



INTERNATIONAL WOLF

A PUBLICATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL WOLF CENTER
WINTER 2012

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Wolf Hunt** PAGE 4

**Love Wolves and Hate Coyotes?
A Conundrum for Canid
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INTERNATIONAL WOLF

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Features



Tribal View of Wisconsin Wolf Hunt

Ojibwe tribes look at wolves as teachers that show humans how to live on the landscape, raise young using extended family units, and persevere under persecution. Because of their intertwined fate with wolves, the Ojibwe have always been interested in doing what's best for the wolf, which does not include a public wolf hunt in Wisconsin at this time.

By Jerritt Johnston



Love Wolves and Hate Coyotes? A Conundrum for Canid Enthusiasts

Coyotes are a lot like wolves. They are territorial, social pack animals, so why are coyotes widely despised while wolves often enjoy an almost mythical status among many wildlife enthusiasts?

By Jonathan Way



With Elk and Wolves, Someone is Fibbing

Predictions that wolves would decimate elk populations in the Yellowstone region have not proven true based on comments posted on the Web sites of outfitters, yet these same outfitters claim wolves have "ruined" the region's elk herds.

By Todd Wilkinson

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From the Executive Director

A Year in the Making Hangs on a Moment

The auditorium at the International Wolf Center looked like the paparazzi had arrived and were awaiting royalty. In the early morning of that last day in July, the atmosphere was electric with anticipation of the introduction of our newest wolf pups, Boltz and Luna, to the Exhibit Pack. Suddenly the buzz of volunteers and staff at the observation stations ceased as Boltz and Luna took their tentative first steps into the main enclosure. Within seconds a staccato clicking of camera shutters erupted, breaking the silence of those who anticipated this moment.



Rob Schultz

The next minutes and hours would be critical to the success of the introduction. How would Aidan and Denali react? Would the pups submit to the adults? Would Luna's new packmates notice the previous injury to her right leg, and would it become a cause for concern? As I looked around at the exhausted faces of our Wolf Care staff and volunteers, I recognized the unusual mix of professional caution and optimism demonstrated by this truly dedicated team. It was graduation day for Boltz and Luna to be sure, but it was also a day of great triumph for all the volunteers and staff who helped these pups and all the pups before them.

What a privilege to be here, in this moment. And what a relief that it went so well!

As I reflect on the success of that day, I am compelled to recognize the incredible people behind the scenes who carry on the traditions of our ambassador wolves program. Since the pups' April arrival, these people have provided around-the-clock care, spending thousands of hours observing, feeding, weighing and performing socialization care. And they faced many unexpected challenges along the way: Luna's life-threatening injury, her successful surgery, a wildfire that caused the pups to be evacuated to safety and Luna's slow recovery and weight gain. Through it all, Wolf Curator Lori Schmidt—along with her dedicated staff and volunteers—never wavered.

Our ambassador wolves play a critical role in how we educate people about these magnificent creatures. To stare into the eyes of wolves like Boltz and Luna engages you like no document can. Such encounters can actually change the way we view the natural world and our level of responsibility to care for it.

To all of you who participated and continue to support these efforts I simply want to say, thank you for a job well done! ■

Rob Schultz, Executive Director

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Some Tribal Perspectives on Wisconsin's First Wolf Hunt

by JERRITT JOHNSTON

Editor's Note: The following interview with Peter David, wildlife biologist with the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC), was conducted by Jerritt Johnston, education director for the International Wolf Center.

Johnston: Can you tell me a little bit about GLIFWC and its role in the recovery of gray wolves in the Western Great Lakes region?

David: GLIFWC is an intertribal agency made up of eleven Ojibwe tribes in the Western Great Lakes region including six in Wisconsin, two in Minnesota and three in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. Each member tribe holds off-reservation treaty rights, and we assist our tribes in the implementation and exercise of those rights on the lands they ceded to the United States in various treaties. Over the years, we have worked with the states and other partners in wolf recovery efforts including participating in the development of wolf-management plans in all three states. That

being said, while we tried to infuse tribal perspectives into those plans, ultimately they were written by the states for the states and without tribal concurrence on management goals.

Johnston: Can you explain GLIFWC's understanding of the treaty rights granted to tribal governments in relation to wildlife management?

David: The first point to understand regarding treaty rights is that these rights were never "granted" to the tribal governments. They are rights that the tribes always held and which they specifically retained when they signed particular land-ceding treaties with the U.S. government. The rights retained are referred to as usufructuary, or use, rights.

For many of the species that we apply this concept to, use of the animal tends to get simplified down to harvest, because for species like walleye or deer the primary use is harvesting for subsistence purposes. However, the tribes really "use" wolves in a fundamentally different way; they use living wolves and they benefit from the ecological services wolves provide. And it's those kinds of uses of wolves that the tribes desire to retain today.

Johnston: Can you speak to how wildlife management, and specifically wolf management, might be approached differently by tribal governments than by state governments?

David: Well, obviously when you are talking about wolves or any other species, the biology of the animal is the same whether you are looking at it from a tribal or a non-tribal perspective. But different cultural perspectives can lead to different management goals, and the tribal cultural perspectives toward *ma'iingan* (the wolf) are probably more profoundly different than the dominant non-tribal perspective for any species we manage.

To the Anishinaabe (Ojibwe), wolves were never seen as the sort of villain that they are often made out to be in some European cultures. The wolf holds a critical role in the Anishinaabe creation story. In that teaching, when the Original Man on the planet found himself lonely, the Creator initially provided him companionship by sending *ma'iingan*. After they traveled the Earth together, the Creator separated the two, but indicated that their futures would be intertwined—what would happen to one would happen to the other. So the Ojibwe have always understood

the wolf to be their brother. They look at wolves as teachers, showing, for example, how to live on this landscape, how to raise young using family units, how to persevere under persecution—all the traits necessary to survive in this often-harsh environment. And because of their intertwined fates, the Ojibwe have always been interested in having the best for the wolf, because that's obviously what they want for their own people as well.



Mike Posais

ma'iingan

Johnston: Can you describe the Wisconsin wolf-management plan and your organization's position on it?

David: That seems like a pretty straightforward question, but I find it a little tricky to answer right now. Wisconsin has a wolf-management plan that was drafted nearly 15 years ago when we had about 200 wolves in the state. Right now, with the passage of the hunting bill, the state seems to be sort of selective about which parts of that plan it is willing to embrace and which parts have been set aside. While the possibility of hunting was

considered in that plan, this rapid introduction, immediately on the heels of delisting with very limited input from the public and very minimal coordination with the tribes, is not the approach described in the plan.

