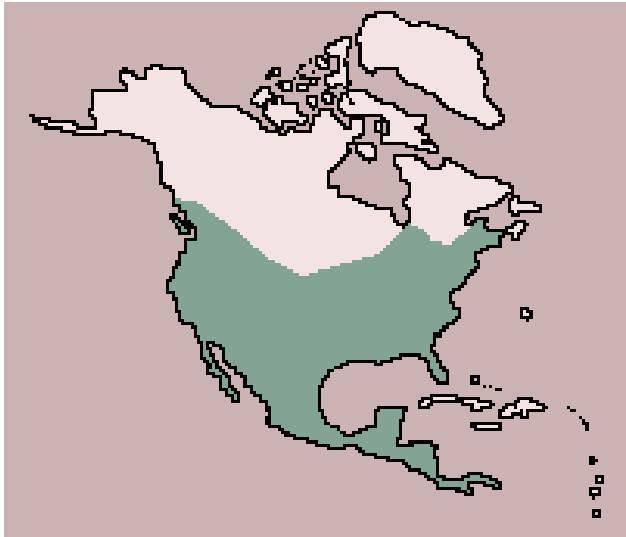
Some people ask "Why is the raccoon so mischievous?" The answer is because they're smart. And we as humans think they're mischievous because we don't like anyone challenging us. Scientific studies have shown that raccoons are one of the most intelligent species out there, with humans, dolphins and primates. Raccoons can do things that other species can't do. Such as open refrigerators, locks, doors, and other complex things with their paws. Sorry dolphins flippers don't work.

Well, some people ask, what is a raccoon? It is rather hard to tell what a raccoon exactly is because some people think of it as many different things. Some people call it a small bear, others call it a cat like thing or even a dog like thing. Whatever people call it, it is actually part of the Lemur family. A distant cousin of the raccoon is the red panda, which hails from China. Now, raccoons are native to only North America, although some have been introduced to France, Germany, Turkey, Japan, and Russia. The Golden rule for North America is the farther you go up north the bigger raccoons are, and the farther down south you go the smaller raccoons are. This makes sense because like bears, raccoons need to store body fat which, everyone knows will make you bigger. And to my knowledge Panama hasn't had as much snow as Canada. To look at the size ratio of a human to a raccoon, it's about 6:2 or you standing next to a 15 foot tall person (that person obviously being the human and you the raccoon).

So in conclusion, raccoons are helpful to humans in some ways and they play a vital role in our ecosystem.

Raccoon pictures

A environmental public service announcement



Raccoon
occupation in
North America

A size comparison
Raccoon : Human

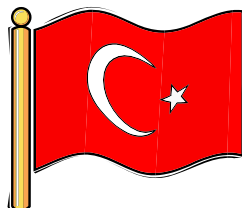
Where raccoons have been introduced



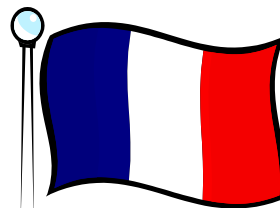
Russia



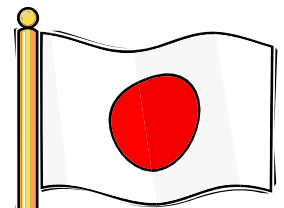
Germany



Turkey



France



Japan

A Raccoon Tail

Maine 1:20 a.m.

"The what?" asked Peter

"The Canadian Coyotes, or that's what we call them anyway." said the raccoon

"Who's this we?"

"The village, or well, the village that used to be, is what I mean."

"And I see your Canadian Coyotes destroyed it?"

"Precisely"

"Why"

"Because they are a stronger group than we are and well, they just felt like it." the raccoon said sadly.

Both sat there for a long time thinking what to do and what to say. Then Peter spoke up.

"What's your name?"

"Oh yeah, I haven't quite introduced myself, my name is Daniel, umm, wait a minute...."

He pulled out a small painting of a raccoon riding a horse, out of his backpack next to him. He flipped it over and read the name next to "To:" on a gift tag.

"Daniel *Cordis* I believe, but we really never used last names anyway."

"You don't know your last name?"

"I do now"

Daniel handed the painting to Peter who looked at the front rather than the back.

"What is this a picture of exactly?"

"To be honest" Daniel said "I really don't know. The only thing I do know however, is that the painting came from Mexico, or sent rather, and was addressed to my father, who's name there" he pointed to the name "Is where I think my last name came from."

