

# INTERNATIONAL WOLF

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"Call of the Wild," pastel, 9 x 12 inches, by Margarita S. Berg

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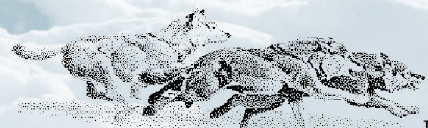
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*International Wolf* welcomes submissions of personal adventures with wolves and wolf photographs. Prior to sub-mission of other types of manuscripts, address queries to Mary Ortiz, publications director.

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

# Letters

## More about Wolves in Kyrgyzstan

Carter Niemeyer's article in your summer 2004 issue showed that accounts of wolf predation on *domestic* stock in the Central Asian nation of Kyrgyzstan resemble those in the United States. Unmentioned was that Kyrgyzstan has an outmoded program to destroy wolves to allegedly protect *wildlife* and that it operates with the blessing of the U.S. government.

Central Asia is home to the argali, a spectacularly horned relative of our bighorn sheep. Because of excessive hunting and habitat disruption, the argali was added to the U.S. List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife in 1992. Pursuant regulations set conditions to control hunting, which had to be met before American sportsmen could bring their trophies home.

The conditions were never met, but the U.S. Department of the Interior, supported by hunting interests, circumvented the regulations. Import permits, originally intended for special cases, are

routinely issued by the hundred for argali trophies. Interior justifies the permits with claims that hunting produces funds that enhance argali conservation. Available documentation reveals this "enhancement" to include a helicopter-borne campaign to exterminate wolves in Kyrgyzstan.

Moreover, the first stated purpose of the U.S. Endangered Species Act is to "provide a means whereby the ecosystems upon which endangered species and threatened species depend may be conserved." Interior thus is in double violation of the act, ignoring its own regulations and contributing to destruction of the argali's ecosystem, of which the wolf is a natural part.

American and Asian conservationists responded to this travesty with a lawsuit. But Interior, legally aided by hunting interests, has for years stymied litigation through technicalities. Meanwhile, the argali and the wolf continue to suffer. ■

Ron Nowak  
2101 Greenwich Street  
Falls Church, VA 22043

West Gate



## From the Executive Director

**T**his past summer Secretary of the Interior Gayle Norton came to Minnesota to announce plans to remove eastern populations of wolves from the endangered species list. I'd like to share portions of the speech I was invited to deliver at the event on behalf of nongovernmental organizations that have played a role in restoring wolf populations.

As you read my comments below, try to imagine this: when I reached the section of my speech that acknowledged the vital role that wolves played in their own recovery, a chorus of howling wolves—at the Wildlife Science Center—drowned out my words.

Not only did the crowd there enjoy this, but so did listeners to Minnesota Public Radio's taping of the moment.

*In the time it takes to blink an eye on the evolution clock, we've gone from practically no wolves in the contiguous United States to nearly 4,000, with Minnesota having the mother lode with some 2,500.*

*How did all this happen? Clearly the environmental movement of the late 60s and 70s set the stage for the passage of the Endangered Species Act. And the environmental movement was galvanized by a river that literally burned when volatile pollutants caught fire and by the question about whether bald eagles, peregrine falcons and wolves would be a part of America's future landscape. And the wolf's hold on our imagination, perhaps coupled with the guilt we felt for launching the most extraordinarily effective extermination campaign ever waged on an animal, helped to make the wolf a symbol of the act itself.*

And the act is remarkable. It was passed thanks to the public's immense interest especially in the charismatic animals like the wolf and bald eagle. But Congress has reaffirmed that the act is not just about the charismatic but about all species regardless of whether they're warm and fuzzy, cold and clammy, or prickly and poisonous. Furthermore Congress chose to protect animals even if they were threatened in only a part of their range—they addressed the issue about there being plenty of wolves, grizzly bears and eagles in Alaska, so why should we worry about them in the lower 48? Perhaps Congress took a note from Aldo Leopold, who once said that relegating grizzlies to Alaska is like relegating happiness to heaven . . . one may never get there.

The lion's share of the credit needs to be directed toward the wolf. Resilient, adaptable, smart and tough, wolves have survived in spite of centuries of relentless persecution by humans. But unlike the bald eagle or peregrine falcon, the wolf, being the wolf, will continue to challenge our commitment to keeping it a part of America's landscape.

Yes, today is a milestone in our complex relationship with the wolf. We unequivocally state we care about what the American landscape should look like today and for future generations, and we care about keeping the wild in our wild lands. We celebrate the progress we've made toward restoring the wolf. Today we also celebrate a step toward fulfilling our responsibilities as stewards of the earth and in so doing we restore a bit of ourselves. ■

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# The Nanny Chronicles

by ELLEN DIETZ

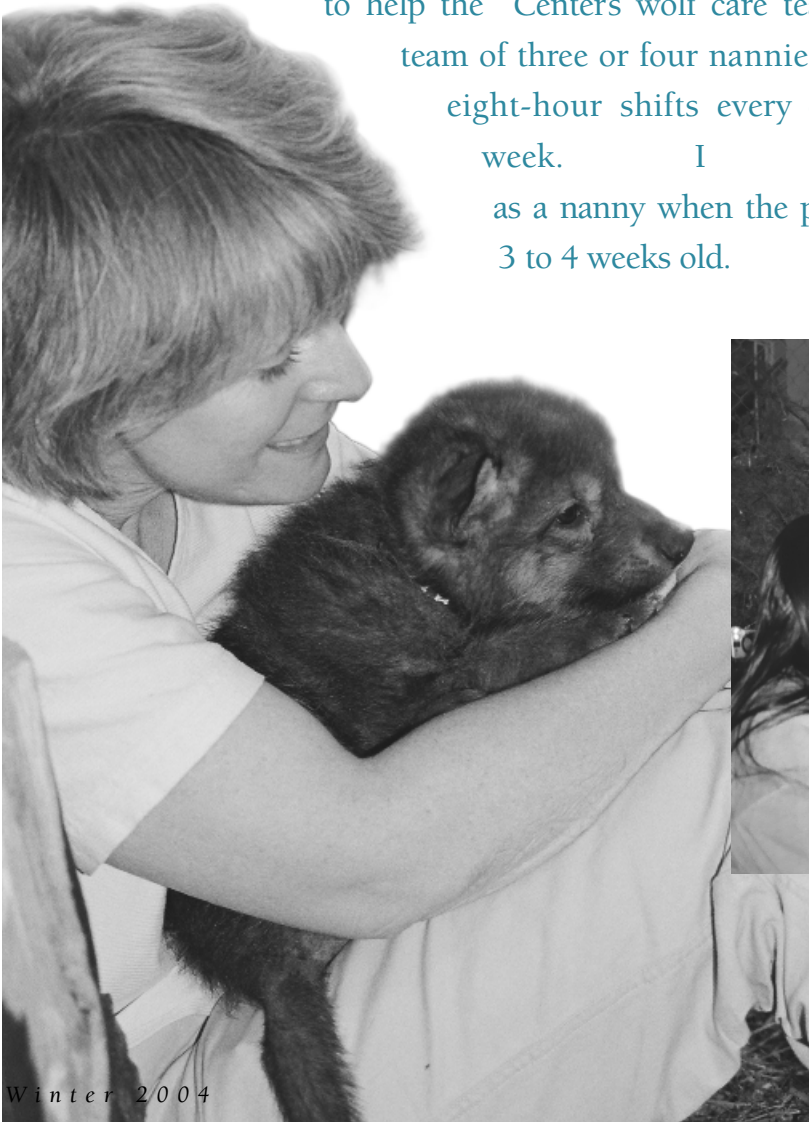
“Nannies” were recruited by the International Wolf Center’s Wolf Curator Lori Schmidt to help care for three new wolf pups that were brought to the Center in May 2004. Nannies fed and cleaned up after the pups, comforted them and did myriad other chores to help the Center’s wolf care team. Each team of three or four nannies worked eight-hour shifts every day for a week. I worked as a nanny when the pups were 3 to 4 weeks old.

*Friday, May 28*  
12:00 noon

Opening the door of the wolf lab, I see three brand-new faces sleeping among the straw, scattered here and there in the straw. No one minds. The sleepy ones are Grizzer, his sister Maya, and the littlest packmate, Nyssa. The indoor pen is a couple of chain-link fence sections in a corner of the wolf lab, with fir boughs woven along the bottom. Inside is a collection of birch logs, stumps and small slabs of basalt, meant to mimic the north-woods world these pups will inhabit in the next few months. A few stuffed toys surf the sea of straw. I step into the pen and immediately feel the weight of responsibility. For the next week, I’ll be caring for these fragile lives, a surrogate mom in khakis.

*Sunday, May 30*  
6:00 a.m.

Jan, Caroline and I begin the first shift. The pen has just been cleaned and lined with fresh straw, and the pups are wide awake from the excitement. They tumble over each other, explore the birch logs and



Above: Long after midnight, with chores done and the pups asleep, nannies share stories from their own lives. Left to right: Donna Prichard, Caroline David, and Jan Makowski.



climb around the stumps. Of all the objects in the pen, packmates make the best chew toys. They stumble over to each other, and wrestle, jaw spar and chew at each other's legs, ears, flanks, necks and tails. No role is determined at this young age, and they take turns being the aggressor and the tormented. Their play doesn't last long. Soon they are fast asleep. They will do a lot of sleeping this week. Growing is hard work.

It's feeding time. We will replay this scenario countless times over the next week, like a videotape in a continuous loop. The recipe is one part Esbilac, two parts bottled water, and a rounded teaspoon of corn syrup, supplemented daily with Knox gelatin and vitamins. Our tiniest pup, just 3 weeks old and weighing only 3 pounds, will take 45 minutes to consume a mere 2.5 ounces of formula, often sleeping and eating at the same time. Eagerly the other two latch onto their bottles, gurgling, slurping, swallowing as fast as they can. Who knew pups could eat, coo and whine all at the same time? Sweet little Maya downs 6 ounces in less than 5 minutes, and her robust brother keeps pace with her. After every meal, their swollen bellies drag them off balance. Grizz partly toddles, partly crawls to a cool corner, belches, heaves a small sigh, and immediately falls asleep to the rhythm of his own dreams.