One of the reasons GLIFWC has focused its efforts in Wisconsin is because relative to Minnesota, the approach in Wisconsin is much more draconian in terms of the impact it will have on the wolf population. In particular, Minnesota is not looking to substantially alter the population this first season, while Wisconsin has that as a specific goal. And that's one of the biggest issues that remains in the

Wisconsin wolf-management plan; not only is it badly out of date—failing to incorporate what we've learned over the last 15 years—but it also has this somewhat poorly defined population goal of 350 animals. As someone who was part of the team that drafted that original management plan, I can tell you that 350 was supposed to be a management threshold above which certain management activities would be permissible. Others, however, have glommed onto that 350 figure and said, "That's our goal for the state, and we need to reduce the population down to it." That's a position the tribes are very much at odds with.

Johnston: How many wolves are there in Wisconsin?

David: The most recent estimate we have, which was for early spring 2012 before pups were born and the population was at its low point in the annual cycle, was approximately 850 wolves. This number comes from an intensive survey coordinated by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, and we have a high level of confidence in the figure.

Johnston: What do biologists know or think about the carrying capacity for wolves in Wisconsin and how will this management plan impact the population?

David: This is a very important question that—unlike in Minnesota—still needs a good answer.

When the Wisconsin management plan was written, many biologists felt that the carrying capacity in the state was likely around 500 wolves. We obviously now have factual evidence that it's higher than that. Unlike in Minnesota where the population is stable, the Wisconsin wolf population is still growing. That growth has slowed in recent years, but we still really don't know what the biological carrying capacity is in the state. That's unfortunate. From a management perspective, Wisconsin would have been much further ahead had the population been allowed to reach its natural level on the landscape



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They look at wolves as teachers, showing, for example, how to live on this landscape, how to raise young using family units, how to persevere under persecution—all the traits necessary to survive in this often-harsh environment.

before initiating a harvest. That would have made it much easier for us to make intelligent decisions about how to best manage the population.

This ties into one of the fundamental differences between the goal of the tribes and the goal of the state. The tribes' goal is to allow wolves to reach their natural level, or biological carrying capacity, in the ceded territory. In Wisconsin, that hasn't happened yet. We still have areas of suitable habitat that are not fully occupied. The state of Wisconsin's goal for the 2012 fall hunt is to reduce the population and to drive it in the direction of 350 wolves.

We'd like to see a fully functional wolf population on the landscape that's able to provide the ecological services that the tribes benefit from. Although conclusive studies have yet to be done regarding some of the services the wolf can provide, we believe they include improving the health of the deer population. With the first documented presence of chronic wasting disease in the Wisconsin ceded territory, this service could be more critical than ever. (For instance, some wildlife experts, including Valerius Geist, an expert on deer and elk and professor emeritus at the University of Calgary, believe wolves can help stop the spread of chronic wasting disease by killing weak and debilitated animals, thus removing infected individuals from the environment.) They also create areas where the deer population is more in line with the landscape. This could have an impact on the over-browsing that we suspect is happening with medicinal plants of interest to the tribes. Wolves could also benefit the tribes (and others) by dampening high coyote populations. With recent studies showing the marked impact from coyotes preying on deer fawns and with high coyote populations being associated with high Lyme disease areas, these services could be substantial.

Johnston: Can you describe the interaction between GLIFWC and the Wisconsin legislature since the state announced its hunting and trapping plans?

David: We've had great concern about the process that led to the implementation of this season. The first bill was introduced the very day that wolves lost Endangered Species Act protection. The first public hearing was held just three business days later. We received no formal notification from the state about that. Biologists and many other wolf agencies and private organizations were left in the dark as well.

We're also concerned that there's been a real lack of effort to try to coordinate management considerations between the state and the tribe. For many species that were addressed during the legal cases that reaffirmed treaty rights, we have management stipulations—large areas where we have come to agreement with the state on how particular management schemes should be applied for species like deer and walleye. We have no management stipulation on *ma'iingan*, and I think that's a huge issue. The state has put a great deal of effort and resources toward getting this first hunt done very rapidly under quasi-emergency status but has made very little effort to work cooperatively with the tribes on management concerns. We have come out in opposition to this public harvest and have declared all of the wolves in the Wisconsin territory as being necessary at this time to fulfill our management goals. And our tribes have been very clear that they have no interest in a wolf hunt at this time.

Johnston: What about the reduction the state made in the quota allocating 85 wolves to the tribes?

David: It was a curious action. The state indicated the reason it made the change was it "had not been able to reach agreement" with the tribes about "an appropriate Tribal season," and that it could decide "at a later date... to implement a Tribal season." Yet the Tribes had made it perfectly clear they would not be harvesting wolves. It's noteworthy that the original quota of 201 established by upper-level administrators from the Wisconsin

Department of Natural Resources was about 75 animals higher than the maximum figure suggested by the state's own biologists. This has led many people to believe that the state inflated the quota, assuming the tribes would try to protect wolves by making a "harvest" declaration and then not take the animals. When the tribes didn't go that route, the state had to reduce its quota to keep the total human-induced mortality (including harvest, depredation and illegal and accidental kill) below 50 percent of the spring population count.

Johnston: Is a reasonable resolution to these differences possible?

David: I think it's important to remember that this doesn't have to unfold in an adversarial environment. We have seen in the context of waterfowl management that cooperative management of shared resources is not only critical but also good for the resource, and it can be here as well. But the first step that is needed is for both sides to commit to working together and strive for consensus in management whenever possible. ■

For more information on topics discussed in this article, see:

 Taal Levi, A. Marm Kilpatrick, Marc Mangel, and Christopher C. Wilmers, *Deer, predators, and the emergence of Lyme disease*, PNAS 2012 109 (27) 10942-10947; published ahead of print June 18, 2012

 James E. Meeker, John E. Elias, and John A. Heim, *Plants Used by the Great Lakes Ojibwe*, Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission, Odanah, Wis., 1993.

Peter David, wildlife biologist with the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission, received his education from the University of Wisconsin Madison, where he obtained bachelor's and master's degrees in wildlife ecology, and from the tribal elders and members he has worked with for the last 25 years.

by JONATHAN WAY

OVER THE PAST 30 YEARS wolves have gained an almost mythical status among many wildlife enthusiasts, probably more than any other animal currently enjoys. What is intriguing is that the wolf's smaller cousin, the coyote, does not enjoy the same favorable viewpoint. Let's explore some potential reasons why.

Biology and Ecology

Coyotes are a lot like wolves. They are territorial, social pack animals (although the coyote's average pack size is often smaller). Lone coyotes, just like lone wolves, are often young dispersing animals not associated with a pack. These animals are simply trying to establish a territory of their own, often many miles from where they were born. Coyotes range in size from 18 to 30 pounds (8 to 13 kilograms) for the western variety (gener-



Love Wolves



and Hate Coyotes?

