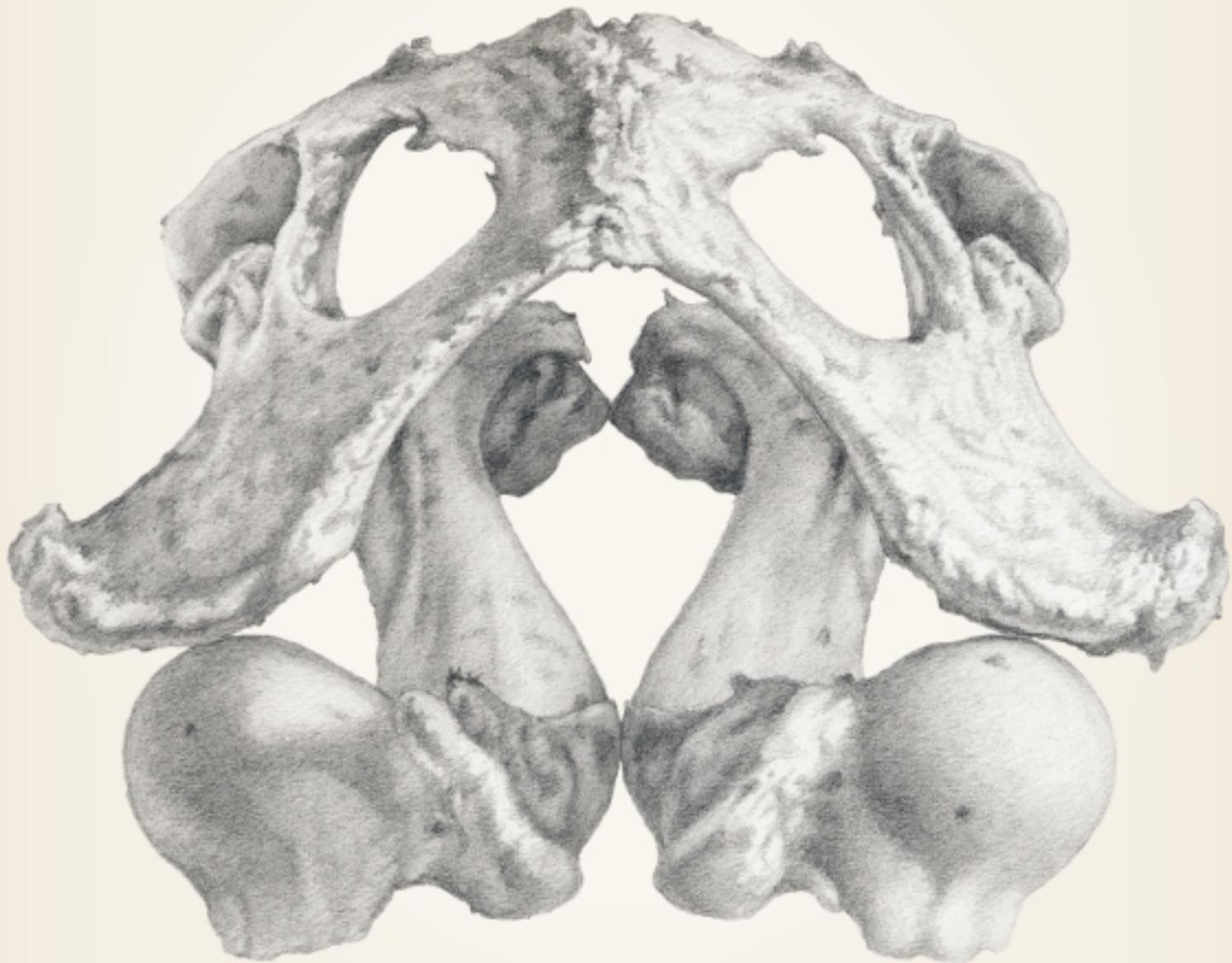


# INTERNATIONAL WOLF

A PUBLICATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL WOLF CENTER  
SPRING 2005



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Attitudes Toward Wolves in Wisconsin, page 8

# INTERNATIONAL WOLF

THE QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL WOLF CENTER  
VOLUME 15, NO. 1 SPRING 2005

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Betsy Downey

### 4 Wolf Moon Over Yellowstone: The Story of a Wolf and Its Prey

On September 25–26, 2004, wolf watchers witnessed an unforgettable interaction between an injured elk and wolves of the Geode Creek pack in Yellowstone National Park.

*Betsy Downey*



Mike Possis

### 8 The State of the Wolf Project: Findings from the 2003 Wisconsin Survey

If the wolf is removed from the endangered species list, management of the species could eventually return to the states, and the fate of the wolf in Minnesota, Michigan and Wisconsin could once again be in the hands of the states' residents. How do current residents of these states regard wolves? The State of the Wolf Project is answering this question.

*Kevin Schanning and Jennifer Vazquez*

Kathy Jones



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## On The Cover

"Westended," pencil on paper,  
9 1/2 x 12 1/2 inches,  
by Gendron Jensen, 2003

The drawing depicts the pelvic and shoulder relics of a lone wolf on Isle Royale. Learn more about the artist on page 12. [www.gendronjensen.com](http://www.gendronjensen.com)



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*International Wolf* welcomes submissions of personal adventures with wolves and wolf photographs. Prior to submission 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.