### *Tuesday, June 1* *Midnight*

Time spent with the pups is feast or famine. Either all three are craving food and attention, or they are sound asleep. At this stage, the pups' lives consist mainly of eating and sleeping, punctuated by bouts of play. Among their favorite toys is my hair. Pant legs and shoestrings also make good chew toys.

When the pups quiet down again after feeding, I take the bottles, measuring cups, spoons, whisk and pans to the kitchen, then return to the lab to sterilize the bottles in the microwave. Blurred by exhaustion, I must be careful to use the right microwave. On one is the sign "Human food and puppy food," and on the other is "Adult wolf food." The adult wolves have the stomach for roadkill and raw hamburger, but I don't. Until the pups are vaccinated at 6 weeks old, they will eat from sterilized bottles. By the end of the summer, though, they too will be dining on roadkill. Given the hour and the thought, I opt for a hermetically sealed trail bar. Then I return to the pen and chat quietly with my team until it's time to get up and do it all over again.

### *Tuesday, June 1* *5:30p.m.*

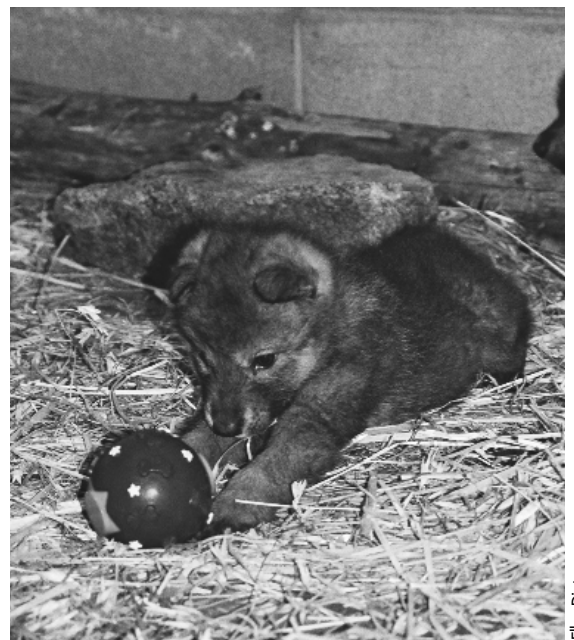
We pull the late afternoon shift after our midnight shift. The pups are relatively inactive at this time of day, but they look up to greet us. I look straight at Grizz, whose eyes light up when he sees me. He yawns a wide puppy yawn and settles his chin back down into the straw. A short while later, he and his companions wake, stretch, yawn and amble over to see us. Grizz comes for a hello and begins a high puppy whine, a puppy's way of seeking comfort. I cuddle him, and he settles down but only momentarily. He nibbles on my shoulder a bit, then shifts his attention to my hair. He pulls at a big chunk of hair, dives in farther and clips my ear, then stops when I yelp. He resettles himself in my lap and dozes off. His fur is already beginning to become wiry, the guard hairs begin-

ning to reach out beyond the downy puppy coat. His smell is acrid, quite unlike dog puppies'. It reminds me that he is, after all, a wild creature. He sleeps in my lap until his sister spies him, toddles over and pounces on him. A new game is on.

### *Wednesday, June 2* *10:00a.m.*

I can't believe we're back here already. Odd shifts have robbed our orderly perception of time. To keep track of the day, we must write it on the lab's white board. We find ourselves ruled by a different rhythm. It is the rhythm of life, not the clock or the calendar. Our lives have come to revolve around the pups' needs. I find myself eating less, sleeping less and caring less about the happenings outside this little world. By the end of the week I'm stumbling around just like the pups, but where their poor motor control is a function of age, mine stems from sleep deprivation.

Finally it occurs to me why I am so drawn to Grizzer. The look on his face is the same look my German



*Toys of different shapes and textures stimulate the pups' senses and reflexes.*

shepherd had as a pup. Suspicious, curious, needy, solitary, shy. The promise of deep intelligence rests in his eyes. From the first time we studied each other, we had an immediate understanding that there would be no animosity, no patronizing. We accepted each other as individuals with independent spirits that could be shared but not compromised. Other nannies took on roles of nurturer, guide, boss or playmate, all according to our personalities. My role was quiet friend, delighting in sharing and discovery. I giggle to think this attitude would probably make me the omega in every pack.

Grizzer has been aimlessly wandering in the straw and now begins his puppy whine. I answer him with a small soprano howl. He stops short, plants his feet, juts his chin forward and joins me with his first howl. I am as delighted as a proud parent, and Grizz, standing a little taller and more confident, toddles off to pounce on his sister.

*Friday, June 4  
3:15 a.m.*

I've spent the night in puppy mode, crawling around in the straw, snoozing alongside the pups, being climbed on and having my hair pulled. Even though Nyssa is outweighed by her packmates, she has no idea how small she is. More and more frequently, she initiates play, crawling up onto a pup and clamping her nearly toothless jaws onto their ears and around their legs. Without a protective cloak of fur, I am at a disadvantage to even the beginnings of their puppy teeth, which are already sharp. Chins are a frequent object of curiosity, and we all have the scrapes and scratches to prove it.

It's nearing 6 a.m., and we're coming to the end of our time as nannies. The pups react to our energies, somehow understanding that another change is about to happen. Grizz crawls over to me, fighting

sleep, and reaches out to put his chin in my hand. As soon as he's settled, he falls asleep. I cannot bear to take my hand away. We stay like this for many moments. He wills himself awake long enough to curl up against me as I lie stretched out in the straw. He wiggles and squirms and rearranges his position until he has shifted himself to rest nose to nose with me. I inhale his scent and give myself over to contentment. This is why I wanted to be a nanny: to find trust and comfort in a wild creature. All the work, the sleep deprivation, the menial chores, the scrapes and scratches, the distance from home—all of it is a small price for this experience. I have connected with a wild canine. I don't know if he'll remember me, and it doesn't matter if he does. I will remember him. ■

*Ellen Dietz lives with her husband, two dogs and a bird in Bloomington, Illinois. Though her recent explorations have taken her to canyons, deserts and mountains, she is always happiest at home, playing in the yard with her dogs.*

*Right: Frequently a pup would drop off to sleep during play. Maya is already asleep, and soon Grizzer will be also.*



Ellen Dietz



Caroline David



Caroline David

*Above: One of the best parts of being a nanny is snuggle time.*

*Left: The pups would eagerly latch onto their bottles, gurgling, slurping, swallowing as fast as they could.*



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**I**t's 4 a.m. as I leave the Mexican wolf reintroduction project field office in Alpine headed for an area in the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest northwest of Springerville. Biologists and campers have reported sightings of a wolf there. We don't know where he came from or how long he has been there. All we really know is that he is probably a male since he was seen with a known female wolf right after breeding season last spring.

People have observed the mystery wolf and heard him howling, so I'm headed to the forest to see what I can learn.

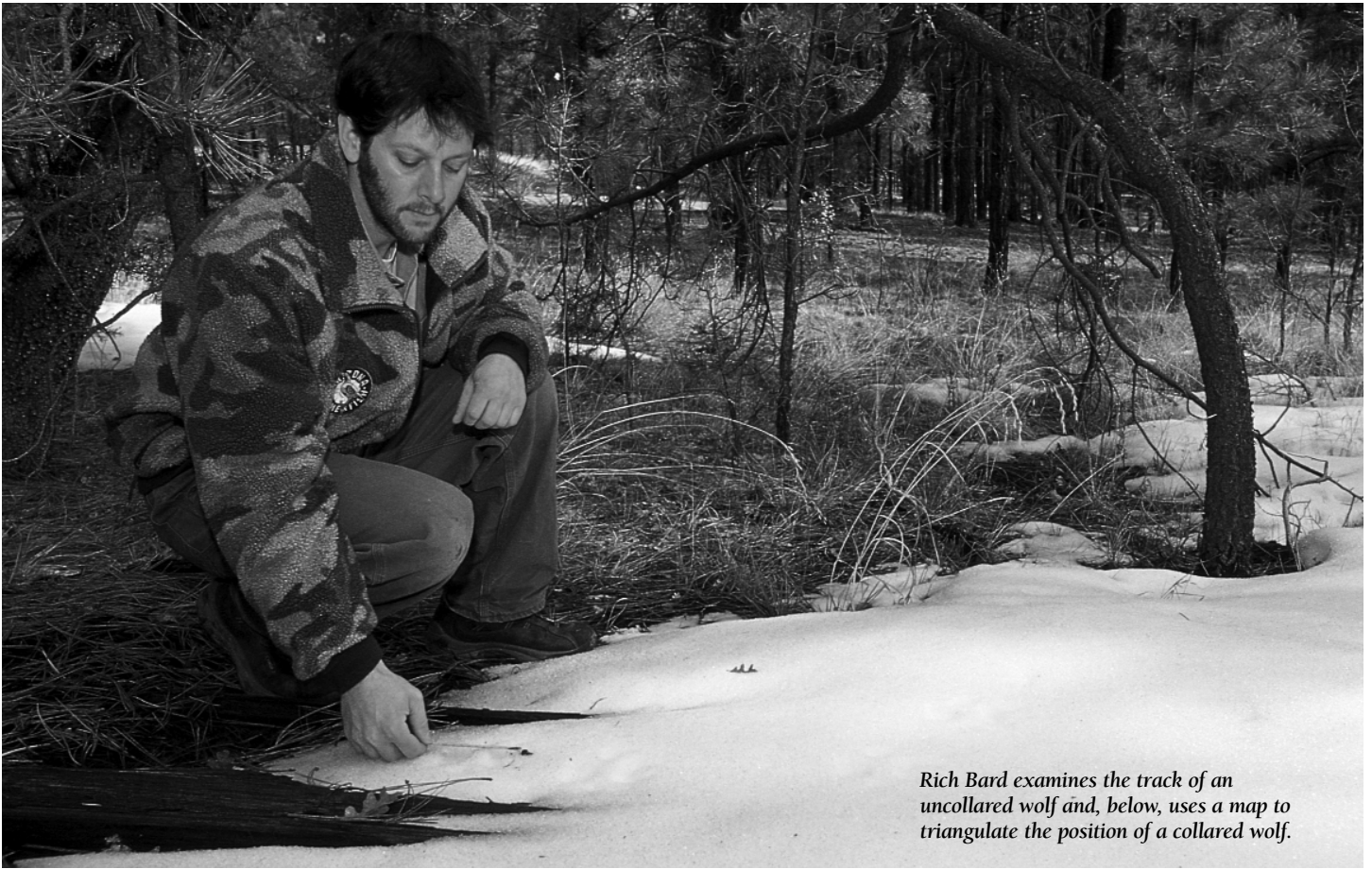
# On the Track of the Wolf

by RICH BARD

Photographs by GEORGE ANDREJKO

*A paw print, a scat, the remains of prey are all clues a wildlife biologist follows to track an uncollared wolf born in the wild and a stranger to humans.*





*Rich Bard examines the track of an uncollared wolf and, below, uses a map to triangulate the position of a collared wolf.*

I'm trying to get to the area while it's still dark so I can listen for some early morning howling and possibly see the mystery wolf heading for a daybed somewhere. Failing that, I'll drive some of the roads and hike some trails looking for other clues—his tracks, his scat or the remains of his prey.