{ A Conundrum for Canid Enthusiasts }

Photos— Wolf (above): International Wolf Center; All Coyotes: Jonathan Way

ally Ohio west) to 30 to 50 pounds (13 to 22 kilograms) for eastern coyotes.

One major difference between the two canids is that wolves generally do not live in human-dominated areas (although there are exceptions like in Romania) while coyotes do. Coyotes in urbanized areas generally behave similar to coyotes in less urbanized environments. They are both social and live in stable packs; have a mostly natural diet (e.g., fruits, rodents, rabbits and deer fawns); preferentially reside in more natural (i.e., wooded) areas of their heavily urban ranges; and guard their living area from conspecifics, making them territorial. Despite being similar to wolves, coyotes generally have three major differences: they typically eat smaller prey than wolves, which mostly rely on large ungulates; they have territories that are about one-tenth as large; and an enduring trait of coyotes is that they rarely kill each other over territorial intrusions, which is one of the most common causes of wolf deaths in populations not hunted.

Positive Ecological Attributes

The recent literature is rife with accounts documenting the importance of predators, including coyotes, on the landscape. For example, it has been shown that the presence of coyotes can promote a higher number of songbirds by reducing domestic cat predation on birds. In addition, coyotes can promote higher diversity of species (e.g., songbirds and rodents) by decreasing the abundance of smaller meso-predators such as skunks, foxes and domestic cats through direct killing or avoidance. Urban coyotes can also reduce overabundant Canada geese populations in some metropolitan areas and possibly populations of white-tailed deer. The presence of coyotes could even benefit preferred game species such as waterfowl and sage grouse by reducing fox numbers. Thus, coyotes can bring important, positive ecological effects, especially in urban areas where coyotes are the dominant carnivore and function as a top-order predator.

Legal Killing Methods

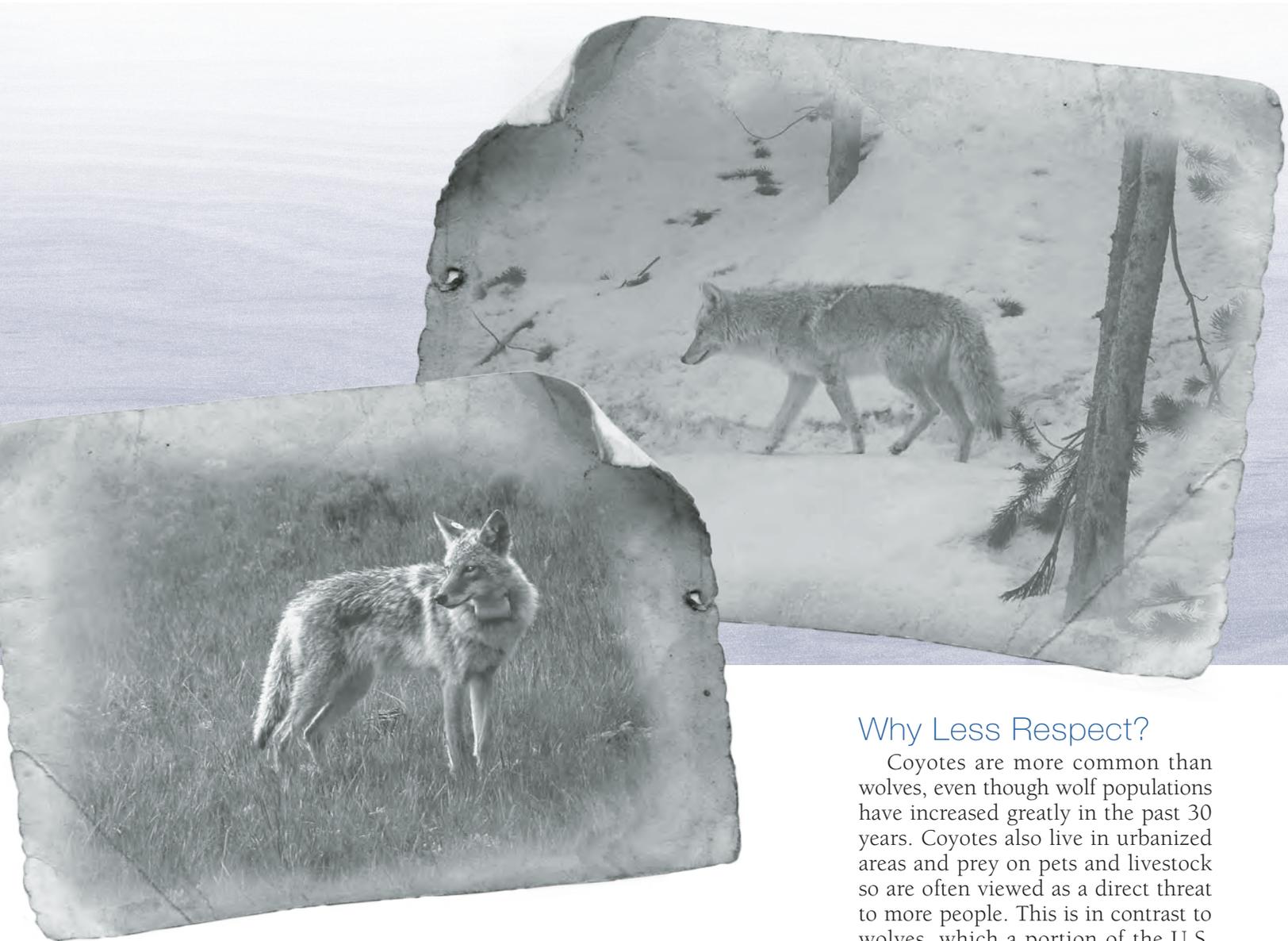
Despite the positive ecological aspects associated with coyotes, 42 of 49 (86%) U.S. states allow unlimited take, which means there is no closed season, and bag limits per hunter are unlimited, suggesting that coyotes have little to no value or that limitless take is simply an outgrowth of past eradication efforts and old-school predator management. Hunters can use a variety of techniques such as poison (in some instances), traps, snares, baiting, night hunting and predator calls. Many of these methods of hunting and killing (e.g., traps and baiting) are not favored by a large majority of the U.S. public. In addition, taxpayer money is used to kill 80,000 so-called problem coyotes per year, largely in the West. Aerial hunting kills about 30,000 of these. By some accounts, more money is spent

killing coyotes than the value of the actual damage they cause. In essence, coyotes have been shot, trapped, poisoned, snared, killed with coyote “getters” laced with poison and tortured for centuries. But where is the public outcry and the lawsuits to prevent this?

Regardless of these lax hunting regulations, coyotes have expanded their range. Herein lies the conundrum: Coyotes are expanding their range to all reaches of North America, yet they are vilified by state fish and game agencies in charge of protecting them.

