

## All Rat Poisons Are Not Created Equal

By Dee Century, *Living with Wildlife Educator*

SCCF applauds all homeowners who have decided to just say "NO" to rodent poisons that can kill our eagles, owls, and bobcats that eat the rat that ate the poison. Killing all outside rats is impossible and should not be the goal... but using snap or electric traps on your porch or in your house is a necessity. Plugging up all the crevasses where rats enter your home is still the best rat control... you can pay your pest control company to do this.

But what about controlling rats at condominiums and homes that are overseen by management companies where "Just saying NO" to poisons is more complicated? More complicated because who is going to empty the rats from the traps once they are caught? Snap traps can be put in safety boxes outside just like poison can...but once again who is going to dispose of the trapped rats?

Some pest control companies also use a technique that monitors rat feed stations and only use poison when populations call for it...so poison is not always in the environment. There are also products put in bait stations that repel rats from around the structure. Talk to your pest control company about your options.

In cases where poisons are going to continue to be used...the kind of rodenticide used is very important. It was brodifacoum that was found in the blood of "Ozzie" the local eagle by Crow after his death. This same poison

is blamed for other eagle deaths.

Tell your pest control service and management company NOT use second generation "anticoagulants" (DO NOT USE THESE...brodifacoum is the most toxic, bromaiolone, difenacoum, or difethialone). The rats eat these 20-30 times before they die. They will be impressed that you know about these products. These are now banned for use by homeowners by the EPA but pesticide companies are still allowed to use them.

Demand that the rodenticide is not a second generation anticoagulant. Bromethalin which is not an anticoagulant and is much easier on the critter who eats the poisoned rats is a better option...definitely not perfect but safer for wildlife. Other poisons that are not anticoagulants are cholecalciferol and zinc phosphide. Even the first generation anticoagulant, warfarin is easier on wildlife.

I hope this has helped if you can't just say no to poisons... but these products all have risks. In California 78% of mountain lions, 84% of foxes, and 92% of raptors tested had rodenticides in their toxin screenings. Our barn owls are gone, anyone seen a great horned owl lately? I wonder how much poison our island eagles and bobcats have ingested? Will the next poisoned rat be the straw that broke another local eagles back?

## Notes from the Homestead

Though the sea grape is a rather ubiquitous tree on Sanibel, it becomes noticed for its unique red and yellow colors during the winter months. This tree always reminds me a little of the beautiful fall colors from the North, even though ours occurs in the middle of the Florida winter, just before the tree loses most of its leaves and resprouts fresh ones for the spring. This phenomenon also happens to correspond nicely with Valentine's Day. A former nursery volunteer would pick red leaves as Valentine's postcards, decorate them with a picture or message, put on a stamp, and mail them off to his family members as a memento from Sanibel. What a creative, nature-inspired way to say, "Be my Valentine!"

- Jenny Evans, *Native Landscapes & Garden Center Manager*



## SCCF February 2017 Program Schedule

### BAILEY HOMESTEAD: MAKING THE LAND WORK

This one-hour walking tour of the Bailey Homestead Preserve blends SCCF's mission-driven work on the historic property, the history of the land itself and some stories about the Bailey family, which farmed the land for three generations. *Wednesdays at 10 a.m. No reservations. 1300 Periwinkle Way, meet at the Conservation Gateway Kiosk at the head of the Shipley Trail, near the entrance. Call Kristie or Dee at 472-2329 for more information. Free to members and children. \$5 for non-members.*

...More programs on Page 6

# SAFETY DATA SHEET

## Section 1: Identification

**Product identifier:** FirstStrike® Soft Bait  
**Other identifier(s):** EPA Registration Number 7173-258  
**Uses or restrictions:** Rodenticide with difethialone  
**Manufacturer:** Liphatech, Inc.  
3600 W. Elm Street, Milwaukee, WI 53209  
**Emergency phone:** 800-351-1476 Monday - Friday 8:00 am - 4:30 pm  
(US Central time zone)  
**After hours:** Call CHEMTREC at 1-800-424-9300

## Section 2: Hazard Identification

**Hazard class:** Specific Target Organ Toxicity (Single exposure), Category 2; Specific Target Organ Toxicity (Repeated exposure), Category 2  
**Warning:** May cause damage to blood and reduce the clotting ability of blood if swallowed, inhaled or absorbed through skin. Do not breathe dust. Do not eat, drink or smoke when using this product. Wash hands thoroughly after handling. If exposed or if you feel unwell, call a poison control center or doctor. Dispose of container and contents according to instructions on product label. Store locked up.



## Section 3: Composition / Information on Ingredients

**Hazardous ingredients:**  
Difethialone (CAS registry no. 104653-34-1) ..... 0.0025%

## Section 4: First Aid Measures

**Emergency overview:** This material may reduce the clotting ability of the blood and cause bleeding. Symptoms of toxicity include lethargy, loss of appetite, reduced clotting ability of blood, and bleeding. Have the product label with you when obtaining treatment advice.  
**If swallowed:** Call a poison control center or doctor. Have person sip a glass of water if able to swallow. Do not induce vomiting unless told to do so by the poison control center or doctor.  
**If inhaled:** Move person to fresh air. If person is not breathing, call an ambulance, then give artificial respiration and call poison control or doctor.  
**If in eyes:** Hold eye open and rinse slowly and gently with water for 15-20 minutes. Remove contact lenses, if present, after the first 5 minutes, then continue rinsing eye. Call a poison control center or doctor.  
**If on skin or clothing:** Take off contaminated clothing. Rinse skin with plenty of cool water for 15-20 minutes. Call a poison control center or doctor.  
**Note to Physician or Veterinarian:** Contains anticoagulant ingredient. For humans or animals ingesting bait and/or showing obvious poisoning symptoms (bleeding or prolonged prothrombin times), give Vitamin K<sub>1</sub> intramuscularly or orally. In severe cases, blood transfusions may be needed.

