

2019 OVERVIEW

FROM THE CHAIR OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

With the work of staff and help of supporters, donors, members and volunteers, the International Wolf Center spent 2019 living, breathing and creating change.

After four years of planning, the new \$1.37 million educational "Discover Wolves!" exhibit opened at the Interpretive Center in Ely, Minnesota, on June 28. The family-friendly adventure creatively features wolf howls, northern lights and a simulated airplane ride to track Minnesota wolves. Funding from the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources and contributions from the Center's board and donors made the exciting new exhibit possible. Rep. Rob Ecklund and members of the Ely City Council, Ely Chamber of Commerce and the Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation Board helped us celebrate.

Our educational agenda expanded with two-way videoconferencing Wolflink programs reaching as far away as Vietnam and Nigeria. Work began on Western Wolves at our Door with funding from Valarie Gates and the Margaret A. Cargill Foundation, a project to partner with nature centers and environmental organizations in eight western states to support new wolf education efforts there. With the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announcement proposing delisting the gray wolf in the lower 48 states, the Center began efforts to keep the public informed about upcoming Minnesota wolf management plans.

It was a year of highlights. The Center staff was recognized for its terrific work during the leadership transition and new exhibit design. Wolf Curator Lori Schmidt was honored for 30 years of "unstinting, conscientious cautious and caring work with our ambassador wolves." Volunteers from the Center saw more than 13,000 visitors at the Minnesota State Fair. The Howl at the Moon Gala in September attracted record attendance, after rescheduling from an April snowstorm. Board members contributed more than 2,000 hours of volunteer time in the year.

Thank you to all of the Center's supporters, staff and board members for this year of successful transitions and good work for our mission to "support the survival of wolf populations by teaching about wolves, their relationship to wildlands and the human role in their future."

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ACHING THE WORLD ABOUT WOLVES

ABOVE: A partial view of the new Discover Wolves! exhibit.

RIGHT: A screenshot of the Center's new website launched in October



COVER PHOTO:

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2019 HIGHLIGHTS

The year was a memorable one at the International Wolf Center for many reasons.

First, the Center helped fund, in partnership with the Lake Superior National Parks Foundation, the translocation of several wolves from Michipicoten Island to repopulate dwindling wolf numbers on Isle Royale. The Center contributed reserve funds and supporters' donations to help make the effort happen. Progress had been stopped on the relocation because a government shutdown.

The Center's new exhibit, Discover Wolves!, opened to the public in May and a grand opening was held in June. For more on the exhibit, see the Letter from the Board Chair on Page 1.

Also in May, the Center began working on an agreement with explore.org. The partnership will add two additional live webcams featuring the Center's wolves, both of which will be streamed on explore.org's network of nature and wildlife cams from across the world.

Another big development came in October, when the Center launched its new website. The new site provides a mobilefriendly viewing experience, scaling itself automatically depending on the screen size of the visitor.

With the resignation of Executive Director Rob Schultz in May, leadership passed to Interim Administrator Chad Richardson, who managed the transition while continuing his work as communications director. A board team worked with Cohen-Taylor Executive Search Services from July to December in a nationwide search that led to the selection of new Executive Director Grant Spickelmier. With 25 years of experience in wildlife education and zoo leadership in Minnesota and Oregon, Spickelmier was set to take the helm with a staff of 16 in mid-January, 2020.

The annual Give to the Wolves Day fundraiser was another big success, raising more than \$70,000 to fund the Center's education efforts.

2019 HIGHLIGHTS

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

38,734	Visited the organization's Interpretive Center in Ely, Minnesota	
2,238	Participated in group visits and single- and multi-day programs	
1,270	Students participated in live Minnesota WolfLink interactive videoconferences	
2,953	Students joined in live WolfLink global interactive videoconferences	
1,392	Students used Wolf Discovery Kits in their classrooms across the country	
1,851	Experienced the popular What's for Dinner? program	
83,961	Fans followed us on Facebook.	
805,097	Sessions on our website, wolf.org.	