Many wildlife advocates bemoan the recently implemented wolf seasons in the three Northern Rocky Mountain states that include trapping, hunting over bait, soon-to-be liberal bag limits and no closed season in parts of





Wyoming, but these techniques (and then some) are currently allowed with coyotes in the vast majority of the country. It is a literal legal slaughter, and the majority of the public does not seem to care, or at the least not enough to do anything about it. Why?

State wildlife departments support these slaughters, arguing that the animal won't go extinct. However, that potentially ignores the biological and ecological importance of coyotes as well as the ethical and humane concerns associated with slaughtering a species.

Taxonomy

Interestingly enough, the eastern coyote has native eastern wolf genes in its DNA makeup (see "Eastern Coyote: Coyote, Wolf, or Hybrid?" *International Wolf* Fall 2008), and according to published research, these coyotes could

be called "coywolves" due to their intermediate morphology and genetic profile. Many of the coyotes moving from the Great Lakes area to the Mid-Atlantic region possess wolf genes as well, but to a lesser extent than coywolves. However, all of these hybrid animals are simply called coyotes. Few states protect them, almost seemingly because of their name. Western states allow open, year-round seasons, while some states that have a regulated season (like Massachusetts) allow hunters to use bait and to hunt from their houses and have a long (almost half-year) hunting season with no bag limits.

Regardless of canid genetics, all coyotes are in the same family (Canidae) and genus (*Canis*) as wolves and could simply be thought of as little wolves.

Why Less Respect?

Coyotes are more common than wolves, even though wolf populations have increased greatly in the past 30 years. Coyotes also live in urbanized areas and prey on pets and livestock so are often viewed as a direct threat to more people. This is in contrast to wolves, which a portion of the U.S. public views as a romantic novelty that lives in some far-off wilderness that few visit. As Frank Vincenti of the Wild Dog Foundation said, "Americans are naturally drawn to big, charismatic, fallen heroes like wolves and bears, but coyotes are relegated to being small, sneaky, cowardly and untrustworthy."

In parts of the country, however, wolves are despised, feared and treated as a threat to a way of life. Proposals for hunting go beyond normal means and include some of the unfavorable methods used to take coyotes, such as baiting and trapping.

Wolves became a poster child for the Endangered Species Act in the 1970s and thus became federally protected. Now that some studies have documented positive impacts wolves have on landscapes, wolves have become the iconic animal associated with wilderness and ecosystem restoration, and this viewpoint remains

despite some scientific controversy about the actual level of influence wolves have had on the landscape. In contrast, coyotes have always been managed by states that are typically more hostile to predatory species. And despite some pretty torturous treatment, coyotes manage to survive and outwit even the most determined attempts to eradicate them. This animal is simply viewed by many people as a pest or vermin, something undesirable to be disposed of.

What Can Be Done?

As a biologist studying this creature, I see an incredibly adaptable and family-oriented animal that is personable, social, and sentient and an important member of the ecological community. I have a moral and ethical problem with how most states treat them as vermin, especially since only a minority of people hunt, and wildlife watching is now a considerably larger component of the economy. Just because coyotes can reproduce quickly does not mean they do not have feelings when they lose a mate, for instance. I think these social, intelligent animals feel loss. Accordingly, I strongly believe all states should have strict bag limits and seasons and consider banning some of the least favorable hunting methods such as baiting. Treating coyotes otherwise sends the wrong message as to their value both ecologically and aesthetically.

While many national environmental groups such as Defenders of Wildlife and National Wildlife Federation have long supported recovered wolf populations, an upsurge in the “common species novelty” is occurring. Organizations such as Project Coyote, Wild Earth Guardians, Predator Defense Institute, Eastern Coyote Research (my organization), Wild Dog Foundation, Massachusetts Coyote Alliance and Coyote Watch (Canada) among others focus on and view coyotes in a positive light and try to help foster coexistence between coyotes and humans. I hope the public will soon realize that coyotes are just as important as other

more novel animals like the wolf. Certainly, range and population-wise, they have a larger collective ecological impact than wolves.

Some things that can be done to improve the coyote’s image are: document and refer to studies that indicate their ecological importance; afford the animal more protections through lobbying and/or ballot initiatives; and discuss their social, family-oriented nature with lawmakers and other stakeholders associated with wildlife management. While some of this has been done, it has not been systematically conducted and has definitely not been incorporated into state management plans.

It might be necessary to craft some kind of federal canid or predator protection act that establishes baseline protections for all canids (or all predators), animals believed by many to be disproportionately important members of ecological communities yet essentially managed by hunting and trapping interests at the state level. This law could grant exceptions to protection (on private land, for instance), but it would recognize that other stakeholders now associated with wildlife have had essentially no say in management. Given the relative lack of danger posed by coyotes living

near people versus the ecological services they could provide, these thoughts should not be ignored.

In theory, leaving territorial adult coyotes alone could help naturally regulate populations and promote long-term coexistence with humans, especially when humans modify their behavior (e.g., not leaving food outside, keeping cats inside and leashing dogs) to prevent confrontations. This would encourage coyotes to forage for natural food and allow the general public to enjoy coexisting with this pretty cool canid. ■

Jonathan Way is the author of Suburban Howls, an account of his experiences studying eastern coyotes and coywolves in eastern Massachusetts. His business, Eastern Coyote Research (www.EasternCoyoteResearch.com), is currently seeking an institution that will support him and his goals for long-term ecological research. He works seasonally for Cape Cod National Seashore, is a part time post-doctoral researcher with the Yellowstone Ecological Research Center and a frequent traveler to the Yellowstone area. He is currently seeking a publisher for two different book projects: My Yellowstone Experience (see coywolf.org) and Coywolf.





EDITOR'S NOTE: *The following article first appeared in the Bozeman Daily Chronicle on May 19, 2012, and is reprinted here with permission.*

Nearly a decade ago, I wrote a column about the doomsday predictions of Robert T. Fanning, Jr., then chairman of a wolf-loathing group called Friends of the Northern Yellowstone Elk Herd.

Shortly after the new millennium began, Mr. Fanning made several bold statements. "The Yellowstone ecosystem has become a biological desert...a wasteland," he said. "We predict that the largest migrating elk herd on Earth will be completely extinct in three years. We predict that entire communities in Montana will vanish because no one spoke up for social justice for the people who were forced to live with wolves."

When three years passed and there were still elk in the Yellowstone region, millions of tourists still coming to spend huge sums of money watching wildlife of all kinds in the national parks, and human settlements in Montana still intact, the absurdities didn't go away.