# As A Matter Of Fact

## How does the Mexican wolf differ from other wolf subspecies?



Jackie Fallon

**Answer:** The Mexican wolf is very similar to other wolves but has subtle differences in appearance and genetics. Mexican wolves live primarily in the southwestern United States, where they have been reintroduced into parts of Arizona and New Mexico. Slightly smaller than most subspecies, Mexican wolves weigh from 60 to 80 pounds. Their coats have a reddish hue mixed in with buff, gray and black. In addition to feeding on white-tailed deer, mule deer and elk, Mexican wolves often eat javelinas, jack rabbits, cottontail rabbits and smaller mammals. ■

## New Question

## In what areas of the United States are gray wolves classified as endangered?

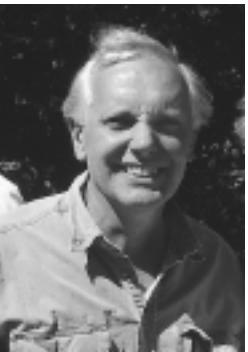
West Gate



## *From the Executive Director*

INTERNATIONAL  
WOLF CENTER

**O**ur sights are set on America's Southwest. With increasing intensity, we are preparing for the International Wolf Center's fourth international wolf conference scheduled for October 1–4, 2005, in Colorado Springs, Colorado. The conference will bring together several hundred scientists, federal and state wildlife agency representatives, wolf proponents and antagonists, educators, legislative leaders and media representatives. We have put out a call for presentations, and we are scheduling panels and presentations, contacting partners, making arrangements with the conference hotel and seeking funding to help underwrite the event.



Walter Medwid

We have chosen the Southwest as the conference's location for important reasons. One is that wolves from the Northern Rockies are dispersing to southwestern states that have not seen wolves for a long time. Colorado and Utah are preparing for the time when wolves will likely become permanent residents. Also, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) has created a wolf recovery team to assess the potential for restoring wolves to locations within an area encompassing northern Arizona and New Mexico and southern Utah and Colorado. (By the way, this effort may well be the nation's last wolf recovery program unless the USFWS is convinced or commanded by the courts to include northern New England in the recovery plan for the eastern population of gray wolves.) Another reason that the Southwest is important is the existing Mexican wolf recovery area in east-central Arizona and west-central New Mexico. While this recovery program has not yet reached the remarkable levels achieved in the Northern Rockies, 50 or more wolves have been established so far, and eventually some will disperse beyond the present and limited geographic range to other parts of the Southwest.

The return of wolves to "new" landscapes brings with it the mythology that always seems to accompany this predator. A distinct goal of our conference is to provide a forum in which the reality of wolves in the local landscape can be discussed and debated in an atmosphere that is reinforced by the presence of experienced wildlife professionals who deal with wolves daily. And since the media are so key to what the public understands about controversial issues, we plan to make a special effort to provide regional journalists with a unique opportunity to get the facts.

We hope many of you will join us in Colorado. See our Web site, [www.wolf.org](http://www.wolf.org), for current conference information.

Cowboy hats are optional. ■

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Text and photos by  
BETSY DOWNEY

# WOLF MOON OVER YELLOWSTONE

## The Story of a Wolf and Its Prey

*Left to right: Wolf 106 approaches the elk. The elk chases off the wolf. The wolf approaches the elk again. Moving closer to the elk, the wolf hops up on a rock. The elk and the wolf are distracted by something, perhaps other wolves.*



The action began with an unobserved event in which a cow elk injured her left rear hoof. By September 25 the hoof was split into two or three pieces. Her lower leg was very swollen and probably infected, and she could not put weight on it. Sometime that morning several Geode wolves discovered the crippled elk and began to go after her.

I encountered them a little after 9 a.m. on my way to the Lamar Valley to look for Druid Peak wolves. Approaching the lake, I noticed a huge—and growing—traffic jam. Because I have seen moose there several times, my first thought was “moose jam.” I thought I saw a cow moose in the water on the far side of the lake, but then I thought “funny looking moose—whoa! That’s a cow elk! What’s she doing in the water?”

Wolves!” When I spotted Rick McIntyre’s rig in the pull-off, I knew I was right. Rick is the park service naturalist who keeps daily track of the wolves. I abandoned my car in the ditch, grabbed my spotting scope and camera, and joined the crowd. I’d seen something similar in June when Druid wolves had injured a bull elk, which took refuge in Soda Butte Creek. It took those wolves about 12 hours to get their elk; it would take the Geodes nearly 24 hours to get theirs.

For most of the day, three wolves played a teasing and waiting game, demonstrating both their patience and their desire to avoid risk. The elk stayed near the shoreline, grazing. The wolves lurked and bedded in the nearby trees. Several times wolf 106, the light-colored breeding female, rushed the elk, once sneaking up while she was bedded. Each time we thought “this is it,” but each time the elk drove her off. Finally, in the early afternoon when the wolves

**Several times wolf 106,  
the light-colored  
breeding female, rushed  
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*Below and right: The wolves’ strategy was to get the elk into deep water and keep her there; in the water she would stiffen up and lose body heat.*



**Sensing that we were  
inhibiting the wolf,  
the elk edged along the  
shoreline, sheltering near  
us. With that we decided  
to leave and let them  
play it out alone.**

*Sometime between 2:30 a.m. and 5:30 a.m.  
the wolves killed the elk. When the  
watchers returned, the elk was only a  
carcass, and a wolf was feeding on her.*

were asleep, the elk hobbled up a slight hill to the wolves' right and disappeared. So did most of us, planning to come back later and guessing that the wolves and elk would too.

