



# INTERNATIONAL WOLF

A PUBLICATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL WOLF CENTER  
WINTER 2003

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# INTERNATIONAL WOLF

THE QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL WOLF CENTER  
VOLUME 13, NO. 4 WINTER 2003

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Photo by Monty Sloan/wolfphotography.com



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*International Wolf* is a forum for airing facts, ideas and attitudes about wolf-related issues. Articles and materials printed in *International Wolf* do not necessarily reflect the viewpoint of the International Wolf Center or its board of directors.

*International Wolf* welcomes submissions of personal adventures with wolves and wolf photographs (especially black and white). Prior to submission of other types of manuscripts, address queries to Mary Ortiz, publications director.

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PHOTOS: Unless otherwise noted, or obvious from the caption or article text, photos are of captive wolves.

# Letters

## Optimism about Mexican wolves unfounded

Your summer "News and Notes" repeats the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's overly optimistic guess that there were (as of your writing in late February) at least 40 Mexican gray wolves in the wild. Though every year the agency states it will find and collar many of these ghost wolves, it always comes up short, and this year (like the last two) the population is below projections in the Environmental Impact Statement that authorized the reintroduction program.

The primary reason is aggressive government wolf "control." Unlike in the Northern Rockies and the Great Lakes states, a federal rule requires removal of Mexican wolves living primarily outside the recovery area, even if they are on other public lands. In addition, wolves that scavenge on the numerous dead cows and horses in the Southwest learn to kill stock and are also removed.

Around the time your issue went to print, the number of radio-collared and monitored lobos in the wild declined to 19, abetted by the government's first shooting of

a wild Mexican wolf since passage of the Endangered Species Act in 1973. In addition, 9 wolves have died accidentally as a result of their capture. Others have been severely injured. Some wolves are rereleased (often traumatized), while others receive life sentences. The Fish and Wildlife Service keeps reporting on non-existent wolves to cover up its failure to reform the program as advised by independent scientists in June 2001. Back then, 27 Mexican wolves were radio-collared and monitored.

You also state that "local animosity has resulted in at least 10 of the reintroduced wolves or their offspring being illegally shot." The number of known illegal killings is now 14. But your characterization of the problem as "local animosity" is odd. Two independent surveys note majority support for Mexican wolves in the rural areas where our lobos now roam. Most attendees at local public hearings support them. The poaching reflects individual pathologies and not general sentiment.

Michael J. Robinson  
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West Gate



## From the Executive Director

INTERNATIONAL  
WOLF CENTER

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### MISSION

The International Wolf Center advances the survival of wolf populations by teaching about wolves, their relationship to wild lands and the human role in their future.

Educational services and informational resources are available at:

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wolfinfo@wolf.org

Web site: <http://www.wolf.org>

## Challenge and Inspiration

**W**olves have it pretty rough. Making a living is no easy task, and the risks of daily life are significant. These past couple of years have also been pretty rough in the not-for-profit sector. Needs have risen dramatically while economic resources have done the reverse. Because environmental organizations receive only 2 to 3 percent of all charitable donations nationwide, the picture is especially challenging. This reinforces how important your membership and contributions are to our work on behalf of wolves.



Walter Medwid

Despite this not so pretty picture of the grand landscape, we are fortunate in being able to take on some exciting new projects thanks to several donors and Center board members who have made possible funds to help these projects become reality. These projects include conducting a series of teacher workshops around the nation, establishing a certification program for wolf educators, a special educator's issue of this magazine, the adaptation of our award-winning wolf curriculum *Gray Wolves, Gray Matter* for the western U.S. landscape, and some preliminary investments in distance technology that will eventually bring the resources of the Center to classrooms around the nation.

Work is continuing on a new traveling exhibit called *Wolves of the World*. This exhibit will feature several mounted canids and associated educational materials, including a Web-based version. *Wolves of the World* will bring a taste of the wolf and the Center to museums and nature centers.

Earlier this year we reorganized the structure of our education staff. This permitted us to create the position of National Director of Information and Education. Andrea Lorek Strauss, our former Education Director, has been appointed to this post, which significantly strengthens our education reach across the nation. This new position coupled with our outreach educator in the Twin Cities, Ann Koenke, and the education staff in Ely provide us with our strongest education team ever.

And as I write this, we have just reached agreement on an exciting new home for our Twin Cities operations that will give us classroom and meeting space, more public accessibility, a natural setting, wonderful offices, and an opportunity to partner with an agency with strong environmental, educational and recreational objectives. More about this in the next issue.

Finally, much work is going on behind the scenes as we prepare for new pups to join our ambassador wolves. There is tangible excitement as we get closer to their spring arrival. They will eventually join our two arctic wolves and take on the role of our Exhibit Pack.

These are challenging times indeed, but we are inspired by your support and the many new projects we have been able to commit to, knowing all will strengthen our work on behalf of wolves. ■

# Wolf Recovery in the Where Do We

**O**n a cold day last winter, I was searching for wolf sign near my home. The area had previously had wolves passing through on occasion but had never been claimed by a family group. Today the signs in the snow would tell a different story. As I turned onto a little-used forest road, tracks from a group of five wolves greeted me. As these animals had traveled down the road, they had scent-marked the area heavily. Eleven urine-stained spots marked the snow in one-half mile; one was blood-tinged, indicating a female in estrus. The area was now officially wolf country. Having monitored wolves in this area for years, I knew there were neighboring packs in all directions from this group, and they, in turn, had breeding packs on the borders of their defended territories. All this in an area that just 12 years ago had no wolves at all!

by J I M H A M M I L L

This scenario has become commonplace in the upper Midwest, where wolves have been reoccupying previously occupied landscape since 1973. Today, Minnesota has about 2,500 wolves. Michigan's and Wisconsin's combined population is approaching 700 animals. Outside of Minnesota, wolf numbers appear to be increasing at the rate of about 15 percent yearly. In Minnesota, the population is more stable, with increases occurring primarily in areas of nontraditional wolf range, where conflicts with people are inevitable.

The upper Midwest is currently a place where millions of people recreate, develop land, manage timber resources, raise livestock and coexist with more than 3,000 wolves. The story of this remarkable natural recovery of a once nearly extirpated species will likely be studied for decades to come. Yet, I believe wolves and humans now coexist in an uneasy alliance in the upper Midwest, and I wonder how long the relative calm between wolves and humans will last.

Our best knowledge of wolf biology clearly indicates that wolves have far exceeded numbers that are necessary for population viability in the Midwest. The costs associated with the increase in wolves are also escalating. Losses of livestock and pets to wolves and the costs associated with these losses are mounting in all three states. This is to be expected and was to some extent anticipated. In the early 1990s, the

# Upper Midwest:

## Go from Here?

federal wolf recovery team estimated that about 1,250 wolves in Minnesota and 100 in Michigan and Wisconsin combined would be optimal.

All this raises the question: where do we go from here? And it is in thinking through the possible scenarios for the future of wolves that I become very concerned. I'd like to share some of those concerns with you. Some of what follows are admittedly my opinions, forged from years of working with wolves and people in wolf country.

The Endangered Species Act has done its job. The federal act and various states' versions offering full protection of law for wolves provided a strong measure of legal protection to wolves. The federal act was pivotal in allowing the natural recovery process to proceed in the Midwest. This legislation also provided for animals and plants to be *removed* from federal protection ("delisted") when populations had sufficiently recovered, and when states could demonstrate that wolves would continue to exist in viable numbers after delisting. We have been at that place for several years now. It is important that the intent of this legislation be honored. Now that wolves are numerically recovered, they should be delisted. The provisions to delist should be held as sacred as was our commitment to list the species when it was in trouble. I view this as a pact with the public, with delisting equal in importance to listing a species.