Mr. Fanning certainly didn't either; in 2012, he ran unsuccessfully for governor of Montana as a Republican on an anti-wolf platform. He finished in the back of a pack of primary election contenders.

With Elk and Wolves, Someone is Fibbing

by TODD WILKINSON

As we all know, the perception that wolves are “decimating” wildlife, especially elk, is rife on AM radio airwaves. We hear it stated as fact by outfitters and guides at public meetings, and invoked by governors in Wyoming, Montana and Idaho as justification for killing lots of lobos.

Wyoming Gov. Matt Mead in his 2012 state of the state address said wolves were a threat to outfitters. If it's true—this claim of wolf-caused wapiti Armageddon—then it sure doesn't align with what outfitters and guides are telling clients on their websites.

I've spent several days reading 60 different outfitter Internet sites up and down the Rockies, from the Wind River Mountains of Wyoming to the Canadian border. Not a single proprietor of guided hunts mentions anything remotely suggesting that wolves are annihilating elk herds or jeopardizing the quality of hunts.

Quite the contrary: Many outfitters making their living in the heart of wolf country would have clients believe that elk hunting is as good as it's ever been. Indeed, state wildlife statistics show that, overall, elk numbers have, in general, never been higher in modern times.

In Internet pitches to customers, outfitters tout high hunter success rates, healthy herds, glowing levels of client satisfaction, and plenty of return business, which means if elk hunters weren't bagging wapiti they wouldn't be coming back.

Nowhere, not on any official outfitter webpage or brochure, is there a caveat emptor warning high-paying clients that wolves are destroying hunting. Gallery photos abound showing smiling clients sitting next to massive elk harvested last season.

So who are we to believe—the outfitters who insist wolves have ruined elk herds or the very same outfitters selling “elk hunting trips of a lifetime”?

Consider this pronouncement from a well-known Jackson Hole, Wyoming, hunting purveyor that guides near the southeast corner of Yellowstone: “Our area produces not only some of

the largest trophies taken each year in Wyoming, but often records the highest harvest percentage for elk in the state.”

Or this statement from a different Teton County, Wyoming, outfitter operating in the same general area. “Great 2011 hunting season—28 bulls killed!” he boasted on his website. “We usually have one of the highest success rates in the Jackson Hole area!”



Or this from an outfitter in Bondurant, Wyoming: “With tremendous numbers of animals our success rates have been near 100 percent the past five years.”

Or this from a guiding outfit in the Frank Church Wilderness of Idaho, where wolves have reportedly “wiped out” all the elk necessitating draconian wolf control: “Most of our [elk] hunters are satisfied, repeat customers, and they're our best advertisement.”

Or this from hunting guides in Paradise Valley, Montana, just beyond the north boundary of Yellowstone: “High opportunity for trophy class elk” and “extremely high client return rate ten years straight.”

Or this from backcountry specialists in Cody, Wyoming, who guide on the Shoshone and Bridger-Teton national forests: “Last year 29 out of 30 clients shot an elk (97 percent). Bottom line,

hunter success is so good because there are so many elk in our area.”

I could go on and on and on with good news from backcountry camps—with guides and outfitters bragging of how great the hunting is in *their own words*. And when I do I think of Shakespeare in Hamlet, Act 3, Scene 4, in which the bard makes reference to characters hanging themselves by their own petard.

When Gov. Mead and county commissioners in the three states say the wolf population needs to be aggressively controlled because it's a “threat” to outfitters, what exactly do they mean?

They ought to spend some time reading outfitter websites. One way or another, someone's not being honest. Either clients are being fibbed to and therefore, outfitters are engaging in false advertising, or the public is being misled with declarations of elk apocalypse. Which is it? ■

Todd Wilkinson, a Minnesota native, is a writer, hunter, and angler who has lived in Bozeman, Montana, for almost 25 years. He is author of a new book: Last Stand: Ted Turner's Quest To Save A Troubled Planet, slated for publication in spring 2013.



Tracking the Pack

And Then There Were Four...

by *Lori Schmidt, wolf curator,
International Wolf Center*

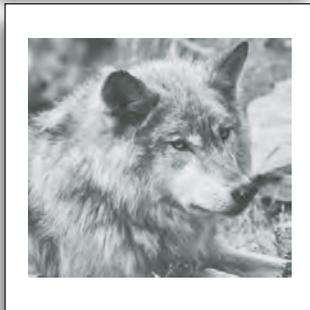
On Monday, July 30, the International Wolf Center implemented the introduction plan for the 2012 pups. They became the newest members of the Exhibit Pack, which now contains four wolves: Aidan, Denali, Boltz and Luna.

Wolf Care staff gathered at 7 a.m. to start the multi-stage process. The introduction was completed in

a small holding enclosure to allow for better control when the pups met the adults. The staff first brought Aidan, the dominant of the two adult wolves, into the holding enclosure where the pups were waiting. Aidan showed strong dominance toward the pups, using hard muzzle bites to control their excitable greetings and try to force them into submissive postures. This is normal behavior high-ranking wolves use to calm the excit-

able energy pups can display. After the pups had 20 minutes with Aidan, Denali, the second ranking male, was introduced. He showed no dominance behavior toward the pups, but displayed some of the same excitable running behavior that the pups exhibited.

The pups each reacted differently to meeting the adults. Boltz, the male pup, was very quick to submit, likely due to the staff's use of a dog, Oscar, to trigger submission during the past three months of socialization. With every pup litter raised at the Center, the Wolf Care staff has introduced the pups to a dog that asserts domi-



Aidan stands over Boltz while growling at Denali.

nance and helps condition them to be submissive when they approach a larger canid.

Luna, the female pup, was under medical restrictions for nearly nine weeks during the socialization process. Her femur fracture and low bone density issues, which made her bones prone to fractures, prevented her from working with Oscar. During the introduction, Luna was very reluctant to submit. She would run rather than greet and submit like Boltz. Her running behavior invited chase from the adults, and Aidan had several documented behaviors of using his paw to force her to the ground and submit.

Due to Boltz's willingness to greet in a submissive

posture and Luna's tendency to run away, the focus during the first few days of the introduction was on Luna. The adults showed no interest in her healed rear leg, but displayed several instances of active dominance, mainly involving the scruff of her neck. As time went on, Aidan clearly became more protective of the pups, bringing them food and guarding them from Denali.

During the first week of the introduction, a team of observers on rotating shifts provided around-the-clock observation. The Wolf Care staff will continue to monitor the pack with weekly postings to Wolf Logs and YouTube at www.wolf.org. ■

International Wolf Center 3 August 2012 - The 2012 Pup Introduction

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All photos taken by International Wolf Center staff.

Luna is smaller than Boltz but more food aggressive.



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CORRECTION:
The following memorial gifts were incorrectly listed in the Fall 2012 magazine.