The reintroduction team fits every adult wolf released from captivity with a radio collar that emits a signal on a unique frequency. Using a handheld antenna, a biologist can determine which direction the signal is coming from and then draw a corresponding line on a map. When this process is repeated from several locations, the place where the lines intersect indicates the wolf's whereabouts. The process is called triangulation, and it is the heart of what we do on the wolf project. Once we know where the wolves are, we can use the data as needed. Sometimes, the information is simply stored and eventually used to create a map of the wolf's

home range or territory. If the territory is close to populated places or livestock, we will monitor that wolf or pack of wolves more closely to be sure that it won't create a conflict.

The alpha pair—the pack leaders—breed every year in February or March and, if successful, raise a litter of one to five pups. During spring, summer and fall, the reintroduction team—an interagency field team with members from the Arizona Game and Fish Department, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Wildlife Services, White Mountain Apache Tribe, and New Mexico Game and Fish Department—attempt to trap the pups to fit them with radio collars. Although we do our best, some may escape capture and mature to become one of the unknown wolves. If they disperse from their natal pack at 1 to 2 years of age, they may wander alone until they find a mate. We will always maintain radio contact with as many packs as possible, but



as the years go by more of the uncolored wolves will become a fact of life for biologists and the general public.

I think the animal that I am trying to locate is one of these wolves: born in the wild and a stranger to humans. As a biologist, I am drawn to the mystery surrounding the animal. Who were the parents? How old is the wolf? Is he alone, or is he part of a pack that we don't yet know about? In the coming weeks we will try to find the answers to all of these questions.

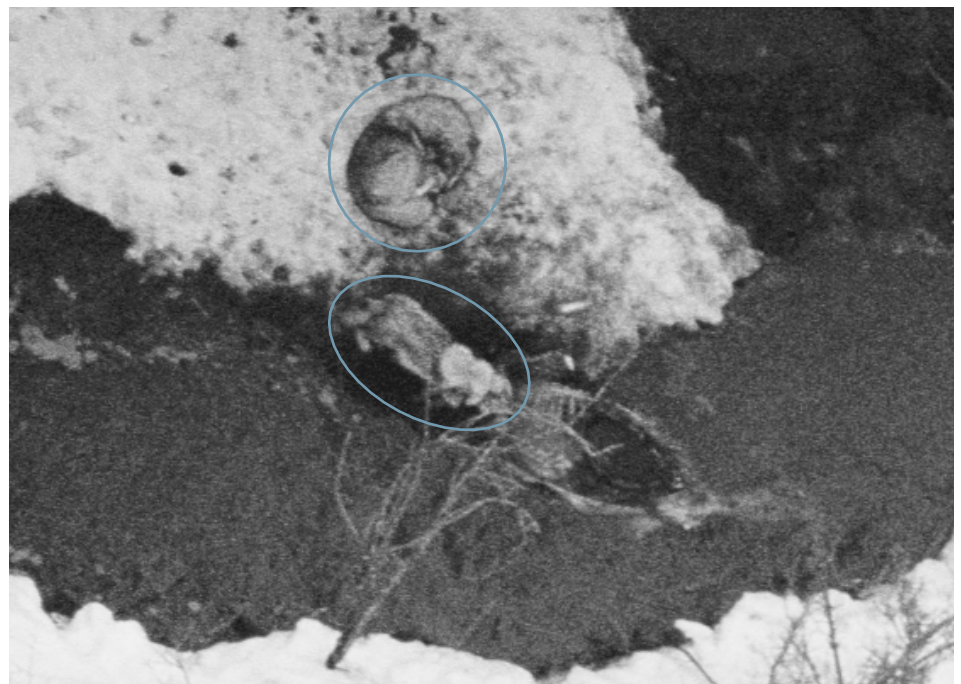
Just before dawn, I pause at the edge of an expansive meadow and watch the sunlight advance through the early morning fog. The wolf was seen here a few days ago at about this time. I don't see him now, although I catch sight of a herd of elk, the wolf's primary prey, as they graze along the opposite side of the meadow. The sunrise gives me enough light to see if he's left tracks on the road, so I drive on reluctantly, cruising at low speed and stopping often to look for sign of the wolf. My passing creates only a small disturbance. The birds and squirrels go about their morning business in the dark, moist forest of spruce, fir and aspen.

My early morning is a partial success. I didn't hear howling or find any sign, but I talked with several campers who had heard the wolf howl, and one group even saw him cross a road. Information like this, from the public, helps us keep track of the growing wolf population. Although I work full time with the wolves, I rarely get a glimpse of them. More often it is the casual camper or hunter who sees them. We get reports of wolves hunting elk or playing with each other, or just walking along. The sightings are very important because they may hold clues to a pack's social structure and health, the number of wolves, and if they have successfully reproduced.

A few days later I go back to the

area of the unknown wolf. This time I go in late afternoon and plan to spend the night. After dark, I do a systematic survey of a small area by howling at certain points along a road and listening for a response. Howling at wolves may be disruptive to them, so the general public is discouraged from doing it. But it can be a valuable tool for a biologist trying to locate or count wolves. I howl late into the night until I'm too hoarse to try again. The only response comes from an elk and a

isn't a mountain lion because the toenails appear at every step. Also, the general shape of the toes, heel pad and the whole print are more consistent with a canine than a feline. I know it isn't a coyote or other wild canine because of the size. Only a wolf or a domestic dog has tracks this big. I can rule out domestic dog for other reasons. Most, but not all, dog tracks are wider, with the outer toes pointing outward. Wolf paws are tighter, and all the toes point straight ahead. Many pet dogs have toenails



*Two wolves with an elk carcass photographed during a survey flight near Alpine.*

group of coyotes. Wolves don't often respond to human imitators, but the information I might gain is worth the effort. I camp in the area hoping to find clues in the morning.

Sure enough, my persistence pays off when I find fresh tracks on a dirt road. The wolf traveled along the road for about a mile, then for some reason turned around and walked right back.

Tracks can tell us a lot about an animal and its behavior. I know it is a wolf track because it has characteristics that are unique to wolves. It

that are longer than a wolf's. A wolf wears down its nails by constantly traveling over rough ground. But to be really sure, I look at the general pattern of travel. If you watch a dog move along, it looks happy-go-lucky as it cavorts here and there, stopping to sniff everything and crisscrossing its general direction of travel. Not so with a wolf. A wolf always seems to know where it's going and every landmark between here and there. A wolf's tracks go straight ahead and rarely vary from the direction of travel. Furthermore, a wolf's rear foot





*A wolf adapts quickly to the radio collar, which weighs about a pound and when properly fitted won't catch debris or abrade the neck.*

the potential for injuries to his foot. We want to hold him, not hurt him. Once he is trapped, we will sedate him with drugs. This reduces the stress on the wolf since he will sleep through the handling process. We will measure his body, teeth and paws, and draw blood for a series of tests including genetic analysis that will determine which pack he came from. Last, we will fit him with a radio collar so we can track him with radiotelemetry. A wolf adapts quickly to the collar, which weighs about a pound. A properly fitted collar won't catch sticks or other debris and won't abrade his neck. The battery in the collar will last for three years or more.

usually goes right into the print of the front foot. Most domestic dogs step slightly to one side of the front foot.

So after thinking about all of these factors, I can reasonably assume these are the tracks of the unknown, mystery wolf. But there are other questions: When did the wolf or wolves pass by? Was it more than one? Was he stalking prey or moving at a fast pace? These questions can be answered by looking closely at the tracks. It's about 7 a.m. when I find them. The dirt the wolf moved when he walked is slightly darker than the surrounding dirt. This tells me that the tracks are fresh. When the moisture dries and the freshly turned earth takes on the same color as the rest of the road, they will be harder to age. Also, since the road receives relatively heavy use and the tracks go right down its main portion, I assume the wolf walked by last night. If I'd waited until later in the day, a truck probably would have obliterated the tracks and I never would have found them.

It can be hard to count the number of wolves that walked by. At

first glance you may think there is only one because they step in each other's paw prints. But if you follow the tracks, one will eventually step out of line and you can count another wolf. With this set, I see only one set of prints for about a mile and can assume a single wolf made them. I can also determine that the wolf was trotting, as they do most of the time, by the diagonal pattern of the tracks.

I will continue trying to learn about this wolf. I will spend nights camped in his home range listening for howls. Most importantly, I will search roads and trails for clues to his diet. Finding a carcass that he has been eating will help, but is unlikely. More likely, I will find his scat, or feces. Hair and bones consumed by a carnivore are not digested and pass through into the scat. By identifying the hair and bones, I can learn what this wolf lives on.

Eventually, I hope to trap the wolf with a modified trap that minimizes



*The tracks of a male and female wolf traveling together.*

When we have finished, we will inject a drug that awakens the wolf within a few minutes. Then we will step back and watch him walk into the forest. No longer a complete mystery, he will contribute to the recovery of Mexican gray wolves as a whole by teaching us about their habits in the wild. ■

*Rich Bard worked as a wildlife technician on the Arizona Game and Fish Department's Mexican wolf reintroduction project out of Alpine, Arizona.*



## Notes From Home

### German Film Crew Visits the Center

As the name suggests, the International Wolf Center is designed to provide wolf education to people living wherever wolves are found. With members from 43 countries, the Center truly operates on an international scale.