"Interesting, but a more important question." said peter "Do you want to start a new life"

"You mean like move away?"

"Yes"

"Why not." Daniel exclaimed. "There is really nothing left here anyway."

News

Gilligan's Island: Fact VS Fiction by Corrinne Gillenwater

Have you ever seen the show *Gilligan's Island*? It is a show where seven contradicting people go aboard a little ship, the S.S. Minnow, for a three hour tour. They then hit rough waters, which tosses the ship upon a tropical island. They are forced to stay on this island and find a way to survive. Skipper, Gilligan, The Professor, Mr. Howell, Mrs. Howell, Ginger, and Maryanne stick together and try to make it all work on this island. Skipper is the sea captain of the S.S. Minnow, and always, no matter what, has his sailor hat on. He is plump and the commander of the others. Gilligan is a scrawny little fellow, who has some fears, but he makes everyone laugh. He, too, always has a hat on, and builds the majority of the shelter. Professor is a smart and witty man, who knows so much. He helps the people around the island with his smarts and he always reads books to gain more knowledge. Mr. and Mrs. Howell are a wealthy couple, wearing the finest clothes and own expensive things. They cooperate well, and Mrs. Howell enjoys the jewelry her husband gives her. Ginger is a beautiful, red-haired actress who wears the prettiest, most gorgeous gowns. Her makeup is always exquisite and her accessories are stunning. Maryanne is the farm girl and always wears her straw hat. She does not go without her overalls, either. These people all have to find a way to survive on this island. Even though it is a television show, there are many inconsistencies which are not believable due to their circumstances. Using two episodes I will attempt to explain fact from fiction. Keep in mind: would you pack these on just a three hour tour?

"Gilligan gets Bugged" : An insect bites Gilligan and his fellow companions think that is bug is poisonous and that he is going to die.

Fiction

Professor somehow has books

The girls have tissues when they hear about Gilligan

Ginger and Maryanne bake a coconut cream pie in pan ware, when there is no oven on the island.

Ginger always has beautiful gowns on and they are different every day. How many different gowns would you pack for just a three hour tour?

Everyone on the island takes out an accessories when they need them: mittens, watches, earrings makeup, and more. How much would you bring on just a three hour tour?

Gilligan has toys in the bath tub he made. I don't think anyone would bring toys on a ship for just three hours.

Fact:

Gilligan and the others were making huts and shelter with their resources of twigs, leaves and trees.

Gilligan builds a bath with twigs and bamboo.

They all make baskets by weaving twigs in and out.

They build a table with twigs, trees, bamboo, and other strong material. They really did had to improvise on the island.

The second episode I saw was called "Gilligan's Mother-In-Law" where Gilligan and his friends get a chance to escape the island but Gilligan must get married to do so.

Fiction:

Some of the people had nets. That would not be on the top of my list to pack for a three hour tour.

People visit and leave without the seven people for different reasons. In this episode, they do not leave because Gilligan would have to go through very violent tests to do so.

They had some food on the island in steel cases. I wonder how.

All of them seem to have endless supplies of clothing and accessories like parasols, jewelry, and makeup. It seems impossible to have that much clothing packed for a three hour tour.

Fact:

Skipper and Gilligan build a fan out of bamboo and palm fronds.

They make chairs out of strong material including bamboo, trees and other resources.

They build fires.

They both eat and drink out of coconuts.

Now that you know about this fantastic and creative show, go watch it!

The End by Melissa Smith

Not all endings are happy. Most are tragic. Like this one. I urge you reader, if you are faint of heart, do not keep reading. You will only end up petrified or worse. This is your last chance, burn this book now or forever suffer the extremely dire consequences of reading.

Fine, if you won't scam or burn this book, then you will just have to suffer. The story begins in area 51. The year is 2073 and the Earth is almost dead. Dr. Poophceis is working on a brand new invention with his assistant, Ms. Dinah. The invention is called H2E5R.

H2E5R was meant to heal the planet, but, one day in the lab some toxic chemicals spilled and things went terribly wrong. H2E5R grew spikes, his hands sprouted rigged claws, and a scar burned into the metal under his right eye. He even developed a voice. It was edgy, sharp, and evil. "You have underestimated my power!" it said. "My true potential is high. I can do more than save this planet, and, let your pathetic race die! I will begin my own! But, not without destroying yours first!" It sped away on its single wheel. To do exactly what he planned.