Mike Possis, Wild Thing Photography



*Although wolves are one of the most studied mammals on Earth, there will always be more to learn.*

Another result of delisting is that it is a major step toward “getting the federal government out of state wildlife management.” In the future, we will need to act and react appropriately and in a timely fashion to wolf issues. States are in a much better position to do this than the federal government is. Further, management of wildlife is largely a state prerogative, not a federal responsibility. I am concerned that the delisting process may be stalled by litigation and political positioning. That will result in long delays in effective management actions for wolves and people in wolf country.

Ultimately many people in the upper Midwest will have to deal with wolves on some personal level. Just knowing wolves are out there is enough for some, and this is a value worth preserving. For others, knowing wolves can be controlled where and when necessary will be critical. Still others may find value in wolves only if they can participate in some type of season for taking wolves. To others, the wolf will always be a significant part of their spiritual connection to all of nature. More than most species, wolves

symbolize a wide range of values to humans; this is clear.

Will we respect *each other's* values for the wolf as we form our positions and opinions on wolf issues? This is far less clear to me. Emotion, dogma, presuppositions, past adversarial relationships, distrust and secret agendas have all played a role in the human dimensions of wolf management in the Midwest. These need to be replaced with trustful relationships and decision making based on the best available science with a large dose of pragmatism. Having a viable wolf population living in concert with people may be a worthy goal that most people could agree to. Getting there will necessarily mean altering long-held beliefs by many people. Management by political and public opinion needs to be replaced with management for sustainability while balancing the wolf numbers/human impact equation.

Although wolves are one of the most studied mammals on Earth, there will always be more to learn. Today, we know enough about basic wolf biology to make some good decisions based on this science. What will be needed, however, is more commitment from states to answer questions pertinent to their particular situation, especially as it may relate to wolf harvest by hunters and trappers to control populations. Of equal importance is the need for continued monitoring of human

dimensions. Fortunately in the Midwest there have been several excellent public attitude studies done regarding wolves. These past studies are important as stand-alone documents. However, they also allow future studies to measure changes in public opinion and identify places or topics that need to be addressed by wolf managers. It is important that these human dimensions studies be designed to track changes in attitude, and that they be extensive enough to be truly comparable.

Funding for wildlife research and monitoring (including human dimensions) has always been difficult to obtain. Primarily this is because the needs for study far outstrip the available resources to get these jobs done. Wolf studies compete directly with important and needed studies of animals like black bears, deer, ruffed grouse, moose and other species. Much of the competition for funding is for animals that are more economically important to the various states than are wolves.

For wolf populations to be controlled in a general sense, some type of regulated legal public “take” will likely be necessary. There will undoubtedly be resistance to this by some people. For any legal take of wolves to occur, states will likely need to at least have an understanding of population size, trends, mortality factors, longevity, production, density and biological as well as societal carrying capacity. This is a



International Wolf Center

*Wolves have proved that they can live among us, and they are far more adaptive than we imagined. Can we adapt to having them among us?*

# A strategy for wolf education and outreach wolf management

tall order in times when funding competition is intense. It appears that the need to control populations in a rather extensive geographic area will occur well before the necessary questions are answered. Further, even if funding for wolf research were not an issue, would the wolf receive high enough priority in state agencies to receive funding appropriate to need? While wolves were classified as endangered in Michigan, funding to radio-collar and follow their movements was difficult to obtain. How much funding is likely to be forthcoming when the species is “off the critical list,” so to speak?

Today, the Midwest has some shining examples of educational efforts aimed at bringing facts about wolves to people. The work of the International Wolf Center, Timber Wolf Alliance, Timber Wolf Information Network, Defenders of Wildlife and National Wildlife Federation are all exemplary. I find it interesting that the most significant work in this area has been done by nongovernmental organizations. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the U.S. Forest Service and the NGOs listed have led efforts to preserve

habitat, provide quality educational programs, and supply funding to enhance law enforcement efforts. With few exceptions nationally, state fish and wildlife agencies have been followers, not leaders, in wolf recovery and management.

States’ wolf plans typically recognize the importance of wolf education and then set about to prioritize it somewhere below all those things that are more politically expedient. With some exceptions, states have failed to institutionalize wolf education as a priority among their employees. Public outreach on wolf issues is normally approached on an “as-needed” basis and is specific to incidents or demands by the public. A strategy for wolf education and outreach should be built into states’ wolf management plans and should receive a high priority. As management of wolves moves to state agencies, we will need to see effective leadership in wolf-related matters from these state agencies.

Wolves have made an incredible recovery in the Midwest. They have done this largely on their own. Protected by law, they have now occupied most habitat that does not put them into direct conflict with people and some that does. They have met the criteria to be delisted. They have proved that they can live among us with minimal conflict, and they are far

more adaptable than we imagined. Can we adapt to having them among us? Will we accept our responsibility to manage wolves, or will they be held as a “poster child for the Endangered Species Act”? Will our state agencies appropriately fund work that will be necessary to manage wolves? Can we minimize individual differences in opinion about wolf management to focus on a greater vision for wolves that is acceptable to more people in wolf country? We must get answers to these questions. There are certainly exciting times ahead for wolf managers in the Midwest with no shortage of challenges. In fact, it seems the challenges have just begun.

I believe that public attitudes about wolves in the Midwest will be driven in part by how agencies and NGOs deal with at least the issues mentioned above. A healthy or at least tolerant public attitude will be necessary for wolves to exist in the long term among us. We cannot afford to fail in these management responsibilities because now we have much to lose. ■

*Jim Hammill is a wildlife biologist, now retired after 30 years of service with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. Hammill is a member of a federal wolf recovery team and has been monitoring the Michigan wolf population for many years. Currently he and his wife, Julie, run Iron Range Consulting and Services Inc., in Crystal Falls, Michigan.*



William Rideg, Kishenehn Wildlife Works

should be built into states’ plans and should receive a high priority.

CERTAINLY A MAJOR FACTOR  
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WAS THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE  
INTERNATIONAL WOLF CENTER IN ELY.

William Riegg, Kishenehn Wildlife Works



# Our Neighbors in Gray Coats

by BOB CARY

One of the most interesting things about living in timber wolf country is the opportunity to study the changing attitudes of people. My wife, Edith, and I live on the Fernberg Road, 16 miles east of Ely, Minnesota, within range of three wolf packs: the Kawishiwi pack, the Snowbank pack and the Wood Lake pack. We see wolves traveling down the lakes in the winter, across the road and through the yard, along with deer, black bears in summer, marten, foxes and even an occasional migrating beaver.

Edie, up to a few years ago, was a competitive marathon runner. She met wolves a number of times while training in the early morning, and even had a few shadow her. I've met

wolves several times in the forest; once a pack of six nearly ran over me when they were coursing down a trail I was standing on. While these encounters were of considerable interest, at no time have we felt threatened, perhaps because of the wolf research done by biologists, such as Milt Stenlund and Dave Mech, to name two.

The Ojibwe people, who have a 600-year history in northern Minnesota and who identify with the wolf as a brother, have contributed to the understanding that wolves rarely attack people. Certainly the big canines are extremely powerful and can disable and kill a deer with dispatch. Indeed, I once had the opportunity to watch three wolves knock down and dismember a deer in the driveway of our



Lynn and Donna Rogers, [www.bearstudy.org](http://www.bearstudy.org)

home one bitter winter day. Also, some of our neighbors have lost pet dogs to wolves. For the uninformed, such activity can inspire a deep personal fear. And there are people yet terrified by wolves.