It is an additional measure of the Center's global prestige that members of

foreign press visit the Ely, Minnesota, educational facility. The most recent visitor was the German film company Vox. Before heading to Isle Royale to film wolves for a television program called "Time for Animals," the crew stopped by to gain a sense of how the Center works and to highlight the importance of wolf

education, especially in the heart of wolf habitat.

Over two days Vox filmed everything from the *Wolves and Humans* exhibit, to educational programs including Pups 101, to ambassador wolves Shadow and Malik. "Vox's work helps the cause of wolf education in Germany and elsewhere," said Jim Williams, the Center's assistant director for education. "And that's something we certainly support."

With Germany's tiny

wolf population slowly growing, the film crew's visit is timely. Presently, German citizens seem to appreciate the arrival of wolves along their eastern border. Even the national Sheep Breeders' Association has expressed some support for recovery. Germany's willingness to coexist with wolves is both a reason for optimism and a sign of educational success. Ideally the work of groups such as Vox will foster this trend.

### The Grove at the International Wolf Center

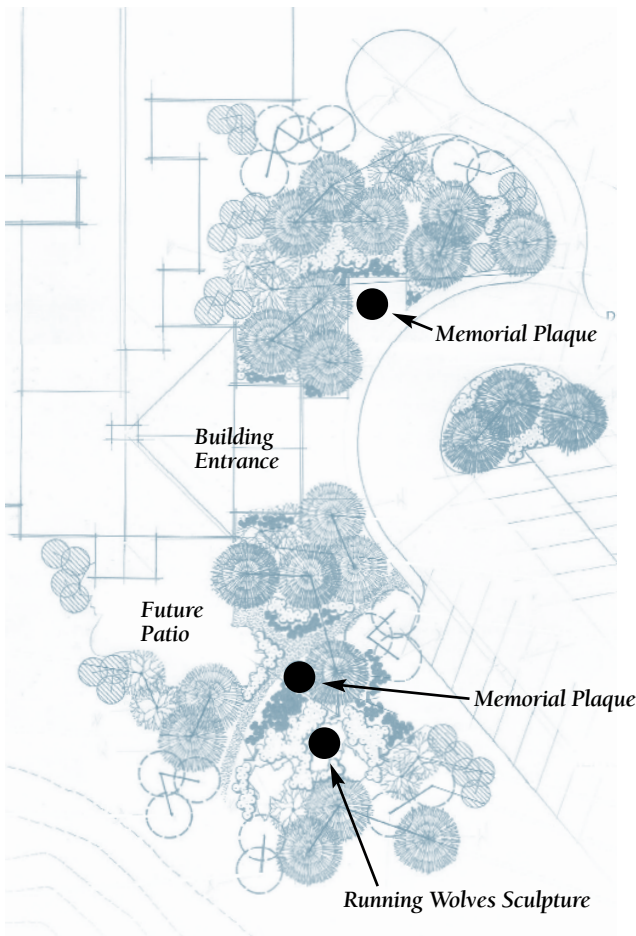
The International Wolf Center is creating a special grove of trees to honor and remember individuals at our educational facility in Ely, Minnesota. Visitors will pass through the grove to enter the building. Thus, the grove will provide a visual cue to the building's entrance and an introduction to the special sense of place experienced at the Center.

The grove will be composed of trees, shrubs and ground cover native to the boreal forest, the plant community in which Ely is located. White pine (*Pinus strobus*) and paper birch (*Betula papyrifera*) will be planted closely together to encourage tall, straight trunks, creating the effect of columns, and to form a canopy, offering a calm, quiet and contemplative experience. White pines, which are uniquely formed by environmental and genetic influences, offer a fitting way to honor and remember unique individuals.

The white bark of the paper birch and the green needles of the white pine will provide color throughout the year. Informal seating and walking paths will provide opportunities to experience the grove more intimately.

Individuals interested in contributing to the grove should contact George Knotek, Development Director, at [develop@wolf.org](mailto:develop@wolf.org) or 763-560-7374, ext. 230. ■

—Paul Anderson, board member



The grove at the Center's educational facility in Ely, Minnesota, will honor and remember individuals and provide an introduction to the special sense of place experienced at the Center.



# Tracking the Pack

## The Pups Join the Pack

by Lori Schmidt, Wolf Curator,  
International Wolf Center

**A**ugust 9, 2004, was a long-awaited date for the International Wolf Center staff, nanny participants, ethology students, behavioral observation team members, Web cam viewers and the many visitors to the Ely educational facility. On this day the newest ambassador wolves, pups Grizzer, Maya and Nyssa, joined the adults Shadow and Malik in the Exhibit Pack.

Let's first review the preparations that led up to this event. The three pups were socialized to humans from 12 days of age (8 days for Nyssa) so that they would respond positively to humans. This is no easy task since wolves inherently mistrust people—actually, any unfamiliar activity near their enclosure.

During the first 3 months of their lives, the pups were

exposed to the sights and sounds of the Center's main enclosure and its surroundings, such as weed eaters, wheelbarrows, tarps, fly ointment, ear cleaning, vaccinations and the dogs that frequent the wolf lab. One dog in particular played an important role in preparing the pups for the introduction: Jake, my shepherd-



Nancy jo Tubbs

*Above: After Malik and Shadow were let into the enclosure, the pups began muzzle licking and groveling.*

husky-greyhound crossbreed. Jake was very good at demonstrating dominance with the growls, muzzle bites, and pins to the ground typical of an adult canid in a controlled wolf lab setting. The pups were first intimidated by Jake but then began to submit to the behavior, and by the last session they were following Jake around, muzzle licking and groveling. The staff wanted to be sure that the pups could tolerate the intensity of an adult canid's dominance display before they met Malik and Shadow.

A few other steps were taken before the introduction:

- Malik and Shadow's food consumption was maximized on the night before the introduction (they were fed two raw turkeys—a change from



## International Wolf Center Board of Directors' Resolution in Appreciation of Lori Schmidt

September 10, 2004

**BE IT RESOLVED:** The Board of Directors of the International Wolf Center acknowledges the outstanding service and dedication that you have provided to the Center in caring for our three new wolf pups. As they have grown from fragile newborns to their current robust state, you have given exceptional care to these pups and met their many needs. In addition, you also cared for the dozens of pup nannies who lent a hand in raising the pups. You did all this while continuing to care for our retired pack of wolves. Beyond the "on-the-ground" care, you also enabled thousands of other people to share the pup-raising experience through Web photos and stories.

You have our heartiest thanks for a job done extraordinarily well!

*Editor's note: We know Lori would not accept this appreciation without acknowledging her tremendous wolf care staff: Joyce Riveroll, Damon Haan, Donna Prichard, Nancy jo Tubbs, Andrea Lorek Strauss, Jen Westlund and Larisa Skujins. Thanks to all!*



Ellen Dietz





*Top to bottom: Shadow and Malik both regurgitated food for the pups—a good sign that the introduction was on the right track.*

*Shadow took the lead in greeting and making the pups submit.*

*By noon, all pups had been in the pond, discovered cached turkey, and been face-to-face with the public at the viewing windows.*

Nancy Jo Tubbs



Nancy Jo Tubbs

Nancy Jo Tubbs

■ The pups were familiarized with water since the main enclosure has a large pond.

■ Tools for intervention and distraction were gathered: beaver tails, beaver feet, bite sticks and Y-poles. The Center's veterinarian was ready with immobilization drugs.

■ A last-minute call was made to the Wildlife Science Center for professional consultation with Peg Callahan for a final review of the introduction plan.

The wolf care team gathered at 5 a.m. the morning of the introduction. The staff entered the main enclosure to greet Shadow and Malik and to remove a protective steel plate that covered the gates to the pup pen.

their normal beaver-and-deer diet).

- The pups were kept somewhat hungry the morning of the introduction to encourage food begging.
- Some of the straw from the pup enclosure was put into the exhibit area to give the pups a familiar smell when they entered the enclosure.
- The pups were acclimated to the smell of the vegetation that dominates the enclosure (wormwood).

As hoped, the adult wolves were full and lethargic. At 5:30 a.m., staff member Andrea Lorek Strauss opened the gates to the pup pen and let Shadow and Malik into a small holding area adjacent to the pup enclosure. Initially, the pups didn't even notice the adults were there. Staff members Jen Westlund and Damon Haan called the pups to the enclosure, and before there was face-to-face contact, Shadow regurgitated for the pups. This was a good sign that the introduction was on the right track, so Shadow and Malik were released into the pup pen. The pups immediately began muzzle licking and groveling, behavior similar to what they did with Jake. Again, Shadow regurgitated a large pile of turkey for the pups, and Malik contributed a smaller regurgitation. The pups seemed to be focused on Shadow, who took the lead in greeting and making the pups submit. This behavior continued for about 30 minutes, and it appeared that Shadow was using very soft bites with the pups, although his growls were intense.

At approximately 6 a.m., the gates were opened to the main enclosure. Grizzer was the first to exit the pup pen, followed by Maya, then Malik. Nyssa became confused about how the others got out of the pen and continued to run up and down the fence in the pup pen. Shadow followed her but then exited the pen. Wolf care staff member Damon Haan eventually picked up Nyssa and showed her the exit door. By this time, Grizzer had already found the pond and took his first swim. He was extremely interested in the upper waterfall and even took a slide from the upper pond down the waterfall to the lower pond.

By noon, all pups had been in the pond, discovered cached turkey, and been face-to-face with the public at the viewing windows. They settled down to sleep the day off. Not a bad start for the newest Exhibit Pack members. ■





# INTERNATIONAL WOLF CENTER

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MAY–SEPTEMBER 2004

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Thank  
You

# Wolves of the World

## WOLVES OF CANADA

### Algonquin Becomes First Park with Surrounding, Permanent Protection for Wolves

by John and Mary Theberge

**O**n March 3, 2004, the Ontario government announced a permanent ban on the killing of wolves in all townships surrounding Algonquin Provincial Park. These townships are about 10 to 15 kilometers (6 to 9 miles) wide and encompass almost as much land as within the 7,600-square-kilometer (2,900-square-mile) park. More importantly, it is within these townships that most wolf killing has occurred, as detailed in our research between 1987 and 1999. That mortality, through snaring and shooting, was threatening

the viability of the population, causing a drop of 33 percent over the years of the study and exacerbating the ongoing problem of gene swamping by coyotes.