When I returned around 4 p.m., they were back. The only watcher who had stayed told me the wolves had woken up shortly after 3 p.m., followed the elk's scent up the hill, and chased her back into the lake. "She was powered by adrenalin," he said, "and moved like she had four good legs!" As the crowd reassembled, the wolves began teasing and waiting again. Shortly before dusk wolf 106 and another wolf drove the elk into water up to her back. This seemed to be the new strategy: get the elk into deep water and keep her there; in the water she would stiffen up and lose body heat.

Dusk comes early to Yellowstone in late September. By 7 p.m. the light

was fading, and although a nearly full moon was rising behind us, the crowd began to leave. By 8 p.m. it was totally dark, but a half dozen of us counted on the moonlight and stayed. An hour later it was so bright we could see through binoculars and spotting scopes. We witnessed a wolf-elk interaction we will never forget. We could see the elk and a wolf, along with trees, rocks, a bemused swan and all their reflections in the lake. Silent otherwise, we could hear the sounds of Yellowstone at night—a bull elk bugling, coyotes howling, ducks quacking in outrage as the elk and wolf splashed by, and the elk and the wolf themselves.

All night the wolf alternated bedding down with forcing the elk into the lake and deep water. Once when both were in the water, the wolf latched onto the elk's good haunch, and the elk swam off towing the



wolf until it lost its grip. Shortly after that, both animals were out of the water, and the wolf started to circle the lake to get at the elk from another direction. But the road where we were is close to the lake, and even the few of us were too many for the wolf. It stepped onto the road to our left and spent several minutes in the middle of it, apparently deciding what to do about the bipeds in its way. The wolf finally crossed the road, traversed the hill behind us, crossed the road to our right and proceeded around the lake, clearly visible on the rocks and reflected in the water below.

Close to midnight, the wolf resumed the bedding and teasing, and most of the humans departed. Only veteran wolf watchers Mike from Bozeman, Jeanne from Chicago and I were left for the most memorable part of the night. Around 1 a.m., the wolf went back into the water and drove the elk into the deepest part of the lake. For 15 minutes the elk swam up and down the lake, and her pursuer "wolf-paddled" after her with only the top of its head and its gray back and tail visible. The elk "barked" in her distress, but the sound I will always remember is the soft, steady sound of the wolf's breathing as it passed back and forth along the shore below us. Even as I watched, I wondered how many people have witnessed something like that.

But it wasn't over yet. The elk finally came out of the water, and so did the wolf. It came back to the road, apparently wanting to go around the shore again. Looking at us, the wolf seemed to be thinking, as Mike said, "Oh heck, I'll go back the way I came." It did and bedded down again. It now became clear to us that we were affecting the course of events. The elk moved to the shoreline on the end of the lake to our left. The wolf bedded down above her, and there they stayed. The elk, apart from her injured leg,



*The wolves became covered in muck from feeding on the elk. This wolf tried to lick the muck off his muzzle, but his tongue couldn't reach it all.*

had started the day strong and in good shape. Now she was exhausted, chilled and so stiff she could no longer haul herself onto dry land. But she didn't give up.

Sensing that we were inhibiting the wolf, the elk edged along the shoreline, sheltering near us. With that we decided to leave and let them play it out alone. We left a little after 2:30 a.m., cold, tired but still wide awake. As I took one last look, the wolf raised its head and looked at me, and the elk moved to the shoreline directly below me. In the light of the still bright moon, I thanked them and moved on.

The next time I saw them, the elk was only a carcass, and the wolf was feeding on her. Sometime between our leaving and the arrival of the first watchers of the new day, about 5:30 a.m., the drama had reached its only possible end. Several wolves had returned and fed before I got back. Now along with the gray wolf, there were coyotes, red foxes, ravens and magpies transforming her death into their life. Later I watched a black bear,

reflected in the now full moon, raking the lake bottom for the last of the elk.

I went home aware that Yellowstone's circle is complete. When I first came to the park in 1965, there were no wolves. Now they are back and thriving. Yellowstone is whole again. I am privileged to be part of the circle and to experience what philosopher Arthur Schopenhauer called the "strange pleasure" of seeing the "free animal going about its business undisturbed, seeking its food, or looking after its young, or mixing in the company of its kind, all the time being exactly what it ought to be and can be." ■

Betsy Downey teaches history at Gonzaga University in Spokane, Washington. Her recent research and writing has focused on the Nebraska historian/novelist Mari Sandoz and her relation to the New Western History and the environment. Downey has also presented papers and slide shows on Yellowstone National Park's bison. Downey visits the park frequently to ski, hike, photograph and observe wolves. On her most recent visit she saw 55 different wolves in one day!

# State of the Wolf Project: Findings from the 2003 Wisconsin Survey

by

KEVIN SCHANNING and  
JENNIFER VAZQUEZ



*Steeped in folktales of werewolves and other anti-wolf mythologies, European settlers' misconceptions and negative attitudes extended beyond viewing wolves as mere competition for food.*

**A**s original inhabitants of Minnesota, Michigan and Wisconsin, gray wolves faced near extermination with the influx of European settlers in the 1800s. Steeped in European folktales of werewolves and other anti-wolf mythologies, the settlers' misconceptions and negative attitudes extended beyond viewing wolves as competition for food. These cultural biases were devastating to wolf populations, as poisoning and other forms of persecution wiped out wolves in all of Wisconsin and Michigan (except Isle Royale) and nearly all of Minnesota—save along the Minnesota-Canada border—by the 1960s.