As our knowledge and understanding of these powerful hunters have expanded, however, fear has been largely displaced with absorbed interest. Four decades ago, Minnesota was still toying with a \$35 wolf bounty, partially because of fear, partially because controlling wolves was thought necessary for a healthy deer population. Good science eventually eliminated the bounty, and the deer continue to thrive. The fear factor is rapidly vanishing with myths like vampires and goblins.

Certainly a major factor in changing human attitudes toward wolves was the establishment of the International Wolf Center in Ely. Almost the entire local population has been through the Center at least once, many several times. The displays in the Center are graphic and truthful. There is no attempt to create a Disney concept of the wolf. But in its very honesty, the Center dispels fear. The displays coupled with a small pack of captive wolves that can be viewed through the windows of the lecture hall generate intense interest within the 50,000 annual visitors. No matter what an individual's background, the visitor who passes through the Center and attends the guided program is given an entirely new view of the wolf and its relationship to its environment and to people.

Last winter, my wife and I were living in a split-level with the first floor below ground. The windows in our TV room were at ground level. One snowy morning we ventured outside and saw the tracks of a wolf pack that had circled the house and then stopped to look into the TV room. We had not seen them, but they had been

looking in directly over our heads, no more than six feet away. From the depth their tracks had melted into the snow, they must have stood there for a considerable time.

Said my wife, Edie, "Do you suppose they were watching us through the window or watching the show on the TV screen? If they were interested in the TV, which show do you think it was?" ■

*Now 81 years old, Bob Cary has spent the past 40 years in northern Minnesota. He worked for the Ely Echo newspaper for 30 years and is currently a columnist for the Mesabi Daily News, Virginia, Minnesota. He has written numerous newspaper articles and magazine stories on the wolf and has wolf stories in several of the seven books he has published.*

by DAMIEN DEBARRA

# THE LAST IRISH

# WOLF

Let me tell you something odd. I used to work in a museum, and one lazy day I was casually chatting to three or four schoolkids about extinct Irish animals. I was confronted with a strange reaction. It started with mild cynicism and very shortly became derisive, hooting laughter.

This reaction, I was to discover, was due to the fact that the young men in question simply could not accept that wolves had ever lived in Ireland. I was, as far as they were concerned, a barefaced liar.

I went home slightly irritated about this, and I later spoke to one of my nephews about this subject. Again I was greeted with a dramatic raised eyebrow and a dismissive remark, the content of which mostly eluded me, but I did hear the words “flying pig.” My attempts to convince him of the authenticity of Irish wolves were fruitless.

“Garbage,” he told me. That was like trying to tell him that there were bears in Ireland. “As a matter of fact,” I retorted, “there *were* bears in Ireland; they’re just dead now.” The next word he used shouldn’t be repeated here, but it’s enough to say that it nicely summarized his thoughts on the subject.

The simple fact of the matter is that there were wolves in this country. A lot of them. An awful lot of them. So many, in fact, that they became one of the central threats to life and security in late

medieval Ireland. If you doubt my assertions as to their existence, then go to the Natural History Museum in Dublin, where you can see wolf remains on display. In one of Shakespeare’s plays you can even find a reference to someone’s moaning about being likened to the howling of Irish wolves.

The problem arose due to the essential nature of what a wolf is—a predator. It was doing what came naturally. This meant howling and hunting and killing cattle and sheep, all of which, during the medieval period, brought wolves into conflict with an even more ruthless, cunning and effective predator than themselves. This was, of course, humankind.

This was a conflict that would eventually lead to the wolf’s total extermination. Many people living in the current age would not have a problem with this; in fact, they would be particularly uncomfortable with the idea of wolves running wild in modern-day Ireland. I imagine that anyone who owns livestock and who has ever seen them attacked by dogs will readily nod in agreement.

Nonetheless, wolves have had a hard time of it. Their image is not good. Wolves are thought of as ruthless, bloodthirsty and vicious. Their name is synonymous with treachery, avarice and duplicity. In actual fact the real wolf, when looked at in detail, turns out to be a rather admirable animal that carries a certain nobility and charm.

Wolves are beautiful, graceful and obviously intelligent. Also, some of their personal habits are charming. With some exceptions, they tend to be monogamous, and the breeding pair in a pack bond to one another—more than can be said for your average dog. Moreover, wolves tren-

*The problem with wolves in Ireland arose due to the essential nature of what a wolf is—a predator. It was doing what came naturally. This meant howling and hunting and killing cattle and sheep, all of which, during the medieval period, brought wolves into conflict with humankind.*

William Riebig, Kishanehn Wildlife Works

chantly protect their families and defend their territories. I would go so far as to say they are the most beautiful animals on earth.

So what's the problem? Why did wolves suffer such a terrible fate in Ireland? What crime did they commit to earn the distaste and animosity of the Irish people? There is a multitude of factors, but really the answer is very simple. In fact, it can be reduced to one word: livestock. Wolves are predators. Not predators of humans as some of the stories and myths would have us believe, but of other animals. There is little evidence worldwide of healthy wild wolves attacking humans. There may be truth in some reports; certainly the isolated incidences of child lifting in India have been substantiated, and rabid wolves have been known to attack people. But wolves do not seem to regard humans as prey.

Wolves are, however, carnivores, and in order to survive, they need to hunt and to kill. When humans first arrived in Ireland, this would not have presented much of a problem as there were plenty of wild animals on which the diet of wolves was based. However, as deforestation and farming increased, a new set of problems emerged. There was now a new and seemingly limitless supply of food. This new food was slower and easier to kill, and there was a lot more of it. The result was inevitable—outright war between man and wolf.

As far back as the late 1500s, we have references to organized wolf hunting. Later, throughout the 1600s, as English forces made their presence felt in Ireland, wolves were to suffer terribly. Massive projects were set under way to clear huge sections of oak forest. This was the wolf's natural habitat, and now that it was being destroyed at a rapid pace, wolves were forced closer and closer to humans, resulting in ever increasing numbers of livestock killed.



Sylvain Mecchi, Les Loups du Géraudan

*As the wolf's natural forested habitat was destroyed at a rapid pace, wolves were forced closer and closer to humans, resulting in ever increasing numbers of livestock killed.*

The vicious circle was becoming complete. The wolves were more exposed and thus more vulnerable. The government of King James I set out guidelines for wolf extermination and how much of a reward would be given for each one killed. The plan was never actually used, but it paved the way for the actions of a certain Oliver Cromwell.

Cromwell is more infamous for his actions regarding people in Ireland, yet he was personally responsible for the extermination of what must have been hundreds, if not thousands, of wolves. In 1652 he gave orders that wolves were not to be exported from the country. Later that same year, wolf hunts were organized. The next year a scale of rewards was introduced for the different types of wolves caught—more for a mother, less for a pup and so on.

This extermination took some time, and it is not exactly clear when it was completed. Arguments have raged for centuries now as to when the “last wolf” was killed and where. Nearly every county in Ireland has at some time or another claimed to be the one where the “last wolf” was killed. However, it is reasonably safe to say that the last one died before the end of the 18th century.

When the extermination of the Irish wolf is studied, what is striking

is the alarming parallel with what is happening in modern Ireland relating to another native species that is seen as a threat to livestock by spreading tuberculosis (TB) to it. This is the badger, which has been systematically hunted and destroyed over the past eight years. Some people estimate that up to 20,000 have been slaughtered. This has been done under a state-sponsored scheme despite the fact that the most recent scientific evidence suggests that badgers are not the animals primarily responsible for the spread of TB in livestock.