In memory of Poggie:

Bonnie Hooks Decker
 Barbara Eberhart
 Cheryl Flinn
 Carol Kah
 Tracie Koziura
 Tina Owens
 Michele Puzello
 Sandra Sheehy

Honorary

In honor of the introduction of Boltz and Luna:

Gail Ramee

In honor of Kathy Boutros' 32 years of dedicated service to the Shawnee Library:

The Shawnee Library

In honor of Pam Churn:

Lorianne Churn

In honor of Linda Cook's birthday:

Barbara Cook

In honor of Grizzer:

Josh French

In honor of Jerry Sanders' birthday:

Richard and Joan Hinchcliffe

In honor of Lori Schmidt and the rest of the International Wolf Center staff. You got the pups into the pack!:

Joyce Wells

In honor of Sue Wolf's birthday:

Sandra Zoumbaris

Matching Gifts and Foundations

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Dana Pond

Ann Raspberry

Lynn and Donna Rogers

Theresa Williams

Estates

Edna Lamb



Remembering TRACY WEEKS 1965-1992

The International Wolf Center honors Tracy Weeks — a young woman who loved wolves and who is greatly missed by her family and friends.

Wolves of the World

Updates From Around the Globe

by Tracy O'Connell

The constant battle for and against wolves continues globally. A brief summary of some of what is happening around the world—both to conserve and manage wolves—is presented below.

SWITZERLAND:



Swiss sheep could soon find a high-tech protector against wolves—text messages sent to their shepherds when the animals' heart rates rise. Sheep have a heart rate of 60 to 80 beats per minute, which triples when stressed. Tested on 12 sheep wearing collars with heart-rate monitors, similar to those worn by runners, and a mobile chip, the device could replace sheepdogs, which owners of small flocks can't afford.

Wolves coming into the Alps from Italy are attacking growing numbers of Swiss sheep. Frightened sheep damage fences and flee, sometimes for miles. The new alerting system is not yet perfected, so development continues. Since text messages might not summon the shepherds in time, a new prototype would feature a wolf repellent, either a spray or a noise, activated when the text message is sent.

While the type of repellent is unknown at this time, the final prototype is scheduled to be tested in Switzerland and France in 2013. Norway has also shown an interest. Dr. Jean-Marc Landry, from the Swiss carnivore research group Kora, is heading the project and is the author of the report *Non-lethal Techniques for Reducing Predation*.

FRANCE:



Wolves were seen this summer for the first time since the 1920s in the sheep-rearing area in Lozère in the southern Auvergne. *The New Zealand Herald* reported that Jose Bove, sheep farmer turned environmentalist, called for wolves to be shot, drawing protest from others in France's Green Party, who noted the wolf is protected by European law.

Bove was a hero when he drove a bulldozer through a McDonald's restaurant in 1999, and he served prison terms for cutting down genetically modified crops. But he says the gray wolf is not a green issue. "We can't be against the depopulation of the countryside and create areas in which farmers cannot make a living," he said.

Italian wolves, which recolonized the French Alps two decades ago, have multiplied to about 200 spread among 20 packs. Experts said they could reach the forests south of Paris in less than 10 years. They can be shot legally only by government sharpshooters or shepherds trained to defend their flocks from an attack. Shepherds are expected to invest in guard dogs, lighting and electric fences, which some said are financially ruinous. Others cited the more than 1,000 wolves in Italy and 2,000 in Spain, where sheep farms thrive.

PORTUGAL:



Herders are being encouraged to use ancient breeds of guard dogs now that wolves are protected. The breeds, such as the *Cão de Castro Laboreiro*, *Cão da Serra da Estrela* and *Cão de Gado Transmontano*, were highly valued for their protective instinct and innate ability to bond strongly with the



Two Iberian wolves.

animals under their care. The practice of using dogs had fallen into disuse after poisoning and other means stripped the country of wolves.

With the Iberian wolf now protected and rebounding, the wolf conservation organization Grupo Lobo gives farmers a free dog but has a strict contract as to its training, care and use. Farmers submit to regular research and monitoring. So far, 300 dogs have been placed with 170 livestock breeders. For the size of herd that some run, however, three to four dogs are needed.

SPAIN:



Researchers found that the Iberian wolf's landscape, rather than food availability, is predictive of its distribution. Difficult terrain and brush height and density determine refuge. The study, done in Galicia, an autonomous region in northwestern Spain, and led by Luis Llaneza, researcher at Asesores en Recursos Naturales (A.RE.NA.), used excrement samples and DNA molecular analysis.

Landscape was most important for animal safety while presence of humans was second and food availability third. Humans cause 91 percent of wolf deaths: 65 percent killed by vehicles, 20 percent by poaching and 6 percent by legal hunting.



Jan Gerrits



Peter Dettling

The team will next look at other factors that influence wolf survival where humans live, including the extent to which wolves are tolerated.

SWEDEN:



Epoch Times reported a singular hatred for wolves exists in Sweden, where about 300 wolves inhabit a country the size of California with nine million people. After wolves were hunted to extinction in the 1960s, they began to proliferate again, coming from Finland a decade later.

Opposition includes concerns about competition for prey—moose being a frequent target of Swedish hunters—as well as damage to livestock and the cost of predator control. Dogs are often used to hunt moose, and wolves sometimes attack the dogs. The Swedish government allowed two controversial wolf hunts, but then stopped them when the hunts resulted in a lawsuit, now headed for the European Union's Court of Justice.

RUSSIA:



Simon Cowell, founder of Britain's Wildlife Aid Foundation, has studied the plight of wolves in Russia for his TV series "Wildlife SOS" that will air on the Discovery Channel's "Animal Planet."

He met with biologist Vladimir Bologov, who cares for orphaned wolf pups and releases them in a "safe zone" where they cannot be hunted. Cowell said, "Many of the wolves have had to be rescued or bought from the hunters themselves."



Ole Knut Steinsel/SKANDJULV

This radio-collared wolf was photographed near the Swedish-Norwegian border in 2003.



Tamar Ron



View of Golan Heights overlooking the Sea of Galilee

Tom Meier

Bologov's center in the Central Forest Nature Reserve in Russia's remote Tver region, 300 miles (489 kilometers) northwest of Moscow, is one of the few places in Russia where hunting wolves is illegal.

CANADA:



A bounty that led to the killing of 290 wolves since 2010 in Big Lakes, near Edmonton in northern Alberta near Lesser Slave Lake, has angered some area residents. Established at the wish of ranchers who felt their livelihoods were threatened by predation, the bounty for each adult wolf is \$300. The municipality has paid out \$87,000 to hunters in three years. Opponents think that too many non-problem wolves are being killed, the bounty is a waste of money and hunters are killing for profit.