Fortunately, however, people's perceptions of the wolf evolved over time, and efforts were made in the 1960s and 1970s in all three states to protect the wolf. The Endangered Species Act, passed in 1973, granted wolves federal protection and placed them under a wolf recovery plan. Protection set the stage for wolf recolonization to occur, and populations increased. As of 2003, wolves numbered approximately 2,445 in Minnesota, 321 in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan and 335 in Wisconsin. These numbers met the requirements set out in the federal recovery plan, and on April 1, 2003, the wolf was reclassified from endangered to threatened. Under this classification, removal of the wolf from the endangered species list could begin, eventually returning management to the states. The fate of the wolf could once again be in the hands of the residents of Minnesota, Michigan and Wisconsin.

How do current residents of these states regard wolves? To assess their attitudes, we started the State of the Wolf Project. The project would survey residents of Wisconsin, Michigan and Minnesota. The first survey was conducted in Wisconsin in 2003. In addition to providing demographic information, randomly selected residents of Wisconsin answered questions about eight topics: experience with wolves, activities, safety concerns, attitudes, knowledge of wolves in Wisconsin, management issues, background and how do you get your information? Six hundred forty-four surveys were returned, a response rate of 13 percent, yielding a margin of error of plus or minus 4 percent.

The survey found that general knowledge about wolves is lacking. Only 30 percent of respondents knew the current number of wolves in Wisconsin and the size of an average wolf pack in the state. Approximately 20 percent knew the average weight of an adult male wolf, and 12 percent knew the number of deer an average wolf kills in a year. Most respondents were not confident of their knowledge, even if they were correct. Furthermore, a proportion of those

surveyed did not know basic wolf biology and held negative stereotypes of the wolf: 16 percent thought the average Wisconsin wolf weighs over 100 pounds, and 11 percent thought a wolf has attacked a human in Wisconsin; 20 percent felt that wolves are naturally cruel and belong in places like Alaska (in true wilderness), not in Wisconsin.

The survey also learned, however, that overall, people's attitudes about wolves were positive. More than half of respondents agreed that the wolf is part of our vanishing wilderness and should be protected. The majority answered that they feel the wolf is a symbol of beauty and wonder in nature, and that seeing a wolf in the wild would be one of their greatest outdoor experiences. Almost three-quarters of respondents felt that wolves keep deer herds healthy by killing sick and weak animals, and 62 percent felt that wolves are essential to maintaining the balance of nature.

To a question about where wolves should be allowed to live, only 9 percent of respondents answered, "Nowhere in Wisconsin." They strongly supported wolves inhabiting national and state forests and national wildlife refuges. Fifty-one percent thought that currently there is the right number of wolves in Wisconsin, and 31 percent felt that there are not enough.

Residents were also asked how their participation in certain activities would change if they knew that wolves lived where they participate in that activity. The majority answered that there would be no change in their activity, and others answered that some activities, such as nature photography and canoeing, would increase. Almost half of the respondents had seen or heard a wolf in the wild or had seen wolf tracks, and when asked how concerned they would be about their safety in the presence of wolves, only 12 percent showed strong concern.

In regard to deer hunting, most felt that the elimination of wolves from much of the United States has resulted in unhealthy deer populations. Over half believed that deer hunters can experience good deer hunting in areas with wolves.

Most respondents felt that farmers and wolves can coexist. When depredations occur on farms, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) compensates owners for the lost animals. Eighty-one percent of respondents supported compensation for lost livestock. Stronger support was shown for compensating for livestock depredated on farms where the farmer was taking steps to protect livestock from wolves.

To manage problem wolves, respondents' preferred method was to shoot the wolf, and their

least favored method was poisoning. Sixty-six percent thought that a farmer should be able to shoot a wolf caught attacking livestock.

The DNR is primarily responsible for wolf management in Wisconsin, and respondents were generally satisfied with the agency's handling of wolves. However, more people responded with a neutral answer (not agreeing or disagreeing) than any other reply, an indication that they may not be well informed about the DNR's activities.

Our results show that the public has come a long way in understanding wolves and developing positive attitudes about coexisting with them, but also that more education needs to be done, particularly about wolf management, safety concerns and general knowledge about wolves in Wisconsin. Watch for the results of the Michigan and Minnesota surveys coming soon. ■

*The State of the Wolf Project is funded by the Prescott Family Trust. Research is conducted at Northland College in Ashland, Wisconsin, by primary investigator Kevin Schanning, associate professor of sociology, and research assistant Jennifer Vazquez.*



*Almost half of the respondents to the survey about wolves in Wisconsin had seen or heard a wolf in the wild or had seen wolf tracks.*



## Clay and Imagination Make the World of the Wolf Come Alive

For Betty Lewandowski's third-grade class at Homecroft Elementary School in St. Paul, Minnesota, wolves are not fairy tale "bad guys" but vital heroes for the earth's ecological balance. So when Lewandowski met art outreach instructor and wolf advocate Dawn Marie Perault of the Northern

Clay Center in Minneapolis, the two educators instantly knew the focus of a week-long art residency: make the world of wolves come alive for these students and, in turn, their families.

Homecroft's students are ethnically diverse, and the concept of "wolf" is often vague for children of other

cultures who may have had little contact with wild animals or even domestic pets. With Lewandowski in charge of classroom information, Perault designed wolf-themed art projects utilizing clay. As the children created wolf masks, their talk focused on the nature and function of the wolf's features, such as ears, eyes, teeth, paws, fur and tail. Sculpting wolf pups

was the students' favorite activity because they each created a wolf to nurture and enjoy forever. The final project was a class activity in which a wolf totem pole was erected in honor of all wolves and what they have brought to the students' lives and to the earth.