It would appear that after five to six centuries, the methods have changed, the weapons have changed, and even the animal has changed. But the attitudes toward native Irish wildlife have not. ■

*The author acknowledges the original publication of this article on [www.blather.net](http://www.blather.net).*

#### For further information

 Please visit the Web site of the Natural History Museum in Dublin at [www.museum.ie](http://www.museum.ie).

*Damien DeBarra grew up in Dublin, Ireland, and now lives in Brighton, England. He worked for several years at the National Museum of Ireland and currently works in the e-learning sector.*

## Ten Years and We're Making Tracks

Starting 10 years ago, whenever the fire siren sounded in Ely, Minnesota, a unique call answered—the ambassador wolf pack at the International Wolf Center howled back.

With five wolves in residence and three puppies expected next year, the Center is raising its voice this year in celebration of serving 500,000 visitors and making a difference for populations of wolves since the Center opened in 1993.

“We owe thanks to our members and donors, Ely’s leaders, and all those interested in wolves for supporting the Center over the years,” said Board Chair Nancy jo Tubbs.

The \$3 million Center opened as a 17,000-square-foot facility featuring the *Wolves and Humans* exhibit, four live gray wolves, the blessings of Minnesota Governor Arne Carlson and more than 2,000 visitors in its first three days.

In 1996 a \$750,000 grant from the Minnesota Legislature funded the addition of a 3,000-square-foot, 125-seat wolf-viewing auditorium, a classroom and wolf enclosure improvements. A children’s exhibit featuring a crawl-in wolf den opened in 1998.

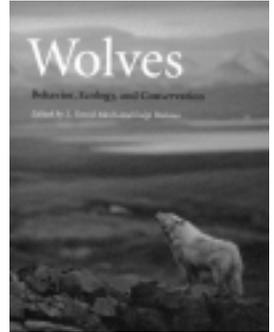
“Wolf populations have grown, always with the possibility of human-wolf conflicts,” said Executive Director Walter Medwid. “Now we are aiming educational outreach toward the Twin Cities and to the Southern Rockies. We aim factual information toward educators, students, media, legislators, policy-makers and the public in hopes of promoting healthy dialogue and decision making about wolves and the environment.”

Our heartfelt thanks to you, our many supporters over the past 10 years.



The International Wolf Center opened its 17,000-square-foot facility in Ely, Minnesota, 10 years ago.

## Heartfelt Thanks to Dave Mech and His Fellow Authors



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Megan Lampietro

## First Impressions

Few things are more rewarding than teaching young children and seeing the wonder and joy in their faces as they explore the world around them. Few children in the '03 kindergarten class at Oak Knoll School of the Holy Child in New Jersey have ever seen a wolf, but they sure know how to howl like one, according to Megan Lampietro, their teacher. At a recent class event, Dr. Robert Laud, member of the International Wolf Center's board of directors, spoke to the bright-eyed youngsters about the wolf and its relationship to humans, and brought in two Alaskan Malamutes to show the children.

When young children

Kindergarteners at Oak Knoll School of the Holy Child in New Jersey recently learned about wolves and their relationship to humans.

learn to appreciate nature and its importance to our physical and mental health, they will carry those values for years to come. By the same token, if inappropriate fear is instilled in children, they will carry that message. First impressions are very important and need to be carefully guided. Educators at the Oak Knoll School of the Holy Child strive to teach their students in the words of its founder, Cornelia Connelly, by showing dignity and respect to others through "actions

not words." When we teach children how to respect different animals in nature and show them what they can do to help protect these important animals, we are helping them to develop a compassionate and caring view of the larger world around us. Hopefully, as the children grow they will someday show their appreciation of nature through their own actions, not words, and create the right first impressions for others who follow.

Dr. Robert Laud, Morristown, New Jersey

Rolf O. Peterson,  
Michigan Technological  
University

Michael K. Phillips,  
Turner Endangered Species Fund

Douglas W. Smith,  
U.S. National Park Service

Robert O. Stephenson,  
Alaska Department of  
Fish and Game

Carles Vilá, Uppsala University

Robert K. Wayne,  
University of California

In *Wolves* these experts provide a comprehensive synthesis of more than 40 years of research. The book will likely become the definitive resource on wolves for both scientists and amateurs. *Wolves* can be purchased at the International Wolf Center's store, online at [www.wolf.org](http://www.wolf.org).



Richard Mickelson II

Lauren Messing won second place and a \$500 donation to the International Wolf Center in REI's "Camp Stove Cook-off."

## Lauren's Vegan Tropical Sloppy Wins

Recreational Equipment Inc. (REI), a national consumer cooperative providing quality outdoor gear and apparel, has proclaimed member Lauren Messing, of Edina, Minnesota, a second-place winner in the "Camp Stove Cook-off." Lauren prepared her favorite outdoor recipe for a panel of celebrity and expert judges to win a \$500 donation to the International Wolf Center. Pamela W. Zalesky, of Blaine, Minnesota, also provided a tasty effort on behalf of the Center and was one of the finalists. At right is Lauren's winning recipe: ■

### Vegan Tropical Sloppy

- 3-4 c. water
- Chopped and dehydrated:
  - 1/4 c. onions
  - 1/4 c. pineapple
  - 1/4 c. mango
  - 1/4 c. green pepper
  - 1-2 garlic cloves
  - 1 vegetable bouillon cube
  - 1 tbsp. salt
- 1 tbsp. pepper
- 1 tsp. cayenne pepper
- 1/2 c. tomato paste or catsup
- 1/3 c. sugar
- 1 c. textured vegetable protein (TVP)
- 4-6 pita breads or tortillas
- 2 tbsp. shredded coconut
- Napkins

Boil the water and add the dehydrated ingredients (onions through garlic). Stir occasionally until the fruit is tender, about 10 minutes. Spoon out half the fruit and place in a covered bowl or dish to keep it warm. Add the bouillon, salt, pepper, cayenne, tomato paste or catsup and sugar to the leftover water and fruit mixture; and bring to a boil. Shut stove off. Stir in the TVP and cover for 3-5 minutes. It may be necessary to add more water for additional sloppiness. Spoon the sloppy mixture on the pitas or tortillas, and top with the boiled fruit and a sprinkle of coconut. Then enjoy!



INTERNATIONAL WOLF CENTER

*Contributors*

*Thank You!*

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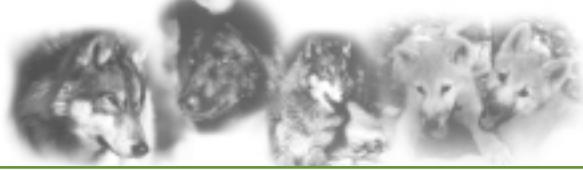
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Sylvain Mecchi, Les Loups du Gévaudan



## Tracking the Pack

### The Staff That Deliver the Care

by Lori Schmidt, Wolf Curator,  
International Wolf Center

**M**aintaining a wolf exhibit requires many skilled and trained handlers, developing long-term relationships with individual animals. So, I'd like to dedicate this issue of "Tracking the Pack" to the Ely wolf care staff, who give their time, energy and creativity to the wolves every day.

**Jen Westlund, Program Director.** Jen has been active in the wolf care program since her days as an intern in 1999, when she conducted enclosure checks and spent time socializing with the wolves between the fences. She served as a nanny to the pups Shadow and Malik during their first week in Ely in July 2000 and continues to be an important member of the wolf care team. Jen vaccinated Lucas and Malik this year and was recently trained in chemical immobilization of wildlife.

