The Fire Eater
in silence & in stillness

Coyotes in Central Park: Yankee Warming

by Mary W. Godwin

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Global warming. A new ice age? Or heat waves? Glaciers melting like M&Ms underneath a sunlamp? Disease, droughts, fires? Perhaps.

But one thing we know for sure. Long before the first heat wave hits, the leftists will all have soiled their unterhosen in either fear or joy. (Joy = "We told you so, you redneck right-wing bastards.")
But before Al Gore(d) issues yet another slanted film about the cause that brings tears to the eyes of leftists everywhere, it turns out a new development in the global warming drama is upon our doorsteps.

I recently talked to Dr. Jeremy Beswacks of the Southern Institute for Climatic Kenotic Observation & Studies (SICKOS). His take on the cause so dear to the leftists? Surprisingly, they have a point.

"There's little doubt that climatic warming plays a part in local and global weather phenomena."

OK. But?

"But the real news is not warming, but freezing." Dr. Beswacks was serious. "True enough. The trends show we're entering an ice age, not an age of warming."

But wait, as they say in advertising. There's more. Dr. Beswacks makes a claim made by no one else. A claim so outrageous one would expect Gore to fund SICKOS with

his own banking account. Dr. Beswacks, please.

"Yes. The interesting development we've been tracking lately is the challenge posed to the states of the Northeast by the new climatic changes. From all we can observe, the states of Maine, Massachusetts, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Connecticut, and Rhode Island, among others, face a threat unparalleled in human history."

Now hold on, Beswacks. You're saying that the Yankee states alone are facing climate-change disaster? What about Maryland?

"Probably not," mused Dr. Beswacks,"except the northern part, perhaps. Above the Mason-Dixon line."

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So what do the Yankees have to look forward to?

"Well," said Dr. Beswacks, "the North American continent ranges from the lush sub-tropical climate of Florida to the the frozen ice and tundra of the Arctic. And within these extremes are two of the wealthiest industrialised countries, Canada and the US, both contributing to a short-term warming trend that will lead into a longer cooling trend."

Yes, yes. But get to the point.

"North America has more of what we call 'hot spots' than most regions of the world. These hot spots are concentrated in the Northeastern states. Thus we see marsh loss already underway in the Chesapeake. But it's the future that looks grim. The Northeastern states can look forward to heat waves, rising sea levels, spreading disease, earlier arrival of spring, downpours, heavy snowfall, droughts, and fires. Among others."

"Earlier springs?"

"Unfortunately. Along with an earlier spring come disruptions in animal migrations, competitive balances among species, earlier thawing for rivers, and earlier plant blooming and leafing."

I looked at Dr. Beswacks. He again wasn't kidding. "What about the Southern and Western states?" I asked him.

"Well, ma'am, there'll be some minor fluctuations here and there. Montana may see some heavy snowmelt, for example. But overall, the South and the West will escape largely unscathed."

So down in Dixie, the boys will hit the surf as usual? The girls will parade along the boardwalks in bikinis while the Yankees undergo massive climatic trauma?

Beswacks was candid. "Ironic, isn't it? Considering the Puritan conception of New England as the land of the Chosen People. From what we observe, the South will escape nearly all of the climatic change on the horizon. The North, however, will suffer almost unbelievably."

An irony indeed. To follow up on Beswack's theory, I talked also to Dr. Erik Saunders of the Bronx Zoo Wildlife Preservation Society. "I'm afraid Dr. Beswacks is correct. And the potential disaster is far worse than what you can imagine. The picture we have of New York within a couple hundred years is not promising."

"Blizzards and disease?" I asked, trying for as much detail as I could get.

Saunders obliged. "New York's architecture isn't as flammable as San Francisco's clapboard Victorians, but within 200 years tons of leaf litter would overflow gutters as pioneer weeds gave way to colonizing native oaks and maples in city parks. A dry lightning strike, igniting decades of uncut, knee-high Central Park grass, would spread flames through town. As lightning rods rusted away, roof fires would leap among buildings into paneled offices filled with paper. Wherever foundations failed and buildings tumbled, lime from crushed concrete would raise soil pH, inviting buckthorn and birch. Black locust and

autumn olive trees would fix nitrogen, allowing more goldenrods, sunflowers, and white snakeroot to move in along with apple trees, their seeds expelled by proliferating birds. Sweet carrots would quickly devolve to their wild form, unpalatable Queen Anne's lace, while broccoli, cabbage, brussels sprouts, and cauliflower would regress to the same unrecognizable broccoli ancestor."

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Broccoli has ancestors? But Saunders had more to say about the Yankee Climate Change.

"Unless an earthquake strikes New York first, bridges spared yearly applications of road salt would last a few hundred years before their stays and bolts gave way (last to fall would be Hell Gate Arch, built for railroads and easily good for another thousand years).

Coyotes would invade Central Park, and deer, bears, and finally wolves would follow. Ruins would echo the love song of frogs breeding in streams stocked with alewives, herring, and mussels dropped by seagulls. Missing, however, would be all fauna that have adapted to human beings. The invincible cockroach, an insect that originated in the hot climes of Africa, would succumb in unheated buildings. Without garbage, rats would starve or serve as lunch for peregrine falcons and red-tailed hawks. Pigeons would genetically revert back to the rock doves from which they sprang."

"What about the Statue of Liberty?"

"Ah, yes. The Statue of Liberty, if not first felled by an earthquake, would likely be flattened by glaciers that have advanced on the region three times in the past 100,000 years."

"Meanwhile," I asked incredulously, "South Carolina, Alabama, Georgia, Florida, and the other Southern states would thrive?"

"Essentially, yes."

Of course, we all know what this really means, don't we? The Yankees have already taken over Florida and Georgia.

Perhaps they know something we don't. Perhaps they have seen the future, and it looks like a coyote sleeping on a bench in Central Park.

About the Author

Mary W. Godwin was born in Mobile, Alabama. She graduated from the University of Oklahoma with degrees in Journalism and Ceramics. Mary currently resides in Gadsden, Alabama, with her husbund, William, and their two children, Noccalula and Coosa. When not busy reporting on current events, Mary's hobbies include drag-boat racing, quilting, and gun-smithing.