On the last day of the residency, the students, with the help of the music teacher, created a special song dedicated to wolves. After the song was sung and howled, everyone enjoyed wolf cookies and had photos taken with their wolf creations.

An acknowledgement goes to Minnesota Arts in Education Fund and Schools Arts Fund of COMPAS, which made it possible for the Northern Clay Center to conduct the all-school art residency. It was an opportunity that these third graders call a "howling success."

*Dawn Marie Perault*



Betty Lewandowski's third-grade class at Homecroft Elementary School in St. Paul, Minnesota, participated in an art residency about wolves.

## Wolf Expo Held on Long Island

There are no wolf populations living on Long Island, New York. But in Teresa DeMaio's mind that's no reason to stop educating people about *Canis lupus*.

DeMaio, a 10-year member of the International Wolf Center, planned and carried out the first Long Island wolf expo last summer. Titled "Long Island People Saving Wolves One Pack at a Time," the expo gathered nearly 200 people from the greater Long Island area.

The special guest of the expo, says DeMaio, was a white arctic wolf brought there by the Wolf Conservation Center,

located in South Salem, New York. The event also showcased numerous exhibits and booths, including the International Wolf Center's *The Wolf and You* traveling exhibit. Children learned about wolves by exploring a wolf den, completing craft projects and listening to a Native American storyteller.

Another highlight was the "Pledge of Faith" area where donations toward wolf research and conservation were received. The proceeds of this area—and the entire expo—were donated to seven wolf sanctuaries across the country, including the International Wolf Center.

Plans are already underway to make the expo an annual event, with the second expo scheduled for August 7, 2005.

## Dr. Rolf O. Peterson Is Honored by the University of Minnesota Duluth

Dr. Rolf O. Peterson, board member of the International Wolf Center and renowned wildlife researcher, was inducted into the University of Minnesota Duluth's Academy of Science and Engineering in October 2004.

Peterson was honored by his alma mater for his work on the world's longest-running predator-prey study, which he has led for 34 years. His work has revealed unique relationships between wolves and moose, forest ecology and climate on Isle Royale in Lake Superior. The Academy of Science and Engineering gives public recognition to distinguished alumni and special friends of the College of Science and Engineering who have brought distinction to themselves through their participation, commitment and leadership in their chosen profession.

Peterson graduated from the University of Minnesota Duluth with an undergraduate degree in zoology in 1970. After earning a doctorate at Purdue University in 1974, he joined the faculty at Michigan Technological University, where he is a professor of wildlife ecology in the School of Forest Resources and Environmental Sciences. Throughout his career his research has focused on the gray wolf, with specific studies of wolf populations in Alaska, Minnesota and mainland Michigan. He has also advised research programs involving recovering wolf populations in Yellowstone National Park and Norway.



Brett Griebel

Dr. Rolf O. Peterson (left), shown here with Dr. Randall Hicks, was inducted into the University of Minnesota Duluth's Academy of Science and Engineering in October 2004.

## Center Celebrates Annual Alpha Weekend

What happens when alpha wolves come together from all over the country? A celebration! At least that is the case when all of the alphas are members of the International Wolf Center.

The annual gathering of Alpha, Alpha Legacy and Wolf Sponsor members was held in Ely, Minnesota, September 10–12, 2004. In addition to an informal reception and dinner with the Center's board members and staff, members were treated to a weekend of north-woods wolf lore.

Highlights included an up-close visit with the Center's wolves, including the three pups that were successfully integrated into the pack last summer. Members got a "behind the scenes" look at the Center's operations and updates on the status of wolves and the Center's increasing educational efforts in the southwestern United States. Naturalists led interpretive outings, and polar explorer and Center board member Paul Schurke let members experience the thrill of flying through the woods in training carts harnessed to teams of his Inuit sled dogs.



International Wolf Center

Dr. Larry Anderson (left) presented Dr. Richard "Chip" Hanson with the "Who Speaks for Wolves?" award at the Alpha Weekend in September 2004.

During the opening dinner, the Center's board of directors presented Dr. Richard "Chip" Hanson with the "Who Speaks for Wolves?" award in recognition of Hanson's significant service as the Center's USDA Veterinarian of Record since 1989.

"Dr. Hanson brings integrity, expertise and compassion to our day-to-day interactions, and to those moments of crisis, when his work is crucial and his knowledge reassuring," said Dr. Larry Anderson, retired Duluth veterinarian and Center board member when presenting the award to Hanson.

The name of the award, "Who Speaks for Wolves?" is derived from a children's book in which Native tribal elders decide that each tribal council of importance must include an individual who speaks for wolves. ■

## "The Spirits of the Animals Are in the Bones"

Time and time again, artist Gendron Jensen has heard the question, "Why bones?"

It is not a surprising question. The workroom in his northern New Mexico home is a plethora of bones. Relics of elks, wolves, loons, lynx and coyotes line his shelves. Other smaller bones spill forth from old cigar boxes. Drawings of bones also adorn the room—a small sampling of the 1,500 relic drawings the self-taught artist has completed in the past 40 years.

It bears asking, "Why are bones the focus of each drawing?"

"From ancient times, [bones] have been held as representative of sterility, aridity and death,"

Jensen explains. "For me, beyond the physical fact of death, bones are portals unto exaltation. The

bones seem to verily sing; they hum with resonate mystery."