**Andrea Lorek Strauss, National Information and Education Director.** Andrea began as a naturalist in 1994, when MacKenzie, Lucas, Lakota and Kiana were yearlings. Andrea also helped socialize Malik and Shadow and continues to work with both the Retired Pack and the arctic wolves.

Andrea often works weekends as wolf care lead and keeps the pack and enclosure functioning during unexpected emergencies.

**Nancy Jo Tubbs, International Wolf Center Chair.** Nancy Jo has been actively involved with the wolf care program since its beginning. As Wolf Curator, I recall Nancy's visits and willingness to help during our first temporary exhibit in 1989. She assisted with the socialization of the 1993 litter and of the arctics in 2000. She has just rearranged her life to assist with the socialization of the 2004 litter.

**Gretchen Diessner, Assistant Director.** Gretchen came to the Center in May 2001 and has been assisting the wolf care program since her first day on the job. Even though Shadow's growling keeps her outside the enclosure, she rarely misses the Monday 8 a.m. wolf checks.

**Jon Zebrowski, volunteer.** Jon was an intern at the Center in 1997 and now serves as the coordinator for the Boundary Waters Wilderness program at Ely High School. Jon assists with the retired wolves and works in the main enclosure when the

arctics are out of the enclosure. (A bit of arctic wolf aggression limits Jon from coming into the enclosure when the wolves are present.)

All of the core Ely wolf care staff will be participating in the socialization of the new pups during summer 2004. ■

### So Long, but Not Goodbye

Recently, the Center staff said so long to Damon Haan, a Vermilion Community College natural resource student who has volunteered hundreds of hours to the wolf care program over the past three years. Damon has conducted wolf watches and scat collection, processed roadkills, constructed shelves to hold beaver carcasses, delivered medications, monitored chemical immobilization sessions and conducted educational programs. So long, but not goodbye—

Damon will be returning as the Assistant Wolf Curator for the summer 2004 to work with the new pups. When Damon left, a new student entered the program. James Yuenger, a recent graduate of the Boundary Waters Wilderness program at Ely High School, spent the past year working on a Minnesota Job Training program at the Center and will be attending Vermilion Community College's wildlife program. We look forward to James's assistance with the wolf care program for the next two years.



Volunteer Damon Haan with Jen Westlund (left) and Lori Schmidt

International Wolf Center

# Wolves of the World

## WOLVES IN SWITZERLAND

### Wolves Still Protected After Close Vote

by Neil Hutt

Singer/actress Julie Andrews immortalized the “sound of music” in the alpine meadows of Austria, but another distinctive melody now reverberates in the soaring mountains of neighboring Switzerland. The hills and pastoral uplands of this breathtaking country are not exactly alive with the haunting howls of wolves. But over the past several years, a few wolves

have crossed the border from Italy into the Swiss Alps, bringing with them a song that is, depending on one’s point of view, either soul-stirring music or the portent of doom.

These wolves have been loners, dispersers searching for mates and territories with sufficient prey to sustain a family. At least eight are known to have emigrated from Italy. Some have been hit by cars, and others have been killed outright by people opposed to wolves. No packs have settled in and reproduced as far as anyone knows. In time, they may—but only if they are accorded legal protection and treated with tolerance, particularly by sheepherders.

Through a European multinational agreement under the Bern Convention, wolves are protected in Switzerland. But since December 2001, the Swiss Council of States has debated a motion to remove these controversial predators from the list of endangered species. Some members of the council argue that Switzerland’s dense population and dependence on tourism make accommodating top predators impossible. Many sheep raisers are also opposed to wolves living in the country. If their numbers increase significantly, problems could arise over livestock losses. Wolf supporters counter that wolves could provide an attraction for tourists. They also point out that compensation for livestock depredation could cease if the wolf loses its protected status.

*Over the past several years, a few wolves have crossed the border from Italy into the Swiss Alps, bringing with them a song that is, depending on one’s point of view, either soul-stirring music or the portent of doom.*



Mike Parris,  
Wild Thing  
Photography

According to a recent poll conducted in Switzerland by the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), three out of four people support the presence of wolves in Switzerland. Surprisingly, acceptance of wolves among respondents in rural areas was only slightly lower than in urban areas. Out of 1,017 people polled by the WWF, 75 percent were in favor of allowing wolves to live in the Swiss Alps. The WWF poll indicated that approval was high for providing government subsidies to farmers for livestock damages inflicted by wolves.

On June 2, 2003, the Swiss National Council concluded the long controversy by narrowly rejecting (84 to 77) the motion to remove legal protection for the wolf. Had the motion carried, it would have had impact beyond the borders of Switzerland since such a decision would have broken the country's obligation under the Bern Convention to protect the wolf. The National Council agreed to implement the Swiss Wolf Concept, which requires the Swiss cantons to pay compensation for livestock depredations and to shoot wolves that cause damage to sheep and cattle.

The author acknowledges the following sources of information:

-  WolfNews.org, "Swiss People Like Wolves," <http://www.dogparksnow.org/articles/2003-01-international.html>.
-  The Large Carnivore Initiative for Europe (LCIE), "Switzerland Rejects Anti-Wolf Motion," June 8, 2003, <http://www.large-carnivores-lcie.org/news96.htm>.
-  Environment News Service, "Wolf Remains on Endangered Species List," <http://ens-news.com/ens/jun2003/2003-06-12-19.asp>.

Neil Hutt is an educator and International Wolf Center board member who lives in Purcellville, Virginia.

## WOLVES IN JAPAN

# Wolves: Vanquished or Victimized?

by Kevin Short



Rick McIntyre

*Without the wolves to thin them out, deer populations in Japan have skyrocketed, causing untold damage to crops and even ruining entire ecosystems.*

*This article originally appeared in the author's column "Nature in Short" in The Daily Yomiuri, May 20, 2003. Reprinted with permission.*

Few people would think of Japan as a land of wolves. Today, the only wild members of the dog family found there are the tanuki, or raccoon dog, and two local subspecies of the red fox. Also, tales involving wolves are rare among Japanese fairy tales. There are no Japanese equivalents to "Little Red Riding Hood" and "The Three Little Pigs," stories in which wolves are portrayed as fierce and dangerous monsters.

Yet, surprisingly, until a little more than 100 years ago wolves were common all over the main Japanese islands. One type, the Nihon-okami or Japanese wolf, was found on the islands of Honshu, Shikoku and Kyushu. Another, larger and heavier type, the Ezo-okami or Ezo wolf, lived on the northern island of Hokkaido.

Zoologists currently disagree on the taxonomic status of the Japanese

wolf. Most researchers classify it as an endemic subspecies of *Canis lupus*, the gray wolf, or timber wolf, once found across the temperate and subarctic zones of both Eurasia and North America. A few scientists, however, think of it as a completely different species, *Canis hodophilax*.

Actually, this debate is academic. Whether it was an endemic species or subspecies, the Japanese wolf was clearly smaller than its relatives on the Asian mainland, with proportionately shorter legs and ears. The Ezo wolf, however, was closer in size to the continental types.

One problem with classifying the Japanese wolf is that the animals were virtually extinct by the beginning of the 20th century. The last wolf ever seen was a young male trapped in Nara Prefecture in 1905.