Two years later two friends were born. They were destined to save us all. Then came their thirteenth birthday. Kate and her dad were celebrating

Austin, Texas

10:30 am

"This is going to be the best party yet, Kate!" Mr. Davis set a multiple layered cake on a picnic table. "I guess" Kate said. Mr. Davis gave her the look that just said "appreciate what you have." She turned around setting places. Her white, blonde hair danced in the breeze. She breathed in heavily. You see, Kate was born with this gift that aloud her to sense danger. Kate said. "Something is wrong." "Kate, nothing is wrong. It's your paranoia." She turned back to the plates.

San Antonio, Texas

Samantha and her mother celebrate the same occasion

"Sam, this is going to be the best party yet!" Ms. Orinthy turned to Sam. "Right?" Sam smiled, hesitating a bit. "Yes." Ms. Orinthy dialed the phone, trying to arrange Sam's bowling party. Sam looked down. There was Misty-May, her golden retriever. She pet her on the head. "I wonder what you're thinking about right now." She mused. Misty-May wagged her tail. "I know," Sam said, "I love you." Misty-May snuggled closer.

Austin, Texas

Two days after Kate and Sam's birthday 8pm

The wind whipped at Davis house. "Very unusual." Mr. David suggested. Kate had a strange look on her face. "Yes, very." Things all went quiet. Something had to be wrong. BASH! Something bombarded through the sliding door! But, it wasn't just anything. It was H2E5R! "Now!" he said, "My first victim will be here. You will be the first of many to DIE!" Mr. Davis stood up to confront the thing. "Why us?" he trembled. "Are you aware of a certain Dr. Poophceis?" Mr. Davis nodded. "He is my creator! The one who has underestimated me. Created me as a slave to your kind! I am capable of much more! I have vowed to destroy your kind and along with it!"

That is when he attacked! He spun and spun and spun with his nasty claws flared destroying everything in its path. "Grab the hatchet!" Kate hollered. "Toss!" she caught it in both hands. "Kate! Back up and hold out the hatchet! When he gets close, drive it into his mouth!" Kate did so. It stopped and backed up with the hatchet stuck in its mouth. "You think a puny hatchet can stop me?" It boomed. "You have forced my claws!" HE25R reached out and grabbed Kate. She tried to wiggle free. "HELP!" "Your pleas will do you no good now! My clocks estimate I will crush you in two minutes! Lights Out!" Mr. Davis was very brave. He wrenched the hatchet out of his mouth leaving a wicked smile. He took the hatchet to HE25R's heart drive. He let Kate fall. "You have not defeated me! I will be back." He sped away. Kate examined the hatchet for damage. She found a piece of metal. Perfect for DNA tracking.

Kate went to visit Dr. Poophceis's office the next morning.

Ask A. Nonymous

Friendly advice about friends, family, and anyone else

Dear A,

I have a friend that calls three times a week to come over and I don't want to hurt his feels but I feel like I'm being stalked. How do I address this?

Signed,
Stalked

Dear Stalked,

Your friend must enjoy your company to call you to get together so much but I understand how you feel. Try telling your friend that you'll let him know when you are available. That way he won't call as much. Be sure to hold up your end of the bargain too though and tell them him when you can come. If you think that you and your friend are growing apart and do not wish to hang out with them try to say it nicely. For example, "You and I seemed to have developed different interests. I don't know how enjoyable a visit would be to either of us. Of course I still like you and want to be your friend but I think we are growing apart."

Best of Luck,

A

A's Top Ten Tips on How to Make Friends List

Introduce Yourself

Find a common interest (What do you like to do? Really...I like to do....)

Talk about things that you share (teachers, classes, activities)

Invite them to sit with you at lunch or on the bus.

Introduce them to your friends

Smile and wave when you see them in the halls or outside school.

Choose them for your partner when you need to pick buddies (You don't have to do this every time but it helps to do it sometimes).

Stick up for them if you see them being bullied or hear someone gossiping about them.

Get their phone number and address (if you receive their consent) and invite them over.

Keep in touch over breaks

Inappropriate places to use a cell phone



The Library



The Bathroom



The Trash

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We're on the Web
[www.pembrokepublic
library.org](http://www.pembrokepubliclibrary.org)

Remember to recycle!

Can you come up with a story???

We are asking you, the readers to help come up with a Raccoon story. Send it in and it may get published!

Rules

- It must show raccoons in a positive way
- It should be creative!

All ages are welcome!

What you will receive

- Your story in the newsletter
- A special note from us.

E-mail your story to:

jlamarre@sailsinc.org