This action represents a conservation milestone, the first time any park in North America and perhaps the world has enacted a permanent ban on killing a large carnivore adjacent to a park. The action is significant given a general concern among conservation biologists that the large parks of the world are failing to protect the large carnivores of the world due to competing land uses and exploitation around them. In a recent survey of Canadian national parks, all but one park with resident wolves reported a significant problem over exploitation of its transboundary wolf population.

Three years ago, the government enacted a temporary ban on wolf killing, to expire on June 30, 2004. However, a change in political party and leadership brought a different sensitivity to the issue. In

*The permanent ban on the killing of wolves in all townships surrounding Algonquin Provincial Park represents a conservation milestone, the first time any park in North America and perhaps the world has enacted a ban on killing a large carnivore adjacent to a park.*



January, with media attention again beginning to focus on the plight of Algonquin Park's wolf population, and after meetings with environmental leaders, the government announced its intentions.

The government's announcement had two other components: a ban on the killing of coyotes as well as wolves because snares cannot be set for one without catching the other, and hunters cannot distinguish easily between the members of the populations that overlap in size. Secondly, the province committed itself to the development of a province-wide wolf management strategy. In that strategy, hopefully, boundary protection may come for other parks such as Pukaskwa National Park on the north shore of Lake Superior, where killing outside the park is also a particular problem. And maybe Ontario's action at Algonquin will be precedent setting even beyond, for Yellowstone, Denali, Riding Mountain and other parks.

*John and Mary Theberge published a 167-page scientific monograph in May 2004 titled "The Wolves of Algonquin Park, a 12 Year Ecological Study" that involved intensive research on 150 radio-collared wolves. It can be ordered from the University of Waterloo through e-mail to [bkevans@fes.uwaterloo.ca](mailto:bkevans@fes.uwaterloo.ca). The price is \$23.50 Canadian or \$20.00 U.S. or other countries.*

John and Mary Theberge



## WOLVES OF THE UNITED STATES

# Mexican Wolf Update

by Terry B. Johnson

Recent Arizona wildfires have many people concerned about Mexican wolves and their habitat. Actually, the fires have produced a mosaic of forest from lightly burned meadows to small patches of totally charred timber. The overall result will be a diverse forest with rich new growth capable of supporting more wolf prey, such as elk and white-tailed and mule deer. One fire burned through the central portion of the Hawk's Nest pack territory, but the adult pair was found using the area while some logs were still smoldering.

With the addition of the Fort Apache Indian Reservation, managed by the White Mountain Apache Tribe, the Mexican wolf reintroduction area now includes almost 10,000 square miles. Through a recent agreement with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and other cooperators, the White Mountain Apache Tribe and the game and fish departments in Arizona and New Mexico are co-leading the reintroduction project in their respective jurisdictions. This cooperation and lead by nonfederal entities are almost unprecedented. Arizona's participation is supported primarily by funds derived from state lottery sales, as a result of a citizen initiative.

## Status of the Experimental Population in Arizona–New Mexico

- The current population is about 50 wolves, half the reintroduction goal.
- Wild-born Mexican wolves have produced wild-born litters.
- Responsive management and a Defenders of Wildlife compensation program have limited the impact of

livestock depredation to less than predicted.

- Quarterly meetings of an adaptive management oversight committee and working group provide for participation by all interested and affected governmental and non-governmental parties.
- Outreach activities have informed thousands of students, outdoor recreationists, and local residents about wolf ecology and how to distinguish between coyotes and wolves to prevent accidental wolf shootings.
- A revised wolf recovery plan is underway for the Southwest and should be ready for public comment in late 2005.

For more Mexican wolf information, subscribe to the Arizona Game and Fish Department's Endangered Species Updates ListServe at [azgfd.com/signup](http://azgfd.com/signup). For U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service information, go to <http://ifw2es.fws.gov/mexicanwolf/>.

*Terry B. Johnson has been Arizona Game and Fish's Chief of Nongame and Endangered Wildlife since 1983. He serves on the Wolf Recovery Team and also chairs the adaptive management effort for the Arizona–New Mexico reintroduction project.*



Jackie Fallon

## Exciting Year for Red Wolf Pups

by Sarah Krueger

Every spring, field biologists with the Red Wolf Recovery Program listen for the squeaky whine of young red wolf pups as they search beneath logs, in the pocosin thickets and in brush-pile burrows for red wolf dens. When they locate dens, each pup is counted, tagged, sampled for blood and carefully placed back in its snug shelter. This annual census occurs during “pup season,” early April through late May. This spring, red wolf biologists celebrated a record-breaking pup season, as the team located 11 dens with 55 pups and added 2 more pups to the count via fostering.

Captive-to-wild fostering events are coordinated efforts by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Red Wolf Recovery Program and the American Zoo and Aquarium Association's Red Wolf Species Survival Plan (RWSSP). Fostering is a new method that allows genetically valuable captive-born red wolf pups to become integrated into the wild red wolf population. When they are

about 2 weeks old, the youngsters are transferred from a captive facility and placed in dens with wild-born pups of the same age. The pups develop in the wild so that they gain the survival skills required to mature and reproduce. "This technique is effective," explains Art Beyer, field coordinator for the Red Wolf Recovery Program, "when the fostered pups live long enough to contribute their genes to the wild population by producing pups of their own."

This spring the Red Wolf Recovery Program was able to measure the success of a previous, 2002 fostering attempt. It was this time two years ago when a bold experiment placed two pups from the North Carolina Zoological Park into a wild den containing two pups of identical age. The male and female pups were successfully adopted by their wild foster mother and raised within the pack. During the following spring, in 2003, the two captive-born yearlings

remained with their adopted pack and helped raise a new litter of pups.

Credit for the success of the 2002 fostering attempt goes to the male zoo-born wolf. Displaced from his adopted pack and forced to establish a range of his own, he was successful in securing the alpha position of another established pack just in time for breeding season. Biologists are celebrating the discovery of a litter of eight pups that was fathered by the zoo-born male. Sadly, the 2002 zoo-born female died due to complications with pregnancy, but Buddy Fazio, leader of the Red Wolf Recovery Program, explained that the team is "encouraged by the female's ability to adapt to life in the wild before dying of natural causes." Biologists hope that all the zoo-born red wolves will produce litters of their own. ■

*Sarah Krueger is Outreach Coordinator for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Red Wolf Recovery Program.*

## The First Year

Wild red wolf pups are born each year in April and May. At birth the pups weigh less than a pound. Their eyes are closed, and their ears are pressed down against their heads. Safe in their dens, the pups squirm in a pile, relying on their mother for warmth.



Sarah Krueger/USFWS

*One of two female red wolf pups born on Bulls Island at Cape Romain National Wildlife Refuge in South Carolina awaits her transfer to a wild den in northeastern North Carolina.*

When the pups are about 2 weeks old, their cobalt blue eyes open. At 3 weeks of age, they can hear, and by 4 weeks, the pups are able to wander out of the den, staying near the entrance. As their milk teeth break through, they begin to eat small bits of solid food, and by 8 to 9 weeks of age, they are weaned and learning to hunt mice and other small prey.

The pups grow rapidly. In late fall, when they are 8 to 10 months old, they have adult-sized frames, and biologists are able to fit them with radio collars.

For a red wolf puppy, the first year is a critical time for learning, growing and, most of all, surviving. Disease and predators are daily challenges for young red wolves.

On average, only half of all pups born each year in the wild survive their first year. Those that do survive, however, may live an average of 7 years.



Sarah Krueger/USFWS

*Biologists examine a captive-born red wolf pup before placing her in a wild den.*



with great surprise I realized what I was looking at. My eyes were staring back at me, only 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 wolves

# Personal Encounter

## The Wolves of Yellowstone: Unwelcome Neighbors?

*Text and photos by William Konstant*

If you accept that there are two sides to every story, then consider that there are at least two perceptions of every experience as well. Recently, I visited Yellowstone National Park and heard the howl of a wild wolf pack for the first time in my life. Almost 80 years ago the species was exterminated in the park, but animals reintroduced from Canada in the past decade have reestablished a viable population. I share with you some notes from my journal.

*The Lamar Valley in Yellowstone Park is home to the wolves of the Druid Peak pack.*

It's about an hour before dusk. I'm standing near Soda Butte Cone in the Lamar Valley along with a dozen other folks, everyone's binoculars and spotting scopes trained on the foothills across the river. Wolves of the Druid Peak pack are making their way down the slope into the valley, not in any noticeable hurry and apparently veering away from what remains of a two-day-old elk kill out on the flats. Field biologist Rick McIntyre makes out 12 members of the pack, some identifiable by their markings and others by their radio collars. With several animals in view, one wolf arches its muzzle skyward and lets forth a low plaintive howl. Almost immediately the others join the chorus. It lasts all of 30 seconds, but we along the roadside

absorb the vibrations like rays of warm summer sun. Goose bumps rise on my forearms and a broad smile takes control of my face. Awesome!

The wolves leave the tree line and trot single file into the open valley. We follow their path along the river to within easy attack distance of a small bison herd, but apparently it isn't dinnertime. The light slowly disappears from the sky, and the pack into the landscape.

Later that night, I remember thinking that the Druid wolves might still be on the move, along with other packs in the Greater Yellowstone region. The reintroduced wolves have done very well, staking claim to new territories well beyond the boundaries of the park. From the few dozen that were originally released, several hundred have spread into neighboring wilderness areas of Wyoming, Montana and Idaho.