Surprisingly, this specimen wound up not in Japan but in the British Museum in London. At that time, a zoological collecting expedition from the London Museum was at work in



Rick McIntyre

In some areas of Japan the villagers worshiped wolf spirits as local protective deities. Wolf spirits were believed to protect the crops from hares, deer and other raiders.

the Japanese mountains, and word got out that they were paying high sums for rare animals. The trapper that had caught the wolf, after long and hard negotiations, finally gave up his prize and sold the carcass to the scientists for 8 yen and 50 sen hard cash, at that time a considerable sum of money.

In addition to the British Museum, there is one more stuffed specimen in the Netherlands, and three in Japan. These five specimens, and a scattered collection of skulls and pelts, are all that is left of the Japanese wolf.

The Japanese wolves disappeared before detailed ecological studies

could be implemented. From reports and observations, however, they appear to have traveled in small packs and preyed primarily on shika deer (*Cervus nippon*).

The mountain villagers called the wolves *yama-inu*, literally “mountain-dog,” and for the most part seemed to get along with them quite well. In fact, in some areas the villagers actually worshiped wolf spirits as local protective deities.

One area where this belief in wolf spirits was widespread is the Chichibu Mountains of western Saitama Prefecture. Here the wolf spirits were believed to protect the crops from hares, deer and other raiders. This belief is most likely founded in an ancient understanding

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# As A Matter Of Fact

and appreciation of the wolves' vital ecological role in controlling the populations of herbivores.

Wolf deities are still enshrined at many Shinto shrines in the Chichibu Mountains, especially the famous Mitsumine Shrine. The wolf deity from this shrine is also believed to protect homes from thieves and intruders, and as a result, the shrine has been a popular pilgrimage spot since the 17th century.

Japanese wolves began getting in trouble during the Edo period (1603–1868). During these years the Japanese started breeding horses in large numbers, and the wolves soon found that these domesticated animals made good prey, especially in areas where deer were becoming scarce. Hunting pressure grew in provinces where horse breeding flourished, and in some parts of the country wolf bounties were established.

Another major factor in the decline of Japanese wolves was probably disease. Rabies and later distemper were brought to Japan by dogs on European trading ships. These diseases then spread to domestic dogs, and from them to wolves.

By the turn of the century the wolves had already disappeared from most prefectures. Ironically, without the wolves to thin them out, deer populations have skyrocketed, causing untold damage to crops and even ruining entire ecosystems. Some ecologists now recommend reintroducing wolves from South Korea to help control the deer.

Some people still refuse to believe that the Japanese wolf is extinct. Every few years the news media goes ballistic over reported sightings of wolves deep in the mountains of Kyushu or the Kii Peninsula.

Most experts, however, dismiss these sightings as hoaxes or feral dogs. Nowadays, the only sure place to see Japanese wolves is on carvings and plaques at mountain shrines. ■

**In what year did the International Wolf Center's present building open?**



Sherry Jokinen

The International Wolf Center's Ely, Minnesota, interpretive building opened in September 1993. With five wolves in residence and three puppies expected in 2004, the building is celebrating 10 years of serving over 500,000 visitors and making a difference for populations of wolves across the world. ■

**New Question**

**How efficient is a wolf's digestive system?**

with great surprise I realized what  
I was doing. My eyes were staring  
100 feet away. And then, I heard  
a muffled half-bark followed by  
a deep, smooth, heavy sound rising  
into the air. None of the other

# Personal Encounter

## Winter Wolf Notes

by Heather Sterling

It's mid-December in the northern range of Yellowstone National Park, and in the early morning chill I wiggle my toes inside my pack boots and stuff my hands, cold in old leather gloves, deeper into my pockets. The Geode Creek wolf pack has just killed a bull elk west of Hellroaring Creek, and I relish the thought of hunkering down for a day to observe these wolves as they alter-

nately gorge themselves on their prey and then sleep off their full bellies. My husband, John, and I have been working as volunteers for the Yellowstone Gray Wolf Restoration Project, and I'm exhausted after a month of rising well before dawn to locate the Geodes and monitor their movement, behavior and activities until dark. A kill is just what I need to get a long, satisfying look at the wolves before the study ends in two days, and I pack up to head home until March.

Suddenly, a long, low howl breaks the silence. All eight Geode wolves,

John and I simultaneously sit up, ears straining, and peer in the direction of the howl. John and I whip our spotting scopes to the east, scanning Hellroaring Slope, the massive hillside two miles away. It comes again: a deep, distinctive howl, husky and mournful. I remember that one of the biologists studying the Leopold pack this month described old male wolf 2 as having a distinct, bellowing howl. Male 2 is the last survivor of the original 14 captured in Canada to pioneer the reintroduction of gray wolves to Yellowstone in 1995. Wolf 2 is the alpha male of the Leopold pack, and



Heather Sterling and Doug Smith collect samples from a kill made by the Geode Creek pack near Little Buffalo Creek.

John Sterling

it makes sense that it might be he we're hearing this morning. His mate, wolf 7, was killed last spring, presumably by the Geode wolves, a newer pack whose territory abuts Leopold's. We've sure seen a lot of wolf 2 over the past two weeks.

We first saw interaction between the Leopold and Geode Creek packs during the last week of November. A group of Leopold wolves spent a full day lounging in a meadow just north of the Hellroaring overlook, smack in the middle of Geode territory. The Geodes, busy sleeping off a meal about two miles to the east, were seemingly unaware of their western neighbors until they came upon their scent late the following day. The Leopold wolves had already moved back into their own territory, and the Geodes went crazy when they detected the telltale signs of the trespassers. Tails erect and wagging, the pack scoured the area, sniffing and scent marking. Most of the adults did raised-leg urinations, and everyone except the three pups—who had found an old elk hide and were engaged in a romping game of tug-o-war—spent the rest of the evening exploring the site.

Since then, we've regularly watched male 2 lead a group of four black pack mates, who we now refer to as the "Ringwraiths," throughout Geode's turf. Since wolf 2 recently lost his mate, it's possible that he is searching for a new breeding female. Regardless of his purpose, the days have become a dizzying blur of wolf interactions: wolves galloping in pursuit of other wolves; bark-howled warnings; and a day last week when, alarmingly, Doug Smith, leader of the Yellowstone wolf project, spotted the Geode wolves from the airplane, lying on the rim of the Buffalo Plateau in bloodied beds. Day after day, John and I have run into the Leopold pack biologists, and we all just stand there, blinking in surprise



John Sterling

*John Sterling's footprints next to the tracks of a Geode Creek wolf.*

as yet again the two packs' radio telemetry signals are coming from the exact same area. We've watched many wolf interactions, but so often at the crux of the activity the wolves vanish from sight, behind a ridge or into trees.

After all that action, I am ready for the mellow day that this promised to be before old rabble-rouser 2 howled. But now the Geodes are howling back in response. They stop, and we all listen in the quiet morning air for a reply. I scramble to wipe the

eyepiece of my scope clean of condensation, desperate not to miss a thing. Then, suddenly, Geode's small black beta female, uncollared and therefore unnumbered, stands up and begins trotting to the east in the direction of the howling wolf. We raise our eyebrows in surprise because almost invariably the alpha female of this pack, wolf 106, leads the way. We have never seen the small black female lead a travel bout, but there she goes, moving swiftly and purposefully eastward.

One by one, the Geode wolves stand up and begin following the small black wolf as she crosses Hellroaring Creek and travels across Hellroaring Slope. Wolf 106 sits on her haunches, watching her pack-mates in the distance, and I swear it's with a look of annoyance that she finally stands up and begins following the other wolves. We watch as the wolves cross the entire width of the slope and then vanish into the trees near what we know is a common spot for them to ford the Yellowstone River.