Are there wolves in Newfoundland? As reported in the last issue of *International Wolf*, DNA tests proved that an animal shot on the Bonavista Peninsula by a hunter who believed it was a coyote was instead a wolf. An August 23 report found that an animal trapped on the Baie Verte Peninsula three years ago was also a wolf and not a coyote as initially thought. Slowness in addressing this conclusion was attributed to the previous lack of

Labrador wolf samples for comparison. A YouTube video (www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hb-nu2dYIqM) that shows footage captured by a motion sensitive camera of Terra Nova National Park could provide evidence of other wolves living in Newfoundland.

Wolves were considered extinct in Newfoundland since the 1930s, but are plentiful in Labrador. Shane Mahoney, a wildlife expert for the Department of Environment and Conservation, said the Labrador wolves probably came to Newfoundland on ice floes.

Are there more? According to Mahoney, the department has tested 2,283 large canine predator tissue samples; none was a wolf. Perhaps, with current Labrador wolf samples, retesting will prove otherwise.

ISRAEL:



A plan to reduce the jackal population in the Golan Heights by removing animal carcasses also has the effect of reducing food supplies for wolves, leaving them to attack area cattle, especially calves. A reduction in the wild boar population due to disease contributes to the challenge of controlling predation.

According to the Israel Nature and Parks Authority, about 50 wolves are

culled annually to reduce the loss of cattle. Its report, which covers 2011 and the first half of 2012, said there are about 160 wolves in the region living in 10 packs. It noted that although last year more than 60 wolves were culled, predation persists; during the period covered by the report, 150 herd animals—usually calves—were killed by wolves. Other control methods used include fencing, guard dogs, radio tracking of collared wolves, owners sleeping with their herds and payment for lost animals. A need for better fences was cited.

Alon Reichman, a carnivore ecologist at the parks authority, warned against culling too many wolves. He noted culling of gazelles damaged their population in the Golan, while culling spotted leopards harmed that animal in the Judean Desert. ■

Tracy O'Connell is an associate professor of marketing communications at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls and a member of the International Wolf Center's magazine and communications committees.

the great surprise I realized what
was looking at; six sets of
eyes were staring back at me
feet away. And then, a long,
muffled half-bark followed by
deep, smooth, heavy sound rising
to the air. None of the other

Personal Encounter

Return of the Wolves

Text and photos by Elke Duerr

Author's note: It is many a person's quest to see a wolf in the wild. Yet given how rare wolves are it is not a common occurrence. For me it is about being fearless, empty and loving: fearless as in not bringing needless human fear to the mountains and forests that are home to wild ones; empty as in not wanting anything from them, no film footage, no encounter, no photo-op; and loving as in all inclusive of, present to and mindful of all the members of the web of life, no exceptions. It works every time. The wolves come to visit me according to their own volition. And I would not have it any other way. This spontaneous encounter with a family of endangered Mexican wolves happened in the Blue Range Wolf Recovery Area in New Mexico.

I wake up in the middle of the night. Howling outside of my tent has taken me out of a deep sleep, and I am jolted back into waking life, excited and happy. The family must be really close by. As I am listening attentively and tuning into their presence on the mountain, I am able to discern two different adult voices, probably those of the mother and father of the wolf family.

Sleep is a thing of the past now. I have waited for this moment for a long time. It is a new moon, and I probably will not be able to see them in the dark. But I carefully peel out of my sleeping bag and quietly open the zipper of my tent.



They must have heard me anyway, no matter how quiet I have tried to be. Their sense of hearing is acutely developed and much keener than ours. But they keep on howling, nevertheless. It is very dark outside, and I can only sense where they are. All of a sudden, a new, tentative voice is joining the other two, and then another one chimes in. It has to be the pups that were born in the spring. My heart opens wide. It feels good to know that the cycle of life keeps going, that a new generation of wolves has arrived and that their song in the night will keep the mountain alive. My heart sings with them. It feels like a gift to me from the wolves that they have come this close to me to grace me with their song.

I will be able to see their tracks in the morning, come first daylight. In a way it does not matter if I see them tonight or not. Minimal contact with humans is the way to go for them at this point, and I want what is best for them. Just to know that they are out there is enough.

Their presence in the wild is a precarious, fragile thing. There is no guarantee that they will survive in their former habitat. They might be confined exclusively to captive breeding facilities, zoos and wildlife parks in the future. Yet tonight this particular wolf family is out in the wild, howling close to my tent. The wolves are communicating with each other and all life around them in their own way, fully alive and grounded within their place in the ecosystem.

I am reminded of a wolf outreach talk that I gave a few months back at a school in rural New Mexico. The class is full of children from all kinds of different backgrounds, including students who are growing up on ranches and farms. I ask them, like I always do: "What does it mean for us here in New Mexico to still

Their presence in the wild is a precarious, fragile thing. There is no guarantee that they will survive in their former habitat. They might be confined exclusively to captive breeding facilities, zoos and wildlife parks in the future.



have wolves in the wild? And why would we bother reintroducing them into the wild after they have been taken out of the chain of life so long ago?"

A boy in the first row raises his hand. He has listened attentively to everything I have said so far. "It is a privilege," he said. "It is a privilege to have wolves in the wild. In many countries and areas of this world, we have killed them off, and they will never return. But we still have them here in New Mexico and need to protect them."

His words still follow me months later as I am looking at the Milky Way high above me and listening to the wolf talk. I am deeply touched, and I know from the core of my being deep down in my bones: It is a privilege to be in the presence of wolves in the wild. And we need them here on this planet with us. ■

Elke Duerr is a binational filmmaker, conservationist and teacher and the founder and director of Web of Life Foundation (W.O.L.F.). She teaches and lectures widely on the importance of predators in the ecosystem and the preservation of the web of life. She fosters a healthy coexistence between wilderness and civilization and the reconnection of humans to the natural world. She recently completed a short film about endangered river otters, which was screened at the New Mexico Film Festival. She received the Aldo Leopold Southwest Legacy film award in the category of best adult short film for her film "Preserving Beauty." Her full-length documentary, "Stories of Wolves—The Lobo Returns," premiered in Santa Fe, New Mexico, in October 2011.

Wild Kids

Nine-Year-Old Wolf Enthusiast Hosts Fundraisers

Elizabeth Burras wants to help wolves. Since the age of five, Elizabeth has dreamed of becoming a veterinarian so that one day she can live in Ely, Minnesota, and help the wolves at the International Wolf Center.

Now nine years old, Elizabeth still has this dream—and she's already started helping the wolves.

Three or four times a year, Elizabeth and her family drive to Ely from their home in Ames, Iowa, to visit the Center and its ambassador wolves. Between visits, Elizabeth stays in touch with the wolves by visiting the Center's Web site and watching the weekly wolf videos (www.youtube.com/user/IntlWolfCenter).