Several days after my encounter, I compared notes with a newfound friend, Marina Smith, manager of the Elk Meadows Ranch in southwestern



Montana's Madison Valley. Elk Meadows is about 70 miles from Yellowstone at the foothills of the Madison Range. Marina tends a small herd of sheep, some riding horses and a couple of llamas, and every summer leases pasture to a number of neighboring ranchers. She also has three pet dogs that she considers her children. Only a few weeks before my visit, the ranch was within the overlapping territories of the Taylor Peak and Sentinel Peak wolf packs, but now that's history. The Madison wolves went on a 10-day killing spree that tallied seven cows and a pet dog, forcing government officials to helicopter in and eliminate the troublemakers. Marina was neither happy nor relieved over the outcome. She doesn't hate wolves, she doesn't love them. To her they're just adaptable predators, and she knows they'll be back in the valley.

I asked Marina what her reaction was the first time she heard a wolf howl. It happened on the ranch. "I was awed," she said. She paused. "Then I was fearful. It was a primeval fear." The feeling of awe she described was consistent with mine

just a few days earlier, but I didn't share her fear. And why should I? My encounter was brief. Ephemeral. On the other hand, the next time Marina hears a wolf—and she undoubtedly will—her first thoughts will be for the safety of her animals.

Reintroduced wolves have become a perennial threat on western Montana rangelands, a point further impressed on me by the Clarks, another Madison Valley ranching family. Gary and Bennie run about 300 head of cattle. Like Marina, neither hates wolves. Gary claims to have seen them only twice but admits that one might have been a German shepherd. They did, however, lose a yearling steer in the recent rampage. "It was three days of confusion and frustration," Bennie explained. "We kept calling the authorities as cattle were being killed up and down the valley, but nothing seemed to be happening." When authorities finally dealt with the problem, Bennie

*I asked Marina what her reaction was the first time she heard a wolf howl.*

*It happened on the ranch.*

*"I was awed," she said.*

*She paused. "Then I was fearful.*

*It was a primeval fear."*

became depressed. "It was the worst thing in the world to kill them all."

A fair number of ranchers probably don't share her point of view, but that's not surprising. No species in the history of our country has polarized people like the wolf. There are those that love 'em and those that hate 'em. The onslaught against them began shortly after European colonization. Sixteenth-century French trappers traded their pelts as they moved westward into the wilderness. English colonies established wolf bounties. As settlers crossed the Rockies, ranchers fenced off the



*Right: Marina Smith, manager of the Elk Meadows Ranch in southwestern Montana's Madison Valley, tends a small herd of sheep, some riding horses and a couple of llamas. She also has pet dogs that she considers her children.*





range, and wolves became the target of massive predator control campaigns. Baited carcasses doused with lethal doses of strychnine poisoned thousands upon thousands of wolves, as well as many other creatures, and government agencies were given a mandate to exterminate the species. By the mid-1900s, wolves had essentially disappeared from the lower 48 states save for a few small enclaves along the U.S.-Canadian border. At some point public opinion changed in favor of the wolf, and the Endangered Species Act shifted former federal policies 180 degrees. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service was ultimately charged with the wolf's recovery.

By and large, residents of wolf country appear to resent programs that they feel jeopardize their rights or their livelihood. A certain bumper sticker reads, "Save a Rancher! Kill a Wolf!" but I'd like to believe that sentiments don't run that deep for most folks.

Problems do arise, however, when wolves deviate from their natural diet of beaver, deer, elk, moose and bison.

Livestock and pets can become perfectly acceptable substitutes. Thanks to at least one compensation program, administered by the Defenders of Wildlife, livestock depredations reported in a timely fashion and with sufficient proof that a wolf was the culprit are eligible for compensation: full market value of the loss up to \$2,000. This program either works well or fairly well, depending on whom one talks to. It may be difficult to prove that a wolf did the deed, versus a mountain lion or a grizzly, and missing stock may not be noticed until weeks after an attack.

Fortunately, there are ways to reduce livestock losses. Guard dogs can help ward off predators but sometimes become prey themselves. Movable fencing is a deterrent. Fladry, long lines strung along a pasture's perimeter on which thin red strips of

*I'm impressed at the level of tolerance that the owners and managers I met displayed when we addressed the sore subject of wolves. They value the opinions of a visiting enthusiast like myself, as well as those of neighbors who are adapting to an expanding wolf population.*

fabric are hung, serves as a visual obstacle to wolves, at least for awhile. Portable electrified fences tend to work better but are more costly. Managing both types of fence is labor intensive. Authorities sometimes provide landowners with rubber bullets or bean-bag cartridges and train them to shoot these nonlethal projectiles at encroaching wolves. There is also something called a cracker shell, an M-80 firecracker that sets off multiple explosions and can scare the dickens out of snooping wolves. Unfortunately, cracker shells are highly incendiary and hazardous during dry times of the year.



Gary and Bennie Clark run about 300 head of cattle. Neither hates wolves, but a fair number of ranchers don't share their point of view.



Right: The Taylor Peak and Sentinel Peak wolf packs went on a 10-day killing spree that tallied seven cows and a pet dog, forcing government officials to helicopter in and eliminate the troublemakers.

If a rancher can afford something a bit higher-tech, there is an interesting new contraption that works on the principle of invisible fencing used by dog owners. At least one wolf in the pack must be radio-collared, so that the signal triggers a tape player and speaker when he approaches too near to a portable detection station positioned near grazing herds. When the invisible barrier is broken, the sounds of gun shots, helicopter rotors or railroad crossing signals scream at him.

When deterrent devices like these fail, livestock-killing wolves must be moved or killed. Wildlife officials can sometimes locate dens and plug them, which often persuades packs to relocate. Captured culprits can also be transported to areas where wolf-human conflicts are less likely to occur, but some wolves find their way back. Others eventually resume their bad behavior in new surroundings. The last option is to shoot live-

stock killers, a job that presently rests with wildlife authorities. Some landowners, however, would gladly relieve the government of this responsibility. "Just let the ranchers kill 'em," suggests Gary Clarke, who doesn't believe this solution would spell the end for the wolf. "We'll never catch 'em all. We just don't have the time with hayin' and irrigatin' and such. I'd like to be able to shoot a wolf if it's after my cows. But you gotta be there to shoot one, and most of the time we're just not there."

I'm impressed at the level of tolerance that the owners and managers I met displayed when we addressed the sore subject of wolves. They value the opinions of a visiting enthusiast like myself, as well as those of neighbors who are adapting to an expanding wolf population. Some local entrepreneurs are cashing in on the Yellowstone reintroduction. Motels are booking rooms, and restaurants are serving meals to wolf watchers. One outfit, Moose Creek

Adventures, highlights wolf tours in their brochures, even advertising that visitors may encounter the "nationally controversial" Jureano wolf pack.

According to Ed Bangs of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, "Wolves are back and here to stay." Those headed to Yellowstone to see them in the wild are likely to enjoy the same good fortune I did. But they should also understand that the few special moments they savor are possible thanks to people they are unlikely to meet. Some have worked long and hard to implement the recovery while others, who may be opposed to it in principle, have accepted the risks of living alongside potentially dangerous creatures. We owe thanks to both for the return of a true symbol of American wilderness. ■

*Bill Konstant serves as Director of Conservation and Science at the Houston Zoo. His career in wildlife conservation has included work for Conservation International, Wildlife Preservation Trust International (now the Wildlife Trust) and the World Wildlife Fund.*

*Reintroduced wolves have become a perennial threat to livestock on western Montana rangelands such as the Madison Valley.*





# As A Matter Of Fact

## What are the two longest-running wolf predator/prey studies?

Studies of wolves and moose in Isle Royale National Park began in 1959, and studies of wolves and deer in the Superior National Forest in northern Minnesota began in 1966. Both continue today. ■



Dave Mech

## New Question

How does the Mexican wolf differ from other wolf subspecies?

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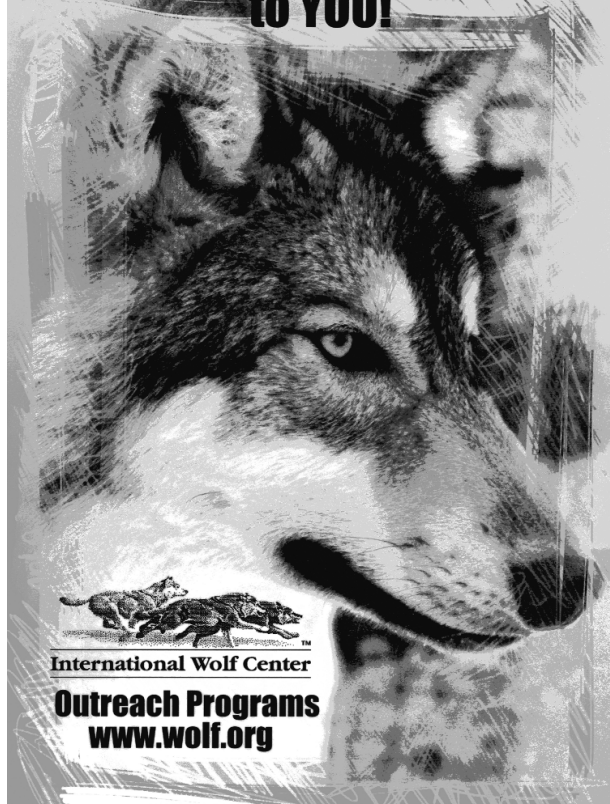
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# News and Notes

**WOLVES VINDICATED.** The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Forensic Lab cleared wolves of an attack on a horse in the Jackson Hole, Wyoming, area. When the wounded horse was euthanized, three pieces of a large canine tooth were found in its leg. Rather than belonging to a wolf as suspected, the tooth was found to have belonged to a cougar.

**ATELLING WOLF TAIL** led to the fining (\$21,252) of a Lewiston, Idaho, man in federal court. Having shot the wolf during a 2003 elk hunt, the man had taken its tail to his residence. Besides the fine, the poacher was placed on a year's probation and lost his hunting privileges.

**WOLF DENS** may not be so sacrosanct as most people have believed, according to the Alaska Department of Game and Fish. Biologist Dave Person and assistant Amy Russell have crawled into 27 of them to count pups; in only three cases did the wolves move the pups afterward.