John and I make a hurried prediction of where the wolves will be visible next and decide to drive down the road to a lower overlook in hopes of seeing the Geode wolves when they emerge from the woods on the south side of the river. We toss our gear into the too-big white government Suburban and head east slowly,

always aware of the possibility that a wolf might try to cross the road in front of us. We realize our fears all too soon when a mile down the road, a crowd has gathered at a pullout to watch four of the Geodes where they stand uneasily, about 50 yards away. We're so close I can see the wispy breath of the large black beta male when he softly woofs.

We climb out of the truck and grab our binoculars, though they are all but useless with the wolves this close. Then, out of the corner of our eyes we catch a flash of gray fur through the trees behind where we're standing and whirl around just in time to watch 106, the small black female, and two of their pack mates lope noiselessly through the snowy forest and out of sight to the east. They're still chasing male 2. I turn again and see that the three pups have also crossed the road, leaving

the black male alone in the snowy field. My heart is pounding: it's the first time I've had to endure the stress of watching these wolves try to cross a road, and I've never before seen them this close. It's our goal in this study to observe them from enough distance that our presence is undetected, and I wish desperately that I could make myself invisible.

Slowly, the black wolf turns from us and ambles off to the north, back toward the river. John and I are silent, waiting for something more to happen. Dan Stahler, a biologist with the Wolf Project, rolls up in his truck, a big grin on his face. "You'll never believe who I just saw . . . the last wolf I'd ever expect to see from my car!" Sure enough, it was wily old 2. Dan had looked up while he was driving just in time to catch sight of wolf 2 standing above the road, pausing to look down on him while traveling west, away from the Geode pursuers. Yet again, any crux of activity between the wolves has taken place out of our sight. It's one of the qualities I love best in wolves—their elusiveness at just the right moment so as to remain mysterious and somehow magical.

The next and last day of the study, John and I watch the Geode wolves as they leave the site of their bull elk meal, to which they returned sometime during the night. They travel up Hellroaring Creek in the cold morning sunshine, vanishing into the distance behind Hellroaring Mountain. All the wolves have reunited since they split at the road, except for one pup, who is still missing. I can't help but grow attached to these animals as I observe them day in and day out, and I've watched enough of this pup's goofy, endearing behavior to be saddened by his absence and possible loss.

At the end of the day, we stomp our cold feet and climb into the truck with a collective sigh but with grins

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Heather Sterling

Heather Sterling next to the bull elk killed by the Geode Pack just before wolf 2, the alpha male of the Leopold pack, howled.



John Sterling

on our faces. We're already excited at the thought of returning in March to spend our days studying the Geode wolves and to discover the fate of the lost pup. And until then, we have a lot of sleep to catch up on. ■

*Heather Sterling spent two months last winter working as a volunteer for the Yellowstone Gray Wolf Restoration Project. She is currently associate director of the Oregon Natural Desert Association, a nonprofit organization working on high desert issues including wolf restoration in Oregon.*

Heather Sterling fills out data forms as she watches the Geode Creek pack through a spotting scope



John Sterling

The area around Hellroaring Creek in the northern range of Yellowstone National Park is the Geode Creek pack's territory.

# Book Review

by Joel T. Helfrich

Space prohibits a full description of the multilayered and richly textured canvases that authors Renée Askins, Karen Jones, Bobbie Holaday and Martin Nie paint in their recent respective books, but I hope this review encourages readers to take a look at their works.

**Shadow Mountain: A Memoir of Wolves, a Woman, and the Wild** by Renée Askins is not a conventional memoir. The book is a treatise about ethics and ethical responsibility toward animals that connects the reintroduction of wolves to Yellowstone with moral tales and personal comments regarding our society's recent past. The strongest aspect of Askins's work, for this reader, is her acknowledgment of "the manipulation represented by the telemetry equipment" and the problems inherent in having captive wolf facilities. She challenges organizations that keep animals "for the amusement or education of humans." Askins thus creates a book that is not just a memoir about wolves but also a commentary about U.S. society and about our reliance on animals. She says, "the idea of giving wolves back to Yellowstone and the wild back to wilderness, could represent one step on that journey toward restoration of our relationship with the natural world."

Karen Jones's **Wolf Mountains: A History of Wolves along the Great Divide** is potentially one of the best histories on wolves in North America. Her work chronicles policies toward, and control of, wolves in four national parks in the Rocky Mountains: Yellowstone and Glacier



in the United States, and Banff and Jasper in Canada. Jones devotes one chapter to each national park. The conclusion of her work urges the reader "to consider trends and phenomena across the forty-ninth parallel" that separates the United States from Canada. According to Jones, "Wolf Mountains subscribes to a biophilic chronicle of national park development that considers non-human as well as human activity. This . . . rationale . . . reflects a desire to forge a history situating humans within a wider community of species."

Control of oneself, society and, of course, animals and specifically wolves plays a prominent role in both Askins's and Jones's books, as well as in Bobbie Holaday's **Return of the Mexican Gray Wolf: Back to the Blue**. Holaday recounts the more than 15-year effort to return the Mexican wolf to New Mexico and Arizona. As in Askins's

work, we meet a strong woman who creates a wolf-centered organization in an area still hostile to wolf reintroduction efforts. But many aspects of Holaday's account are familiar to the general public, understandable given that this is not the first effort in the United States to return wolves to the wild. Nor do New Mexico and Arizona carry the mystique of Yellowstone. Nonetheless, Holaday's story is one about which we need to know more.

Rather than place wolves in a societal, historical or "larger ecological context," Martin Nie in **Beyond Wolves: The Politics of Wolf Recovery and Management** "tries to place them in our larger democratic process, a task that is no less confusing or important." Nie deals with current policy issues as he examines the political and policy dimensions of wolf recovery and management in the United States. His book explores several issues

# News and Notes



including the values and value-based conflicts of wolf politics, the wolf as political symbol and surrogate, questions pertaining to state wolf management (regional context, political economy, state wildlife management and the like), and the use of collaboration and public participation in the wolf decision-making process. Nie's audience for *Beyond Wolves* is policy-makers and students in public policy and environmental studies, but his work is accessible to everyone, particularly those who are interested in a truly democratic approach to wolf politics.

All four of the books discussed here are extremely important and insightful. Readers will quickly see that the authors speak to each other in wonderfully exciting ways. A theme consistent throughout the essays is the perceived need of Americans to control nature. Certainly the experience of wolves in the United States exemplifies this trend. Readers will find these works invaluable resources regarding wolves in the United States (and Canada). Moreover, the books should be required reading for anyone who hopes to have a firmer understanding of the treatment, debate and, indeed, conflict regarding wolves throughout the 20th century and especially during the past 20 years. ■

*Joel T. Helfrich, a member of the International Wolf Center's magazine committee, is a Ph.D. candidate in American history at the University of Minnesota.*

**WOLVES KILL ELK** in Wisconsin. What's newsworthy about that? In recent times, Wisconsin didn't even have elk until they were reintroduced in 1995. Thus the Wisconsin wolves had no history of preying on elk.

**TWO WOLF BOOKS** are now out in paperback. *The Wolves of Minnesota: Howl in the Heartland*, edited by Dave Mech, is available from Voyageur Press for \$16.95. *The Wolves of Denali* by Mech, L. G. Adams, T. J. Meier, J. W. Burch and B. W. Dale can be obtained from the University of Minnesota Press for \$29.95.

**WOLVES IN ILLINOIS AND INDIANA?** There were recently and still may be. An ear-tagged young male wolf was found dead in eastern Indiana this summer, some 407 miles straight-line from his Wisconsin home. Earlier a 92-pound wolf that DNA showed had originated in Minnesota, Wisconsin or Michigan was shot in Marshall County, Illinois. Are there perhaps other dispersers still living in those states?