During a visit to the Center a year ago, Elizabeth told her parents she wanted to do something to help the wolves. With support from her family, she organized fundraisers to donate to the International Wolf Center. She gathered toys and clothes for a yard sale. She set up a lemonade stand, and she hosted a bake sale with cookies and brownies made by her grandmother, Ruth, and mother, Stephanie.

At these events, Elizabeth set up a table where she handed out promotional bookmarks she received from Center educators Jess Edberg and Tara Johnson. She also set up a computer so people could watch the Center's ambassador wolves on its Web site, www.wolf.org.

Elizabeth's efforts were successful, raising \$142 to support the Exhibit Pack. "We realize it wasn't a lot of money in the overall scheme of things, but it was to her, and it was also important in our minds to follow through with something she felt strongly about: helping the wolves at the International Wolf Center," says Elizabeth's dad, Todd Burras.

But her donation is a lot of money and a big commitment from one so young. Elizabeth's love of wolves runs strong. Her generosity and focus have impressed all of us at the Center.

"I imagine she will think of something else she wants to do in the near future," says her father. "She's a very generous and thoughtful girl who loves people and animals. So stay tuned."



Elizabeth Burras

Photo courtesy of the Burras family

Vocabulary

Cache: a hiding place used for storing food if there is an abundance of meat from a kill

Scat: fecal matter or feces

Track: a print left by an animal

Play!



Word Puzzle

Unscramble the gray boxes below to complete the sentences.

w o l f

W o l f

s p p u

— — — —

e l i v

— — — —

i n

i n

e s d n

— — — — .

— — — — —

e s v o l w

— — — —

t h n u

l i v e

l i v e

— — — — .

y p e r

a i f e m i l s

f o s v w e o l

e r a e d l l c a

k a p c s

— — — — — — — — — —

— — — — — — — — — —

— — — — — — — — — — .



Notes from the Field

During fall, pups venture away from the rendezvous site and join their adult pack members on the hunt. They travel many miles from their past home base in search of food. They use their sense of smell to help locate prey. Often they catch their food and eat as much as they can in one sitting and cache (sounds like cash) other food or bones. If a wolf weighs 100 pounds (45 kilograms) and can eat up to 20 percent of its body weight at one time, how many pounds (kilograms) can it eat? If you are outside, look for signs that wolves have been around. You might find tracks, scat (poop), hair, or bones. Happy searching! ■



Wolves often eat as much as they can in one sitting.

Answers Top: Wolf pups live in dens. Middle: Wolves hunt live prey. Bottom: Families of wolves are called packs.

A Look Beyond

Wild Child, or I Fathered a Wolf Girl

by David Gessner

Editor's note: The following article is reprinted with permission of the author. The article first appeared on the OnEarth Web site.

Recently my daughter and I made the five-hour drive north from our coastal North Carolina home to the Alligator River National Wildlife Refuge, which is the only place left in the world where red wolves roam wild. We saw a black bear on the trip and later went on the scheduled wolf howl walk with the rangers and, sure enough, when the rangers howled, the wolves howled back, their song more higher-pitched than you would think, like horror movie screams.

For all that, my daughter is not Mowgli. She doesn't roam the woods in a pelt with spear in hand. In fact she spent a good deal of the trip staring down at the screen of her computer game and has already developed the sort of screen addiction that is swallowing up childhoods everywhere. But—and I thank the great pagan entity for this “but”—she has her moments. She has kayaked our creek in search of river otters and been swimming (illegally I'm proud to say) in the Cape Fear River. My hope is that these moments are settling somewhere inside her and will be remembered and returned to later in her life.

This is not some conscious experiment on my part: Let's show the child NATURE because some book says it will make her more well-rounded. It's simpler than that: She just comes along with me when I go places and often starts finding her own wolf dens. When we are young we naturally seek out these secret places: we build forts, find shortcuts through the woods, climb trees. This is not environmental-

ism, but instinct. As it turns out, trying to teach kids a strictly “environmental” curriculum may backfire. As the educator David Sobel points out in “Beyond Ecophobia,” children who are taught that the natural world is being destroyed, and that a boogeyman called global warming is coming, often tend to withdraw and distance themselves from nature. In fact, there's no surer way to send them running for their screens. “The natural world is being abused, and they don't want to have to deal with it,” Sobel writes, equating this with other types of abuse. As it turns out, a better way to involve young children, at least kids from the age of seven to eleven, is exactly the way they used to involve themselves, before play became more structured and the woods off limits. Sobel writes: “This is the time to immerse children in the stuff of the physical and natural

worlds. Constructing forts, creating small imaginary worlds, hunting and gathering, searching for treasures, following streams and pathways, making maps, taking care of animals....” Eventually, of course, they will learn about the death of the rainforests. But for now there's no need for dire warnings, no need for shoulds. For now it starts with fun, it starts with building forts in our backyards, it starts with animal explorations.

And, it goes without saying, it starts with pretending you are a wolf. ■

David Gessner is an associate professor in the Department of Creative Writing at the University of North Carolina at Wilmington. Called “the Woody Allen of nature writing,” Gessner is the author of eight books including My Green Manifesto and The Tarball Chronicles, both of which grew out of previous reporting for OnEarth. He is a recipient of the John Burroughs award for best natural history essay and has taught environmental writing at Harvard University. He is also founder of the literary journal Ecotone.



Photo courtesy of David Gessner

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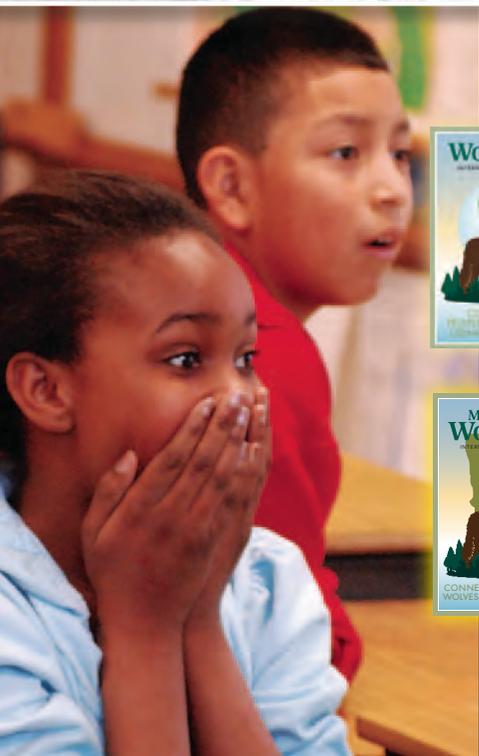
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International Wolf Center



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