**COLORADO WOLF.** Radio-collared female wolf 293 of the Yellowstone area's Swan Lake pack was found dead 420 miles away near Denver. She had been struck by a vehicle about June 7 on I-70 near Idaho Springs, some 30 miles west of Denver. The wolf had been last seen by biologists near Mammoth, Wyoming, on January 14.

**A TUNDRA WOLF** was documented making a 205-mile round-trip from her den over a two-week period apparently to find caribou. This finding was reported by Paul Frame and co-authors in the article "Long foraging movement of a denning tundra wolf" in *Arctic* 57:196–203.

**THE IDAHO ANTI-WOLF COALITION** has announced plans to sue the federal government to remove all the wolves (some 350) from Idaho. This would be an impossible task even if the Coalition won the lawsuit, which is considered highly doubtful. ■



Sherry Jokinen



UK Wolf Conservation Trust

## We will all miss Roger Palmer.

The wolf world has lost a seasoned wolf conservationist who worked passionately for wolves for many years. Roger Palmer, United Kingdom Wolf Conservation Trust (UKWCT) founder and executive director, passed away on Saturday, March 6, 2004, following a long illness.

Roger established the UKWCT in 1995 after keeping wolves privately for a number of years at Butlers Farm. Wolves were one of Roger's driving passions, and he never wavered from his vision for the Trust. His energy and drive seemed boundless to those who worked closely with Roger, and he

was admired and respected for the work he was doing for wolf conservation.

Everyone at UKWCT has vowed to continue his legacy and work to achieve his vision and goals. He will be missed by the entire wolf conservation community.

Adapted from *Wolf Print*, issue 19, Spring 2004



# Wild Kids

## At Home in the Wild

### Coloring Contest Winners Announced

Thanks to everyone who entered our coloring contest! We received almost a hundred entries of the coloring sheet offered in the Spring 2004 issue of *International Wolf* magazine and on our Web site, and several more entrants chose to draw their own interpretation of our theme "At Home in the Wild."

One winner in each age group will receive a one-year membership to the International Wolf Center, which includes free admission to the Center's educational facility in Ely, Minnesota, a subscription to *International Wolf* magazine, a discount at the Wolf Den store, and more. Several Honorable Mentions were awarded in each age group.

You may see some of the artwork in future advertisements for the International Wolf Center! ■



### Coloring contest entrants:

#### AGE 6 AND UNDER

Ashley Bledsoe,  
Linn Creek, MO

Michael David Eggeston, AZ

Alyson Kauffman,  
Pontiac, IL

▲ Carolyn Kocken,  
Minneapolis, MN

Anthony Lettieri,  
Piermont, NY

▲ Calvin Ma, Morrisville, NC  
Savannah Mailloux,  
Milford, CT

Alex Pick, Minneapolis, MN

Adam Riedel,  
South Euclid, OH

▲ Kate Walsberg,  
Two Harbors, MN

▲ Ruby Walsberg,  
Two Harbors, MN

## WOLF WORK

**POSITION:** Wolf Education Intern

**JOB DESCRIPTION:** Teach the public, including youth, adults and mixed groups, a variety of educational programs related to wolves. Programs may be indoor, lecture-oriented presentations or outdoor field trips. Develop curricula, answer the public's questions about wolves, prepare bulletin board displays, and write short articles. Communicate the organization's mission to a variety of audiences.

**TRAINING REQUIRED:** Three years of undergraduate studies, and experience working with people.

### SKILLS NEEDED TO DO THE JOB:

Ability to speak in front of groups as small as 3 people or as large as 100. Knowledge of wolves—basic biology and ecology—and environmental issues.

### ADVICE TO KIDS:

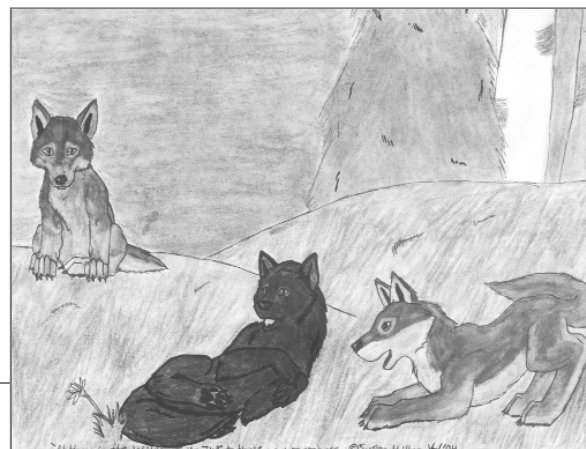
Get started early by volunteering at a nature center, or offering to teach your class or youth group about wolves and the environment they need for survival. Practice talking to groups of people. Remember that to understand wolves you also must understand where they live, how their prey live, and what concerns humans have living in the same area.

For more information about Wolf Educator Internships, check out [www.wolf.org](http://www.wolf.org).



Summer 2003 wolf education interns. Left to right, back row: Terri Ellman, Krista Prokosch, Krissy English; front row: Janeen Hetzler, Kristi Ruegge, Jennilyn Roy

International Wolf Center

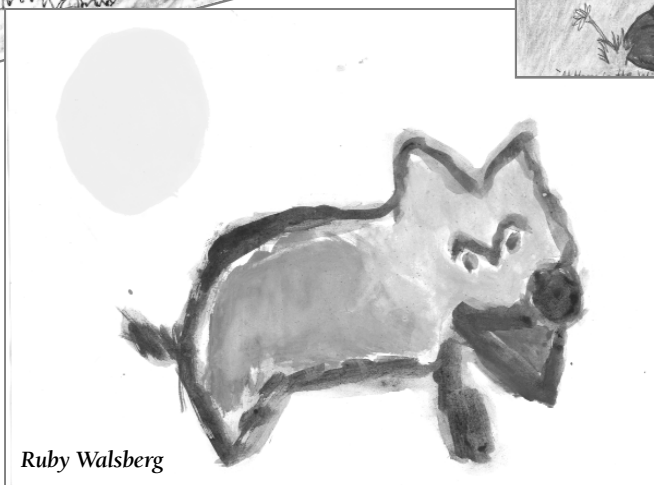


Susan Hilbig

## AGE 7-9

James Ahrenholz, Wheaton, IL  
 Nick Allen, Baxter, MN  
 Matthew Banfe, Bridgewater, NJ  
 Aaron Bledsoe, Linn Creek, MO  
 Reice Brown, Cedar Park, TX  
 Brenna Chisholm, Baxter, MN  
 Nick Condift, Baxter, MN

- ▲ Whitney Crook, Bossier City, LA
- Jacob Dummer, Baxter, MN
- Kiana Ellis, Redby MN
- Ashley Erickson, Melrose WI
- Destiny Ford, Redby, MN
- Samantha Frinzi, Mayville, WI
- Emily Gould, Encino, CA
- Katie Heise, Baxter, MN
- Noah Johnson, Grand Meadow, MN
- Samantha McConnell, Minneapolis, MN
- ▲ Maggie McGrath, Seaford, NY
- Alex Miller, Carlsbad, CA
- ▲ Jessica Miller, Rice, MN
- Kelly Molitor, Sauk Rapids, MN
- Catherine Pillar, Yorktown, VA
- Darius Polipnick, Baxter, MN
- Sara Riedel, South Euclid, OH



Ruby Walsberg

Jamie Roberts, Red Lake, MN  
 Joshua Rodriguez, Bronx, NY  
 🐾 Justin Rosenthal, Commack, NY  
 Taylor Rumbaugh, Poway, CA  
 Hanna Ruzich, Baxter, MN  
 Nicholas Schindler, Baxter, MN  
 Hannah Sommers, Westlake, OH  
 Erica Swenson, Baxter, MN  
 Brooke Taylor, Nisswa, MN  
 Lillian van Wyngaarden, Lima, OH

## AGE 10-12

Alan Bledsoe, Linn Creek, MO  
 Chase Brudwick, Sauk Rapids, MN  
 Cody Brumley, Bossier City, LA  
 Sheldon Busby, Bossier City, LA  
 Aaron Carter, Bossier City, LA  
 Brittany Ceason, Elk River, MN

Zachary Coelho, Bossier City, LA  
 Lindsey Combest, Bossier City, LA  
 Ellie Cosgrove, Wayzata, MN  
 ▲ Gabrielle Rose Felio, Rockland, Ontario, Canada  
 Mark Henning, St. Cloud, MN  
 Thomas Janson, Sauk Rapids, MN  
 Tyler Jobrey, Bossier City, LA  
 Lynnea Johnson, Alton, KS  
 Taylor Jones, Bossier City, LA  
 Kayla Koenig, Sauk Rapids, MN  
 Cortne Lolberg, Bemidji, MN  
 Lauren Mapp, Bossier City, LA  
 Dylan Lee Marler, Marshall, NC  
 Kelcie McCartin, Glenside, PA  
 Garret McCormick, Sauk Rapids, MN  
 Aleigha McWilliams, Bossier City, LA

Sami Moore, Hopewell, VA  
 Desiree Rushing, Bossier City, LA  
 Marissa Russo, Holmes, NY  
 Roberta Ryan, Andover, MN  
 Ashley Sullivan, Bossier City, LA

- ▲ Katlyn Traxler, Pembine, WI
- Heidi Vanegas, Bossier City, LA
- Anneke van Wyngaarden, Lima, OH
- Bella Vasquez, Bossier City, LA
- James Vieux, Bossier City, LA
- 🐾 Arielle White, Chambersburg, PA
- Lauren Yell, Grand Rapids, MN

## AGE 13-17

- Alexis Crumback, Magna, UT
- ▲ Leah Fuson, Canton, MI
- Chris Gonzalez, Salt Lake, UT
- Kylie Hartman, Kearns, UT
- ▲ Susan Hilbig, Powder Springs, GA
- 🐾 Beth Kerner, Bloomington, IL
- Clayton Meyer, Salt Lake, UT
- Cory Parle, West Valley, UT
- Joe Sandaral, West Valley, UT
- Tiffany Schlieff, Fonda, IA

🐾 = First-place winner

▲ = Honorable mention



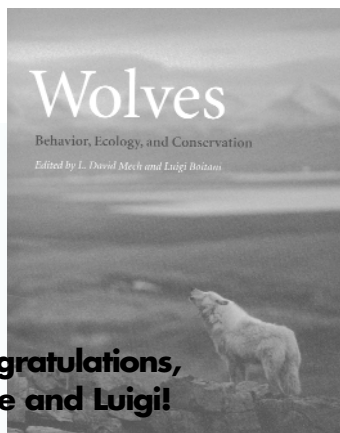
# Book Review

by Jim Williams, Assistant Director for Education,  
International Wolf Center

## *Vicious: Wolves and Men in America*

by Jon Coleman  
Yale University Press, 2004

In his classic book *Of Wolves and Men*, Barry Lopez described America's history of sadistic wolf killing and attributed it to a deeply ingrained tradition of European folklore that cast the wolf as an all-purpose symbol of evil. Intentionally painting with a broad brush, Lopez left it to future scholars to more closely analyze how, precisely, wolf folklore motivated wolf killing.