**EXPERIMENTAL WOLF CONTROL** in the Yukon is the subject of a new Wildlife Monograph by R. D. Hayes, R. Farnell, R. M. P. Ward, J. Carey, M. Dehn, G. W. Kuzyk, A. M. Baer, C. L. Gardner and M. O'Donoghue. The monograph covers the results of a five-year controlled experiment in which wolves were reduced in one area but not in another. The study concluded that wolf predation strongly limited recruitment of caribou and moose and survival of adult moose.

**THE MEXICAN WOLF** has a new recovery team, which will develop a revised Mexican Wolf Recovery Plan. The team includes both a Stakeholder Subgroup and a Technical Subgroup, and both met for the first time in Albuquerque, New Mexico, in October.

**WOLF MANAGEMENT PLANS** were finalized for Montana, Wyoming and Idaho. The plans are currently being reviewed by several wolf biologists to assess whether they will help ensure survival of wolf populations in the Northern Rockies. When the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service determines that the plans are adequate, the agency will begin formally proposing wolf delisting.

**WOLF CONFLICTS WITH HUMANS** is the subject of a November meeting by European Union delegates in Madrid, Spain. Participants will discuss how various countries deal with the problems of wolf-human conflicts, and try to determine what the best approaches have been. ■



Sherry Jokinen

# Wild Kids



## Communicating with the Moon?

by Terri Ellman, International Wolf Center Intern

A hhhwooooo! What is that noise? Where is it coming from? Why is it happening? It is a howl, probably coming from a wolf, and that wolf is most likely trying to communicate with other wolves. Humans communicate in many different ways, such as through sounds, gestures and facial expressions. Just like humans, wolves communicate in more than one way.

Scientists have determined that wolves communicate in at least three ways: vocalizations, body language and their sense of smell.

Vocalizations are how wolves communicate using sounds. They may howl, bark, growl or whimper. Howling is the vocalization that humans hear the most. Wolves howl to communicate across long distances. For instance, a lone wolf may howl

to try to find another lone wolf to start a pack with. If a local pack hears the howl though, they might howl back to tell this intruder to stay out of their territory.

Wolves howl not only to tell intruders to leave but also to communicate to the rest of the pack where they are and that they should gather together. They may be meeting to go on a hunt. This is usually in the evening because that is when wolves' prey (e.g., deer, moose and beaver) are most active. Because wolves are active at night and may howl when they catch their dinner, some people believe that wolves howl at the moon. Scientists have determined that is not true. Wolves are probably just more active at the same time the moon is out.

Whimpering is another form of vocalization. Wolves may whimper to say "hello." The lowest-ranking wolf may also whimper when it is submitting to the alpha, the highest-ranking wolf.

Barking and growling are two other ways that wolves communicate vocally. Wolves may bark or growl to express anger. If an intruder comes into a pack's territory, the adult male may give several low barks to tell the unwelcome wolf to go away. If the intruder continues to make its way in, the wolf may also growl at the visitor.

## WOLF WORK

**PERSON:** Bill Paul

**JOB TITLE AND DESCRIPTION:**

Assistant State Director/Supervisory Wildlife Biologist for the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). He has worked for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the USDA on various wolf research and control projects in Minnesota for 27 years.

**TRAINING REQUIRED:**

Bachelor's degree in some wildlife-related area.

**SKILLS NEEDED TO DO THE JOB:**

General knowledge of wildlife and ability to work outdoors with a diverse group of people including other wildlife officials and the general public.



Mary Ortiz, International Wolf Center

Bill Paul is the Assistant State Director/Supervisory Wildlife Biologist for the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

**ADVICE TO KIDS:** To pursue a career in the outdoors, go to college and get a bachelor's degree. Also, volunteer for various wildlife programs to gain experience working outdoors with people and animals.



### Activity:

Draw a line from the picture of the way humans communicate to the picture of the wolf communication that is most similar. After you finish, discuss with your parents or friends other ways that wolves and humans communicate similarly or differently.

Body language is another type of communication scientists have observed wolves using. A wolf uses body language when showing its rank. During a fight for rank position, the dominant wolf assumes a very tall posture with its tail and ears straight up. It looks like a domesticated dog that is defending its yard. The subordinate looks more like a dog that is being scolded by its owner. It has its tail between its legs, its ears down and its head lowered.

The final way that wolves communicate is by using their sense of smell. Each wolf has its own individual scent. Wolves are able to tell the difference between each wolf by that scent. Therefore, when a wolf urinates, another wolf will be able to tell if the urine came from one of the wolves in its pack or from an outsider. Wolves urinate around their territory to make sure that other wolves know that this land is already taken. It works like a “no trespassing” sign.

Humans can't urinate to make “no trespassing” signs because our sense of smell is not as good. Scientists think a wolf's sense of smell is perhaps a hundred times better than a human's is. Can you think of other ways that wolf and human communication methods are different? Can you think of any ways they are similar? Complete the activity, and see what you find. ■



Lori Schmidt, International Wolf Center



Lynn and Donna Rogers, www.bearstudy.org



Sherry Jokinen



# A Look Beyond

## Which Is the Real Wolf?

by Rik Scarce

For eight years I have studied people who live in wolf country near Yellowstone National Park and in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. I'm an ethnographer, which means I gather data through in-depth interviews in the hope of furthering understanding—in this case, improving our grasp of the differing meanings that wolf country folk create for wolves.

Meaning, in this sense, amounts to what a thing is to a social group. In other words, meanings reflect reality. As you might imagine, there is more than one wolf meaning—reality—out there, and these meanings are not found in dictionaries. Rather, meanings are social creations. Factors as varied as upbringing, economics, local traditions and outlooks, education and religion influence what people make of wolves.

I have spoken with roughly two dozen ranchers and dairy farmers living in wolf country. Most of them oppose the reintroduction and recovery efforts in their areas. But a substantial minority have told me, in so many words, "Having wolves around reminds me why I ranch in the first place. We live this life because we don't want to be cooped up inside all day. We want to experience nature." These ranchers and farmers embrace ecological principles. Having wolves on their land becomes a way of connecting to that land.

Other livestock producers imbue wolves with a quite different meaning. At one level they see wolves as potentially wreaking economic havoc by killing their animals. However, for anti-wolf ranchers and dairy farmers, wolves mean more than mere economics. They worry that wolves threaten a lifestyle dating back generations. Few of these families are wealthy; the possibility of losing a way of life that they hold dear concerns them more than losing money. For them, wolves sever connections, not create them.

Which of these wolf meanings is correct? At a recent conference, an agency biologist asked me what he could do to make wolf opponents

understand how wrong they are. I responded by suggesting that the first step may be to come to grips with how *right* they are. That is, wolf advocates need to understand that from where wolf opponents stand, it is the advocates who are wrong.

From an advocate's point of view, such a perspective turns the wolf issue on its head. Although the interests of wolf opponents have been considered in official wolf management plans, the actual meanings that wolf opponents give to wolves and wolf reintroduction have largely been ignored or overlooked, to the detriment of human and wolf communities alike. ■

*Rik Scarce is a sociologist at Skidmore College. He is the author of Fishy Business: Salmon, Biology, and the Social Construction of Nature (Temple University Press, 2000) and Eco-Warriors: Understanding the Radical Environmental Movement (Noble Press, 1990). He has studied how human and wolf communities get along since 1995.*



Mike Parris, Wild Thing Photography