



International Wolf Center



Photo of Boltz by Scott Block

# 2015 ANNUAL REPORT



# 2015 OVERVIEW

## 2015 MARKED 30TH ANNIVERSARY

*In a landmark year, 2015 brought changes to the world of wolves in the U.S. and an anniversary for the International Wolf Center.*

*Resulting from a stunning federal court ruling in the last days of 2014, gray wolves in Michigan, Minnesota, Wisconsin and parts of Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, North and South Dakota were placed back under the protection of the Endangered Species Act. In 2015, as wolf management returned to the federal government, the ruling ended all public killing of wolves in the Great Lake states except for depredation control and defense of human life.*

*At home, the Center celebrated its 30th anniversary with more than 32,000 visitors to the Ely Center and an international outreach to members from 29 countries. International Wolf magazine told our members fascinating stories about wolf populations from northern Alaska to the Netherlands and Isle Royale to Belarus.*

*In this year's annual report, you play a major role. Members, students, guests at the Ely Center and more than 500,000 visitors on line heard the up-to-date, science-based and personally fascinating stories of wolves in 2015.*

*Thank you for helping the International Wolf Center to "track the wolf," following it's stories of survival and challenges around the world 2015 and in the future.*

*nancy jo Subbs*

Board Chair





# 2015 HIGHLIGHTS



The International Wolf Center presented its 250th Wolves at Our Door classroom program on April 30, 2015, to the fifth grade class of Kate Weidenbach at Lake Harriet Upper Community School in Minneapolis. The Wolves at Our Door program is made possible by a grant from the Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust fund. This program, which began in October of 2014, is aimed at helping children understand the complex issues and public attitudes that surround wolves and their fluctuating protective status.

"Chasms divide people on all sides of the wolf issue – rural, urban and suburban communities, hunters and non-hunters, trappers and non-trappers, and residents and non-residents in the state's wolf range," said Center Executive Director Rob Schultz. "Our children, in particular, have become confused by the polarizing debates they hear about wolves and the misinformation that often surrounds them."

Tara Morrison, the International Wolf Center outreach director, delivers the free 60-minute in-person programs. Wolf experts at the Center developed the science-based curriculum which includes lecture, discussion, photographs, videos, artifacts, and a take-home booklet. Students are surveyed before and after the presentation to measure their knowledge and understanding of basic wolf biology and behavior.

"Thanks for coming to our classroom to teach us about wolves. I now know way more about wolves than I did before," said 11-year-old Megan of Rosemount, Minn.

"Thank you a thousand times for coming to our school and teaching me about wolves. I learned so much," said 10-year-old Greta of North Minneapolis.





# 2015 HIGHLIGHTS

## PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

- 4,610 Members from 29 countries support our mission
- 32,561 Visited the organization's Interpretive Center in Ely, Minnesota
- 3,216 Participated in group visits and single- and multi-day programs
- 422 Students participated in live Minnesota WolfLink interactive videoconferences
- 1,291 Students participated in live WolfLink global interactive videoconferences
- 649 Students used Wolf discovery kits in their classrooms across the country
- 1,534 Experienced the popular What's for Dinner program
- 70,467 Fans followed us on Facebook.
- 542,454 Unique visitors to wolf.org, up from 457,241 in 2014.

WWW.WOLF.ORG

PHOTO:  
Telemetry is  
used to track  
wolves





# 2015 HIGHLIGHTS

## EDUCATION / OUTREACH

- Raptors arrived at the International Wolf Center in June. An educational exhibit, "Raptors! Predators from the Sky," was opened in Ely. It featured images shot by Ely-area photographer Heidi Pinkerton.
- A major change in admissions benefitted the tens of thousands of visitors to the International Wolf Center. In March, the Center announced that visitors who purchase admission would be entitled to a free second consecutive day. "If visitors miss a daily program or can only stay a short time, they now can return the following day at no additional cost," said Rob Schultz, executive director. "Many visitors, especially photography enthusiasts, want to spend more time watching the ambassador wolves. We hope this added value will draw more visitors to Ely and to the Center to learn about wolves."
- International Wolf Center founder Dr. L. David Mech spoke at the Bell Museum in December as part of its Saturday with a Scientist program.
- A popular webinar in 2015 was held in October. It included a showing of "The Wolf: Real or Imagined" and aimed to identify true behaviors that may be at the root of wolf folklore.





# 2015 HIGHLIGHTS

## WOLF CARE

The wolf care staff spent most of 2015 preparing for the addition of pups in the spring of 2016. Since the pup acquisition involved arctic pups, which are rare in captivity, an extensive search yielded a source in Ontario, Canada. Even though wolves are not considered endangered in Canada, and the pups were captive born, their importation to the United States required appropriate permits under the requirement of the C.I.T.E.S. Treaty or Convention for the International Trade of Endangered Species.

Other preparations included the design and construction of a wolf care annex that would allow direct access from the pack holding area to a heated space within the new facility. This design would allow the pups more freedom and space during the critical socialization period with staff.