LEFT: Luna is pictured howling from the retirement enclosure.

CENTER: Axel and Grayson lead a group howl and Boltz, left, joins in.





2019 HIGHLIGHTS

EDUCATION / OUTREACH

• A new exhibit titled Discover Wolves! was completed and installed at the interpretive center in Ely just in time for the busy summer season. The exhibit includes interactive displays including a wolf den with video footage of real wolf pups in a den, a simulated airplane that shows how researchers track wild wolves from the air and a howling room where visitors can experience the sounds of wolves howling under the northern lights.

• The education team led WolfLink virtual field trips for nearly 3,000 students in 2019. These interactive presentations broadcast from our Ely facility were seen by students in 12 states and 4 countries.

• Artifacts and props in our Wolf Discovery Kits provided experiential learning opportunities to over 1,300 students in 9 states.

• More than 2,000 people attended our weekly program, What's for Dinner? They learned about the hunting and feeding behavior of wolves while having the opportunity to observe our Exhibit Pack and ask our education team questions.

• Audiences all over the world were able to access current, science-based information through our educational programming about wolves and wildlands.



Boltz turned 7 in 2019. Again in the summer months, he retreated into a den to avoid all flying insects. By September, though, the bugs had cleared and he was again an active member of the pack.

2019 HIGHLIGHTS

WOLF CARE

It was a challenging year with two ambassador wolf mortalities, Aidan and Luna, both caused by cancer. Aidan had a surgery on Feb. 5 to remove a large Mast Cell tumor on his front left leg. He had recurring issues with mast cells since his first surgery in 2017, and another on July 25, 2018, the day he was retired. Unfortunately, by August, the cells had spread throughout his system. He died on Aug. 14. Meanwhile, Luna had been battling a Spindle Cell Sarcoma, which is a more aggressive type of cancer. She had surgeries in March and July, but each time the cancer returned and was more invasive. Luna was euthanized on Nov. 26.

While the wolf care staff was focused on medical issues, there was a significant amount of effort to ensure the health of our oldest packmate, Grizzer. On Nov. 5, Grizzer became the oldest ambassador wolf in the Center's history, surpassing Lakota, who lived to be 15 1/2 years old. The winter included special visits to the Wolf Care Center to keep Grizzer comfortable in a warmer space. It turns out his winter pelage was so thick, he would rather spend his days outdoors and in the thick cover hay of the transition area, but the choice was his.

Despite the changes to retirement, the Exhibit Pack stayed relatively stable with Denali taking the lead on food possession and Boltz, Axel and Grayson all interacting with some good social behavior. Boltz continued to show some phobia towards insects during the July and August time frame, but by late summer he was back in the mix and we got some great images.

The wolf care department continues to do webinars, YouTube videos and wolf logs to keep members updated on pack dynamics.

CENTER

2019 HIGHLIGHTS

MEMBERSHIP / DEVELOPMENT

Can Be Wolves

Isle Royale National Park

· A grant from the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund from the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources was used to build the brand new Discover Wolves! exhibit. The grant funding was approved in 2018 and the bulk of the funding was spent in 2019 as the exhibit was designed and installed by Split Rock Studios, which is based in Minneapolis/St. Paul.

• The Center achieved a four-star rating with Charity Navigator-the highest rating possible!

• Donors contributed an impressive \$70,000 via Give to the Wolves Day 2019. This one-day fundraising event is our biggest single donation day each year.

• We held our sixth annual Howl at the Moon gala at Midland Hills Country Club in Roseville, Minnesota, with keynote speaker Doug Smith. All of the money raised at the event went to aid ongoing wolf education work.

• A new partnership between the International Wolf Center and explore.org began to take shape in 2019. Explore operates live nature and wildlife webcams across the world and the Center's wolf exhibit will be added to that lineup in 2020.