Jensen's drawings attempt to unveil that resonating mystery. He refines and enlarges relics, juxtaposing shapes and textures to create sculptural, iconographic forms. The bones of a white-tailed deer and gray wolf come together to form a counterpoint of prey and predator. Opossum cheekbones are portrayed in jigsaw-puzzle fashion along with a snapping turtle vertebra. It all—in Jensen's eyes—represents the creatures' very foundation of being.

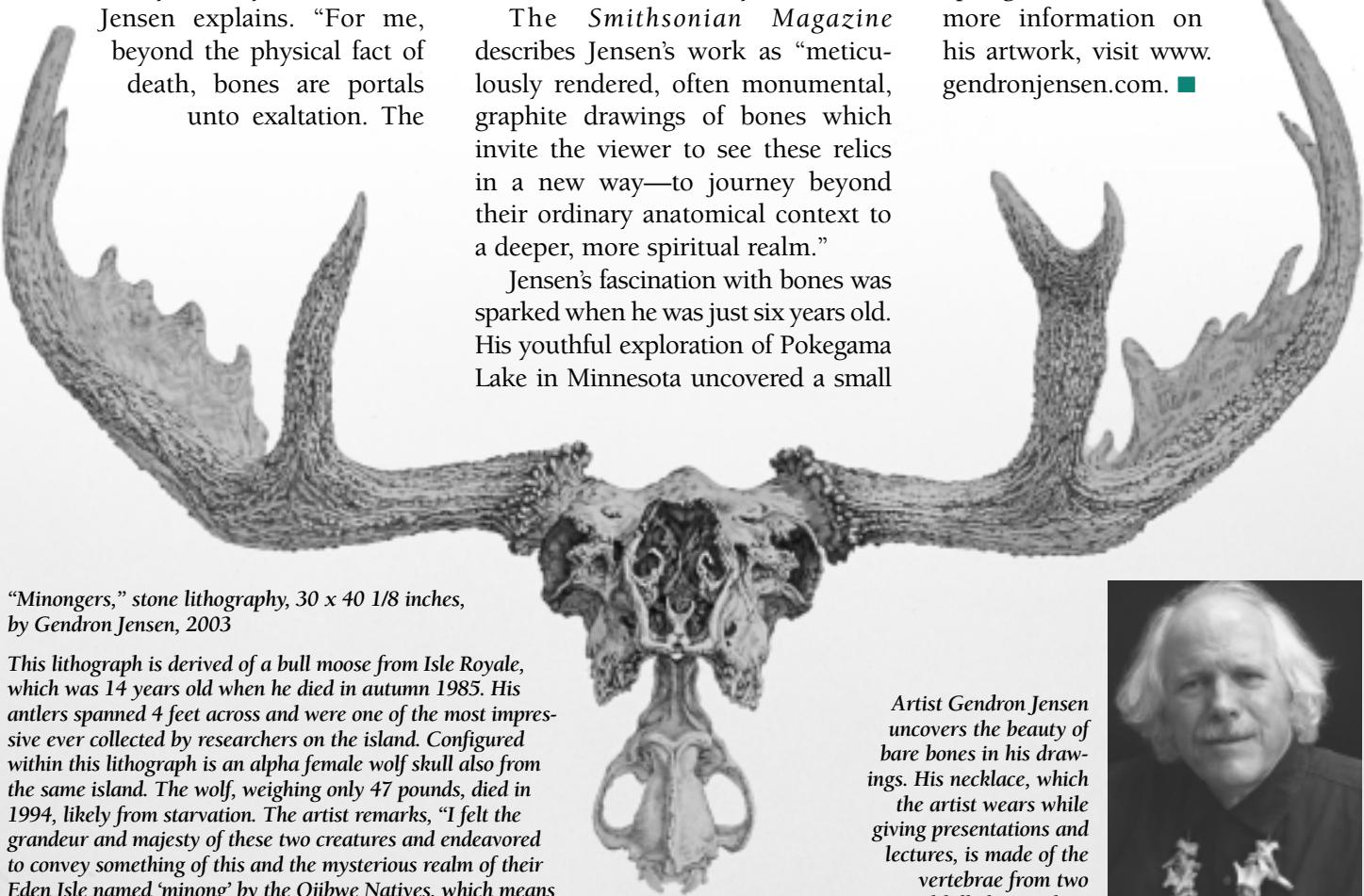
"The spirits of the animals are in the bones," he says. "They speak of life and the creature they once were."

The *Smithsonian Magazine* describes Jensen's work as "meticulously rendered, often monumental, graphite drawings of bones which invite the viewer to see these relics in a new way—to journey beyond their ordinary anatomical context to a deeper, more spiritual realm."

Jensen's fascination with bones was sparked when he was just six years old. His youthful exploration of Pokegama Lake in Minnesota uncovered a small

rodent skull. It was a discovery that initiated his bond with nature, though that bond would not take the form of drawings until the age of 26.