## Section 5: Fire-fighting Measures

**Extinguishing media:** Use media suitable for the surrounding fire  
**Specific fire or explosion hazards:** None known  
**Special cautions for firefighters:** Wear self-contained breathing apparatus (full facepiece) & full protective clothing. Contain runoff to prevent pollution.

## Section 6: Accidental Release Measures

**Precautions, PPE and Procedures:** Wearing PPE as specified in Section 8, isolate and contain spill. Limit access to spill area to necessary personnel. Do not allow spilled material to enter sewers, streams or other waters.  
**Methods and materials:** Scoop up spilled material and place in a closed, labeled container for use according to label instructions or disposal.

## Section 7: Handling and Storage

**Precautions for safe handling:** Read the entire product label before using this rodenticide. **Conditions for safe storage:** Store in original container in a cool, dry area out of reach of children, pets and domestic animals. Do not contaminate water, food or feed. Keep container tightly closed. Do not remove or destroy the product label.

## Section 8: Exposure Controls / Personal Protection

**Established exposure limits:** Not applicable  
**Appropriate engineering controls:** Special ventilation is not required for the normal handling and use of this product when following label instructions.

**Individual protection measures:** Wear long-sleeved shirt, long pants, shoes, socks and waterproof gloves when handling this product. Follow manufacturer's instructions for cleaning/maintaining PPE, or else wash with detergent and hot water. Keep and wash PPE separately from other laundry. Remove PPE immediately after handling this product. Wash the outside of gloves before removing. Wash hands thoroughly after applying bait and before eating, drinking, chewing gum, using tobacco or using the toilet, and change into clean clothing.

## Section 9: Physical and Chemical Properties

**Appearance:** Soft paste, blue color, raw grain odor. Odor threshold not determined.  
**Water solubility:** Negligible      **pH:** Not applicable  
**Relative density:** 1.11 g/cc      **Viscosity:** Not applicable  
**% Volatile (volume):** Not applicable      **Evaporation rate:** Not applicable  
**Vapor density:** Not applicable      **Vapor pressure:** Not applicable  
**Boiling point:** Not determined      **Freezing point:** Not applicable  
**Flash point (ASTM D92):** >150 °C      **Autoignition temp.:** Not determined  
**Flammability:** Not a flammable solid      **Decomposition temp.:** Not determined  
**Explosive limits - Lower limit:** Not applicable; **Upper limit:** Not applicable  
**Partition coefficient (n-octanol/water):** Not applicable

## Section 10: Stability and Reactivity

**Reactivity:** Not reactive, not sensitive to shock or static discharge  
**Chemical stability:** Stable      **Hazardous reactions:** None  
**Incompatible materials:** None      **Conditions to avoid:** None  
**Hazardous decomposition products:** Oxides of carbon

## Section 11: Toxicological Information

**Likely routes of exposure:** Ingestion, skin absorption.  
**Symptoms of toxicity:** Lethargy, loss of appetite, reduced clotting ability of blood, and bleeding.  
**Eye effects/eye irritation:** Mild, transient irritant  
**Acute oral effects:** LD<sub>50</sub> (oral-rat): >5000 mg/kg  
**Acute inhalation effects:** LC<sub>50</sub> (rat, 4 hour): 200 mg/L (extrapolated)  
**Acute dermal effects:** LD<sub>50</sub> (dermal-rabbit): >2000 mg/kg  
**Skin irritation:** Non-irritating  
**Skin sensitization:** Not a skin sensitizer  
**Carcinogenicity:** No ingredient listed by NTP, IARC or OSHA

## Section 12: Ecological Information

This product is extremely toxic to birds and mammals. Do not apply this product directly to water, where surface water is present or to intertidal areas below the mean high water mark. Carefully follow label cautions and directions to reduce hazards to children, pets and non-target wildlife.

## Section 13: Disposal Considerations

**Disposal:** Wastes resulting from the use of this product according to the label instructions must be disposed of as specified on the product label.  
**RCRA waste status:** This product is not regulated as a hazardous waste under Federal law. State and local regulation may affect the disposal of this product. Consult your state or local environmental agency for disposal of waste generated other than by use according to label instructions.

## Section 14: Transport Information

**Transportation data (49 CFR):** This product is not regulated as a hazardous material for all modes of transportation within the U.S.  
**Hazard Class, Packing Group and UN ID No.:** Not applicable

## Section 15: Regulatory Information

**TSCA:** All components of this product are listed on the TSCA inventory.  
**SARA section 313:** Contains no reportable components.  
**CA Proposition 65:** Contains no substances subject to Prop 65 requirements.  
**FIFRA:** This product is registered as a pesticide with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The label requirements under Federal pesticide law differ from the classification criteria and hazard information required by OSHA on this Safety Data Sheet. Read and follow all cautions, directions and use restrictions on the product label on the container.

## Section 16: Other Information

**Prepared by:** T. Schmit      **Date:** 2 February 2015  
This Safety Data Sheet is believed to be accurate at time of publication. No warranty, expressed or implied, is made with regard to this information. This information may not be adequate for every application, and the user must determine the suitability of this information due to the manner or conditions of use or storage, or local regulation.