

Tracking the Pack

The International Wolf Center: Where Wolves Meet the Web

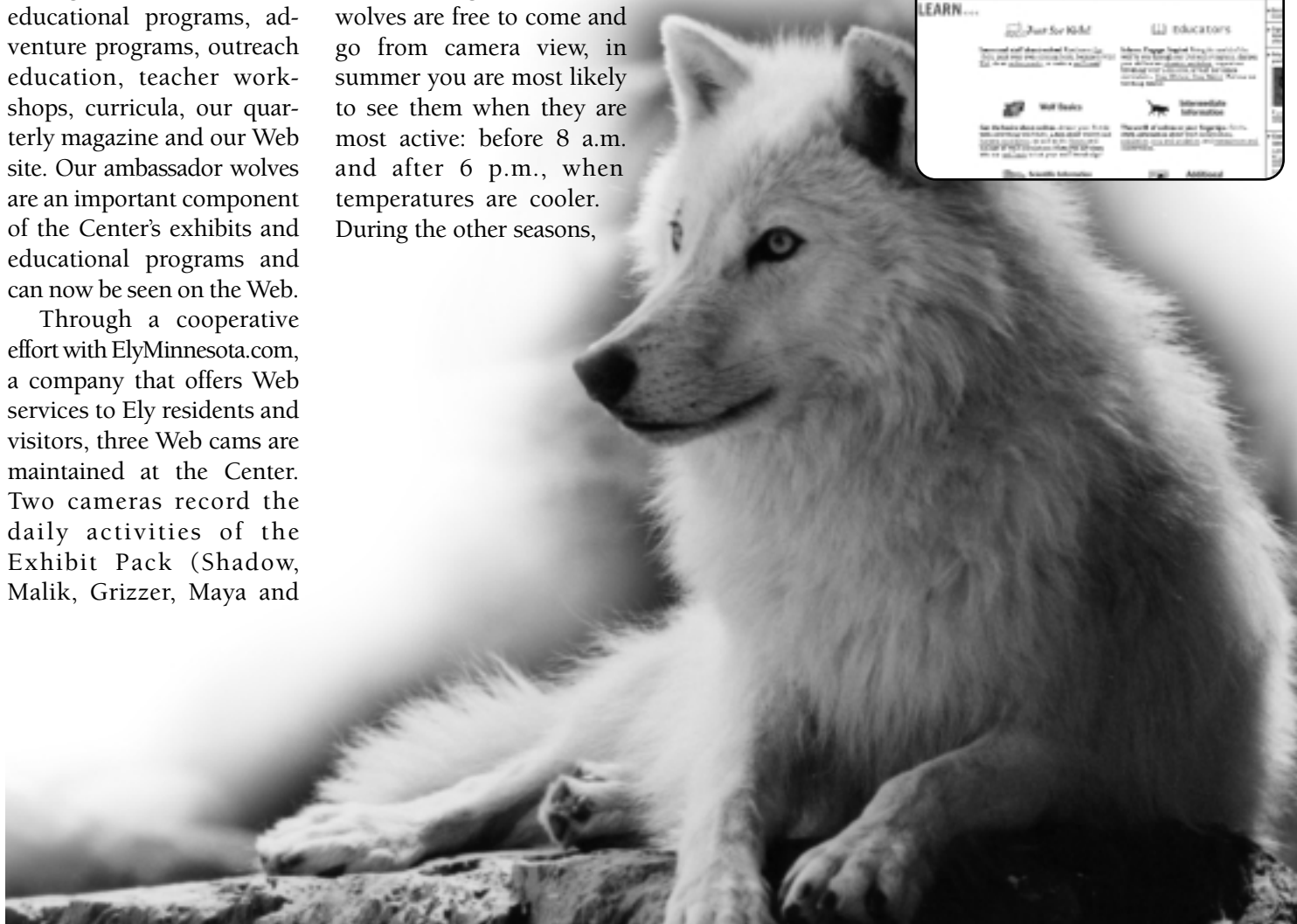
by Lori Schmidt, Wolf Curator,
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The mission of the International Wolf Center is to advance the survival of wolf populations by teaching about wolves, their relationship to wild lands and the human role in their future. This mission is accomplished through exhibits, on-site educational programs, adventure programs, outreach education, teacher workshops, curricula, our quarterly magazine and our Web site. Our ambassador wolves are an important component of the Center's exhibits and educational programs and can now be seen on the Web.

Through a cooperative effort with ElyMinnesota.com, a company that offers Web services to Ely residents and visitors, three Web cams are maintained at the Center. Two cameras record the daily activities of the Exhibit Pack (Shadow, Malik, Grizzer, Maya and

Nyssa), and one camera offers a glimpse into the world of the Retired Pack (MacKenzie, Lucas and Lakota). You can view the wolves through these cameras by clicking on the "Watch Live Wolves" link on the Center's home page, www.wolf.org. Because the wolves are free to come and go from camera view, in summer you are most likely to see them when they are most active: before 8 a.m. and after 6 p.m., when temperatures are cooler. During the other seasons,

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wolves may be visible any time of the day. Log in to see the wolves on the ledge rock in front of the exhibit or taking a swim in their pond.

News of the wolf care program is delivered on the Web via the wolf log section. These descriptions report the physical, behavioral and logistical details

of the ambassador wolves. Readers can even relive Shadow and Malik's puppy days through archived nanny notes posted near the wolf logs. These logs describe their growth, their development as yearlings, their testing of their older pack mates for status and the incidents that resulted in MacKenzie, Lucas and Lakota's retirement. These logs can also be a valuable resource to other facilities dealing with similar captive wolf issues, sharing and

collectively learning from the ambassador pack.

Look for Nanny Notes in summer 2004 as the Center begins the socialization process of three wolf pups preparing to join the Exhibit Pack. Weekly growth rates, behavioral development and vocalizations will be recorded and posted on the Web site for all to share. There may even be a live Web chat or two. Stay tuned, and see you on the Web. ■



Wolf Words

Overview:


Students react to statements in journal or essay form.

Directions:


Provide these statements to students and have them select one to respond to.

- In *A Sand County Almanac*, Aldo Leopold wrote, "The last word in ignorance is the man who says of a plant or animal, 'What good is it?'" React to this statement. What did Leopold mean? Do you agree or disagree?
- In 1854 Chief Seattle said, "If all the beasts were gone, man would die from a great loneliness of the spirit. For whatever happens to the beasts soon happens to man. All things are connected. . . . Whatever befalls the earth befalls the sons of the earth." What does Chief Seattle mean by these words? Do you agree or disagree?
- Barry Lopez writes in *Of Wolves and Men* that "in the wolf we have not so much an animal we have known, but one we have imagined." In what ways is this true? Is this positive or negative?
- Wolves are the subjects of myths, legends and fables. Explore the differences. Write a myth, legend or fable using the wolf as a central character.

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