Over the past 40 years, Jensen has participated in numerous exhibitions and given countless lectures at universities across the nation. His artwork is featured in the collections of the Walker Art Center in Minneapolis, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Fogg Museum at Harvard University, and Albright-Knox Art Gallery in Buffalo, New York. Jensen plans to attend the 2005 International Wolf Center conference in Colorado Springs, Colorado. For more information on his artwork, visit [www.gendronjensen.com](http://www.gendronjensen.com). ■

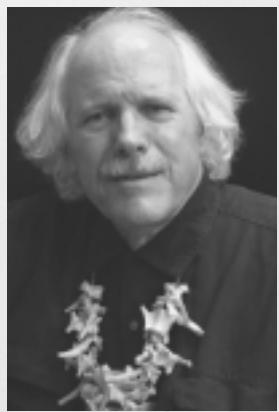


"Minongers," stone lithography, 30 x 40 1/8 inches, by Gendron Jensen, 2003

This lithograph is derived of a bull moose from Isle Royale, which was 14 years old when he died in autumn 1985. His antlers spanned 4 feet across and were one of the most impressive ever collected by researchers on the island. Configured within this lithograph is an alpha female wolf skull also from the same island. The wolf, weighing only 47 pounds, died in 1994, likely from starvation. The artist remarks, "I felt the grandeur and majesty of these two creatures and endeavored to convey something of this and the mysterious realm of their Eden Isle named 'minong' by the Ojibwe Natives, which means 'place of blue berries.'"

The project was funded by Dr. and Mrs. Rolf O. Peterson.

Artist Gendron Jensen uncovers the beauty of bare bones in his drawings. His necklace, which the artist wears while giving presentations and lectures, is made of the vertebrae from two road-killed animals, a female gray wolf and a white-tailed deer.



Joey McLeister



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## Tracking the Pack

### Time for a Checkup

by Lori Schmidt, Wolf Curator,  
International Wolf Center

**W**hen managing captive wolves, the ability to deliver proper medical care is critical. Daily exams are done for physical abnormalities, but to do an in-depth inspection and draw blood requires that the wolves be drugged and taken to the wolf lab's exam table for a

checkup. These exams are conducted once every three years or when an animal's condition warrants a more thorough exam.

On October 8, 2004, the veterinary care team assembled for the retired wolves' exams. Center veterinarian Dr. Chip Hanson and board member Dr. Larry Anderson conducted the exams. The wolf care staff, Andrea Lorek Strauss, Nancy Jo Tubbs, Jen Westlund, Jim Williams and Jim Ziburski, were on hand to assist. Vermilion

*Lori Schmidt prepared to inject Lakota to immobilize her for the exam.*

International Wolf Center



International Wolf Center

Community College students observed and assisted, including Jessica Holmes, Alisha Maves, Larisa Skujins, Luke Urevig and Brian Kormanik.

Injecting the wolves with drugs went smoothly. This is one of the greatest benefits of socialized wolves. With limited stress from the injection, the wolves quickly and quietly lay down and fell asleep. Within 15 minutes, all three were resting comfortably in the wolf lab.

All the wolves appear to be in good health, especially for animals nearing 12 years of age, with only minor ailments. Lakota has a small lump on the side of her leg that was sampled and sent to the lab for analysis, and both her eyes showed signs of Grade II cataracts. MacKenzie was treated for a calcium/lipid deposit in her eye. Dr. Anderson injected medication at three sites in her right eye to prevent pigmentation and slow inflammation of the cornea. She had initial swelling in her eye from excess fluid, but within a day she was



International Wolf Center

*Dr. Larry Anderson recorded information about MacKenzie's health.*

holding it open and showed no signs of favoring the eye or squinting in response to light as she had before the exam.

Lucas had some tartar buildup on his teeth and some noticeable muscle loss in his front right shoulder. The exam also revealed a dead upper incisor tooth, but it is still solid and has no indication of decay. Lucas showed signs of some lipid deposits in his cornea, similar to MacKenzie's, but none of the wolves had signs of glaucoma.

We thank Chip Hanson and Larry Anderson for making these medical exams a priority and treating the animals and the staff with care, patience and respect. And we thank all of the members who support the wolf care program and help ensure that the wolves stay in good health. ■

*Veterinarians Chip Hanson (left) and Larry Anderson examined MacKenzie's eye.*

# Wolf Tracks

## Wolves Mean Different Things to Different People

by Jay Hutchinson

**F**act: Fourteen Canadian wolves were successfully introduced into Yellowstone National Park in March 1995, and another 17 in spring 1996. As of late 2004 15 packs containing at least 170 wolves inhabited the park.

While biologists ardently study the wolves, and conservationists rejoice over this event, and while visitors come enthralled to watch the mythical predator in its original domain, many people bordering the park violently disagree with the restoration. To understand the diversity of feelings about wolves, sociologists have now studied and interviewed not only ranchers, guides and business owners near the park but also rangers and environmental activists. The results reveal a wide diversity of viewpoints.

When wolves kill cattle, ranchers are compensated monetarily. But many feel that the money in no way makes up for the art and craft, the sweat and toil, and the years they have expended in creating their herds. They view ranching not just as *earning a living* but as *creating a life* from land that is theirs, and they view wolves as lifestyle wreckers.

Another strong feeling, say sociologists, is that the government's power to reestablish threatened and endangered species reduces the self-determination and freedom of people and community choice and values.

Many local residents believe that the park's mandate to protect the

land—animals, plants, water, soil, rocks and air—is a mistaken effort to close the park to both recreation and the resource extraction industries that some argue rightfully belong there. Other people maintain that it is to perpetuate a government bureaucracy. "I believe that eventually they're going to have buses to shuttle people through the park . . . it's more and more control, which eventually means it's more money in their (the government's) pocket," said one local citizen. Others see reintroduced wolves as bureaucratic vehicles for dominating the lifestyles and livelihoods of residents.