### **Congratulations, Dave and Luigi!**

The Wildlife Publications Award Committee of The Wildlife Society has selected Luigi Boitani and Dave Mech as the 2004 recipients of the Wildlife Publications Award - Outstanding Edited Book Category for *Wolves: Behavior, Ecology and Conservation*, The University of Chicago Press, Chicago and London. The award was presented during The Wildlife Society's 11th Annual Conference in Calgary, Alberta, September 19, 2004.

An excellent new book picks up where *Of Wolves and Men* left off. *Vicious: Wolves and Men in America* by historian Jon Coleman, is a groundbreaking study that examines the particular folktales at work in individual episodes of wolf killing. Coleman contends that some wolf killing was inevitable given the wolf's tendency to kill livestock. The brutality of the killing, however—the pleasure with which humans caused wolves pain—was due to a distinctly American brand of folklore that placed the wolf in the way of the juggernaut of manifest destiny.

Coleman's research overturns a number of common assumptions about wolf killing. For example, Lopez and others have often depicted sadistic wolf killing as exceptional, and wolf killers as unusually heartless. On the contrary, Coleman's research reveals that wolf killing has been alarmingly common in American history and that wolf killers have been more often viewed as pillars of the community, and even champions of nature. No less than naturalist John James Audubon wrote of his wonder and delight at watching a farmer brutally kill wolves by severing their tendons and loosing dogs to tear the maimed animals to pieces.

Case studies examining 17th-century New England, early 19th-century Ohio, and mid-19th-century Utah reveal common "story types" that recur in association with wolf killing. In one story type, virtuous but vulnerable American settlers are besieged by dark forces of wilderness embodied most menacingly by the



wolf. In the mid-19th century, this story type takes the form of wolves on the Great Plains eating the starved corpses of Mormon pilgrims, symbolically, if not in fact, thwarting the pioneers' geographic and spiritual progress to the promised land of Utah. In early 19th-century Ohio, the story type appears as wolves surrounding a traveler at night as he attempts to return to the haven of family and home.

But American wolf lore does not just describe the victimization of humans by wolves. To restore the virtues of prosperity and community threatened by wolves, the lore also prescribes the compensatory victimization of wolves through community-sanctioned ritual violence. In early 19th-century Ohio, for example, the besieged traveler survives, returns home and marshals a communal circle hunt that ritually purges wolves from the wilderness and restores man's dominion over nature.

Full of new ideas, animated by a lively narrative, *Vicious* is a tremendous accomplishment that deserves a wide public audience. ■

*Vicious: Wolves and Men in America* is available for purchase online at [www.wolf.org](http://www.wolf.org) and at the International Wolf Center's Wolf Den store, 800-359-9653.

# A Look Beyond

## So You Want to Work with Wolves?

by John Shivik

Growing up with three older sisters was a bit like being raised by wolves. One of their favorite games was called “stop hitting yourself.” To play, I was immobilized, and then with my arms overpowered, I was forced to repeatedly pummel my own noggin while they uttered the name of the game. Watching yourself hit yourself, feeling the pain and humiliation, yet being unable to stop is somewhat like being a federal biologist working with wolves. I’ve learned humility from my experiences but also formed the opinion that

if you want to work with wolves, first consider medication; if that doesn’t help, at least develop your sense of humor.

But I have other characteristics that help me in my vocation. For example, the thing that enables me to work most effectively with wolves is that I do not consider myself a wolf biologist. If nothing else, this allows me to investigate and work with these animals (which I really do

consider to be pretty cool) with a certain amount of relaxed levity if not complete objectivity.

Part of my problem is that I didn’t go into wildlife biology because I thought I could change or improve the world, because I love our Mother Earth or Brother Wolf, or because I thought I’d learn how to hunt more deer, which were the reasons given by most of my undergraduate wildlife management colleagues. No, I think I did it just because I liked to be outside and thought animals were fascinating. Then, I began to study human-wildlife conflicts because the problems were so interesting, nearly intractable puzzles that really challenged one’s mind. Lastly, I became



Sherry Jokinen



interested in wolves because they were the new, rapidly growing issue for someone who was dedicating his life to resolving conflicts between humans and predators.

I admit that working with wolves has been a little more difficult than I originally thought. From a purely scientific perspective, it was really easy to devise a simple solution to the controversies regarding these animals. My first purely biological solution was to kill all of the wolves, and/or all of the livestock, and/or all of the people. That was shot down pretty quickly. I came up with other modest proposals too, such as designating land (i.e., “zoning”) as preferential habitat where wolves would be free to roam without harassment. Sure, this would have added some hardships to the residents of Minneapolis, St. Paul, Duluth and Moose Lake, who would have been required to move to Mesa, Arizona, after their homes and offices were demolished to improve that area’s habitat for wolves and game. But

hey, with a proper compensation program, I bet they would have been fine with it.

That’s been the difficult part, factoring people into the equations. Adding more people to the discussion is like adding more bullets to a revolver before going first in Russian roulette. For example, my collaborators and I have been assigned various appellations such as “contemptible fraud” and “Himmler,” and our work developing nonlethal methods has been described as “expensive, silly, stupid, impractical, foolish, absurd, idiotic, ridiculous, childish, inane, outlandish, asinine, juvenile, hare-brained, preposterous, and just plain dumb.” Luckily, I’ve learned not to take it personally.

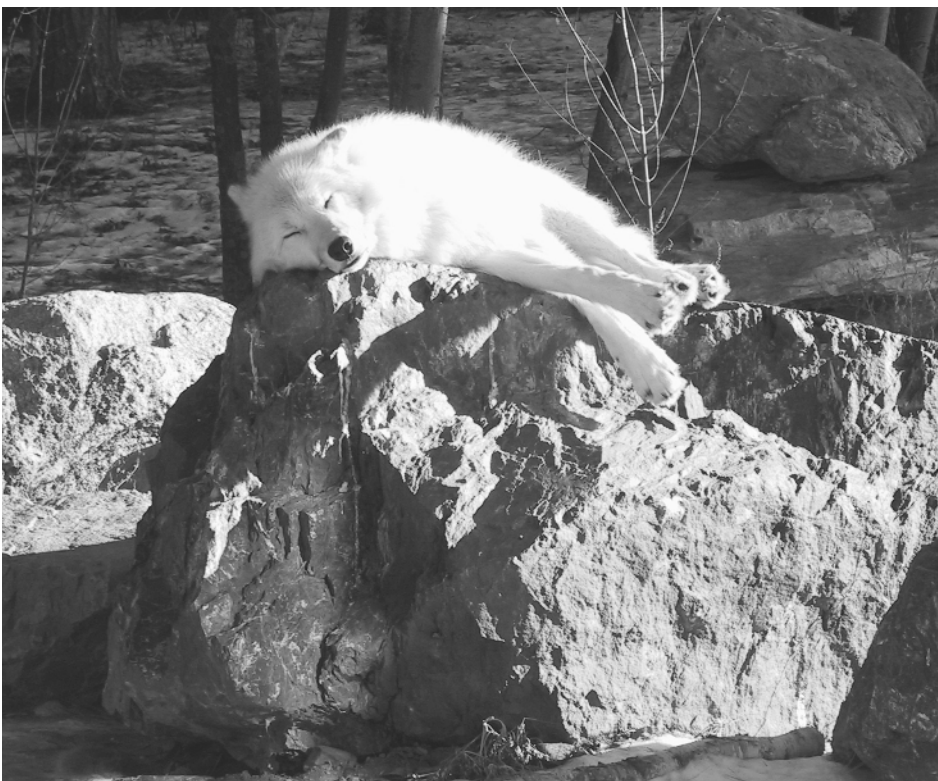
The point is that values and opinions about wolves are independent of so many other things. One “thing” that is usually not part of the discussion is reality. I like working with wolves because they are fascinating animals. Other people like killing wolves because they are fascinating

animals. Some people change their names to Lupophilia and “educate” the public about wolves because they are fascinating animals. By “educate,” I mean indoctrinate, because the two most frequently asked questions are “Why don’t more people like wolves?” Answer: “Because they just don’t know (yet) that Little Red Ridinghood was not a literal account of a historic occurrence. If they were just less ignorant, then they’d invite wolves into their homes.” And “What will happen when wolf populations continue to grow?” Answer: “Death, destruction and devastation of biblical proportions. If people were just less ignorant, they’d kill all the wolves.” Information is subjective, and often unreal.

And there we are, stuck somewhere in the middle, catching fire from both sides. So, if you are thinking about studying wolves, educating people about wolves, or at least trying to learn how to live with them, it is important to note that there are a lot of other things that get mixed in and frustrate your efforts. Of course, by “frustrate” I mean “destroy,” and I call these “things” “Maalox moments.”

For now, my goal is to re-create wolves as animals—just predators—because this would make my life as a biologist much easier. There will be downsides, in that it will put my therapist out of work, but also upsides: one day we will be able to all come to the table, realize that wolves are pretty cool animals both for the good things that they do and for the bad things they do. With an even playing field, we might even find a biological solution or two for the conflicts that separate us. ■

*John Shivik is a supervisory research wildlife biologist at Wildlife Services’ National Wildlife Research Center and a research associate professor at Utah State University. His main focus is to develop new tools and techniques, especially nonlethal methods, for managing predation. He lives in Logan, Utah.*



Nancy Schwartz, International Wolf Center