2019 BOARD & STAFF

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Dick Thiel Retired Biologist and Wildlife Consultant

Keira Thrasher Instructional Design Consultant

STAFF

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Communications/Marketing Carissa Winter, Marketing Coordinator Chad Richardson, Communications Director

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Education Krista Harrington, Interpretive Center Manager Cameron Feaster, Wolf Specialist

Membership Lisa Johnson, Data Entry & Membership Assistant Marnie Fujii, Membership and Development Specialist

Outreach Misi Stine, Outreach Director Katie Kochevar, Educator

Retail Jackie Sundeen, Retail Manager

Wolf Care Lori Schmidt, Curator Kelly Godfrey, Assistant Wolf Curator Leanne Martin, Assistant Wolf Curator

Plus eight seasonal interns and six retail associates

AWARDS

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

BEST \mathbf{X} **GUIDESTAR**[®] AMERIC 2019 TOP-RATED Exchange SILVER PARTICIPANT 2019 CERTIFICATE of EXCELLENCE tripadvisor*

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.

A summary statement of financial position as of December 31, 2019, with comparison to 2018.



Program Expenses Management/General Expenses Fundraising Expenses

Baker Tilly International completed an external audit of the International Wolf Center's 2019 financial statements. A copy of the full audit report is available upon request.

2019 FINANCIALS

77% Program Expenses

ASSETS	2019	2018
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 1,037,824	\$ 1,242,867
Certificates of deposit	500,145	24,253
Accounts receivable	1,794	4,452
Grants receivable	0	868,000
Inventory	118,539	165,756
Prepaid expenses	29,948	30,408
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	\$ 1,688,250	\$2,335,736
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PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT (net)	1,905,716	923,892
OTHER ASSETS		
Deferred rent asset	15,810	15,848
Security deposits	3,617	3,617
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 3,613,393	\$ 3,279,093
TOINE/ISSEIS	\$ 3,013,373	\$ 3,277,073
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Accounts payable	27,987	119,080
Accrued payroll and payroll taxes	48,976	60,000
Accrued retirement contribution	3,043	4,046
Credit card payable	11,845	10,674
Deferred revenue	10,860	16,803
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	\$ 102,351	\$ 210,603
NET ASSETS		
Without donor restrictions		
Undesignated	\$ 470,106	\$ 322,857
Investment in property and equipment	1,905,716	836,714
Designated	952,403	615,814
Total Net Assets w/o donor restrictions	3,328,225	1,775,385
With donor restrictions	182,817	1,293,105
TOTAL NET ASSETS	3,511,042	3,068,490
TOTAL NET ASSETS	5,511,042	3,000,470
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	\$2 (12 202	\$2 270 002
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2019 DONORS

\$10,000 plus

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Wolves! exhibit features this timeline of wolf populations in the United States One feature of the timeline is an interactive map, seen here on the right.

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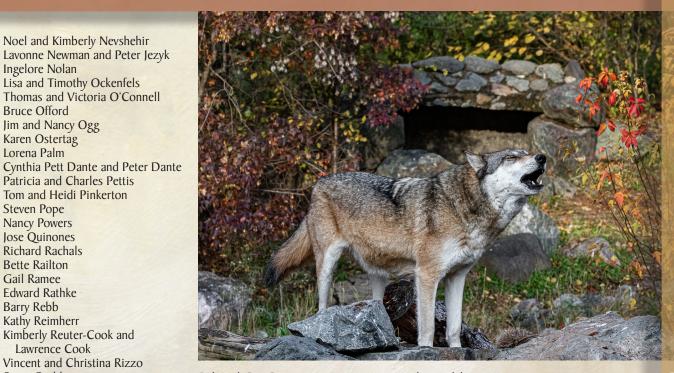


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The International Wolf Center advances the survival of wolf populations by teaching about wolves, their relationship to wildlands and the human role in their future.

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