The Exhibit Pack was managing well, with Luna showing some signs of defensive behavior, especially around food. Her fellow packmates seemed to adjust to this behavioral response, and the veterinarians believe she may have some underlying issues with her vitamin D deficiency and bone density that could be affecting her metabolism. They were also concerned that the malformation of her femoral head might be causing her pain making her proactively defensive to compensate for her vulnerability. Staff started training on some body work techniques to help reduce Luna's discomfort. Grizzer had a bit of a challenge during the fall of 2015 when construction activities began for the new annex. Blood work revealed that he had some low liver values, which prompted staff to add milk thistle as a nutritional supplement to his diet. He is definitely still active, displaying the Grizzer 500, which includes a playbow to staff followed by a race around the enclosure, darting in and out of wolf care staff in a version of keep-away.



**LEFT:**  
Luna photo by  
Scott Block

**CENTER:**  
Denali is  
pictured in the  
enclosure.

**RIGHT:**  
Boltz





# 2015 HIGHLIGHTS

## MEMBERSHIP / DEVELOPMENT

- Achieved a four-star rating with Charity Navigator—the highest rating possible!
- Raised over \$77,000 via Give to the Wolves Day 2015. This one-day fundraising event is our biggest single donation day each year.
- Held our second annual Howl at the Moon gala with guest emcee actor James Denton. The funds raised at the event help with ongoing wolf education work.
- Added more than 480 new memberships throughout the year. Total membership was over 4,400.
- Filled a tour bus during September for an Ely visit during the town's Harvest Moon Festival. A special "Behind the Scenes" tour, wolf videos, trivia, programs and wolf viewing made the one-day event memorable and fun.





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Sara Janson, Membership and Development Associate

Outreach  
Tara Morrison, Outreach Director

Retail  
Kirstin Nephew, Retail Manager

Exhibits  
Lori Schmidt, Curator  
Donna Prichard, Assistant Curator  
*Plus eight seasonal interns and six retail associates*

## AWARDS

The International Wolf Center received a four-star rating from Charity Navigator and a Top Rated Nonprofit badge from Great Nonprofits.



## OUR MISSION:

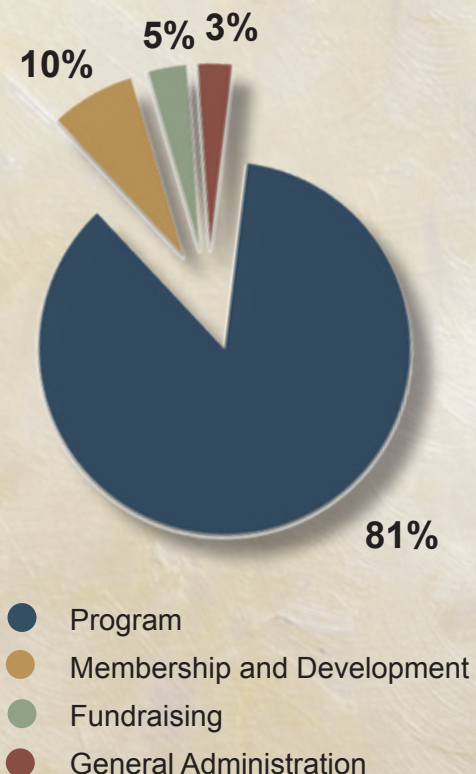
*The International Wolf Center advances the survival of wolf populations by teaching about wolves, their relationship to wildlands and the human role in their future.*



# 2015 FINANCIALS

A summary statement of financial position as of December 31, 2015, with comparison to 2014.

2015 Expense Distribution:



*Auditors Lethert, Skwira, Schultz & Co., LLP, completed an external audit of the International Wolf Center's 2015 financial statements. A copy of the full audit report is available upon request.*

## ASSETS

### CURRENT ASSETS

Cash and cash equivalents
Certificates of deposit
Accounts receivable
Grants receivable
Interest receivable
Inventory
Prepaid expenses

### TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS

### PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT (net)

### OTHER ASSETS

Security deposits
-------------------

## TOTAL ASSETS

## LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

### CURRENT LIABILITIES

Accounts payable
Accrued payroll and payroll taxes
Accrued retirement contribution
Credit card payable
Deferred revenue

### TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES

### NET ASSETS

Unrestricted operations
Board designated funds
Total unrestricted net assets
Temporarily restricted

### TOTAL NET ASSETS

## TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

2015

2014

\$ 569,061	\$ 430,208
274,271	502,981
16,836	4,737
20,833	25,482
983	977
120,251	37,833
22,342	8,798

\$ 1,024,577 \$ 1,011,016

718,078 791,152

3,617 -

\$ 1,746,272 \$ 1,802,168

49,438	24,356
39,945	59,259
2,349	-
2,762	949
2,719	5,571

\$ 97,213 \$ 90,135

\$ 913,341	\$ 938,532
602,538	712,689
\$ 1,515,879	1,651,221
133,180	60,812

1,649,059 1,712,033

\$ 1,746,272 \$ 1,802,168



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PHOTO:  
Luna  
Photo by  
Scott Block





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**PHOTO:**  
 The exterior  
 of the  
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 Ely, Minnesota.



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## PHOTO:

Boltz

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advances the survival of wolf populations  
by teaching about wolves,  
their relationship to wildlands  
and the human role in their future.



## INTERPRETIVE CENTER

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(218) 365-4695 • Fax (218) 365-3318

## ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

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Minneapolis, MN 55428  
(763) 560-7374 • Fax 763 560-7368

*"For the strength of the wolf is the pack and the strength of the pack is the wolf." —Rudyard Kipling*