Some environmentalists feel that the government has even curtailed the wolves' freedom because the animals were not allowed unfettered migration into the park on their own. "I'm really sorry that they didn't have a chance to come back on their own," said one. "Are we going to have wolves in the wild or are we going to have wild wolves? . . . What we have right now is wolves in the wild."

Is the wolf a symbol of freedom and wildness, a scientific challenge or a vicious threat to a way of life? Understanding better what wolves symbolize to different people should help government agencies in solving future thorny environmental issues. ■



Larry Parker

Thirty-one wolves were successfully introduced into Yellowstone National Park in 1995 and 1996, and as of late 2004 15 packs containing at least 170 wolves inhabited the park. Sociologists have interviewed not only ranchers, guides and business owners near the park but also rangers and environmental activists to understand the diversity of feelings about wolves.

### Reference:

-  Rik Scarce, "What Do Wolves Mean? Conflicting Social Constructions of *Canis lupus* in 'Bordertown,'" *Human Dimensions of Wildlife* 3, no. 3 (Fall 1998): 26–45.

Jay Hutchinson is a writer and editor, retired from the U.S. Forest Service's North Central Research Station, in St. Paul, Minnesota. Between travels, he enjoys writing about various natural history subjects, including wolves.

# Wolves of the World

by Neil Hutt

## WOLVES IN LATVIA

### Fairy Tale Menace or Servant of God?

There was once a time in Latvia when people revered the wolf and honored it as a servant of God. Many old Latvian folk songs refer to the wolf as God's dog, and according to ancient lore, the wolf's haunting howl is a prayer. Thus, people believed that wolves should not be persecuted or hunted. Lone travelers in the forest had incantations ready to persuade a wolf encountered on the path to leave and go on its way. Other reliable recitations allowed people to avoid wolves while traveling in wild places.

In time, however, attitudes changed. Christianity, with its depiction of the wolf as a creature of Satan, transformed the wolf from deity to demon. The wolf became a scapegoat for epidemic diseases and the scourge of war; fear and hatred replaced reverence. Legends were created about people who could transform them-

selves into wolves and then back into human shape. Latvian folklore even boasts a formula for becoming a werewolf. But beware! If while in the persona of a werewolf, your discarded human clothes are touched, you must remain a werewolf forever!

Though wolves are widespread in Latvia, their numbers have fluctuated dramatically over the years. Populations have tended to increase during periods of plague and war, for example, and to decline during times of active campaigning to eliminate predators. Despite periods when numbers were severely reduced, the population has always recovered through natural recolonization from regions east of the Balkans. In 1998, perhaps 1,000 wolves ranged throughout Latvia. But an intensive control program in the late 1990s combined with loss of habitat reduced the number significantly.

At present, the population is estimated to be 250 to 300 wolves.

Latvia is a beautiful land of rivers, lakes, forests and bogs. The forests, which cover 44 percent of Latvia's territory, are home to an abundance of wildlife—elk, brown bears, lynx, red deer, beavers and wild boars. The Latvian landscape is a mosaic of forests alternating with small farms, fields and pastures. Since the dismantling of the former Soviet Union, large collective farms have disappeared, and herds of roaming cattle and vast flocks of unsupervised sheep

are rare. Wolves in Latvia prey mainly on wild ungulates and beavers. Livestock predation is uncommon.

Wolf-human conflicts in Latvia occur mainly over hunting. Hunting is both traditional and popular in rural Latvia, and hunters therefore regard wolves as competitors for the same prey and try to keep their numbers in check. When Latvia was part of the Soviet Union, official government policy labeled wolves as pests and vermin. Thus, they were routinely killed in an effort to eliminate them. That attitude is slowly changing, however, and efforts are being made to involve hunters in studies of large predators so that wolves will be regarded as a game species with regulated hunting seasons and limits.

Meanwhile, funding for research to enhance wolf management is being sought. Data are needed on wolf ranges, and this means money for radio collars and telemetry equipment. In 1993, Zanete Andersone became the Latvian manager for the joint Norwegian-Baltic-Polish project called "Large Carnivores in the Northern Landscapes." This project will attempt to use telemetry in the Baltics for research on lynx, brown bears and wolves. Perhaps someday the new information learned will foster a trend back to a more positive attitude toward these animals.

The author acknowledges the following sources of information:

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<http://www.latinst.lv/nature.htm>.

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Summer 2003.



## **WOLVES IN FRANCE**

# **The Trouble with Wolves: The Wolf War in France**

*The official politics in France regarding the wolf are no longer understandable. The wolf is being killed where its opponents make a lot of noise even if the wolf has not made any damage.*

— Lise Donnez, Wolf Coordinator, FERUS (Ours-Loup-Lynx Conservation)

*This is not about reducing the wolf population in France, but reducing the specific pressure in certain areas.*

— Serge Lepeltier, French Minister of Ecology

*... the maximum of four wolves is nowhere near enough to relieve the pressure on the sheep-farming community.*

— Franck Dieny, Provence-Alpes-Côte D'Azur Sheep Farmers' Association

**U**nder a government-sponsored hunt, authorized in July 2004, an 18-month-old female wolf was killed on October 21, 2004, in southeastern France. The following week agents of the National Office for Hunting and Wildlife (ONCFS) shot a 2-year-old male wolf. A pack of three had recently settled in the area. It is not known whether the male wolf shot was the breeding male. Many environmentalist and animal protection groups are outraged, while farmers and livestock owners claim the official wolf cull, which allows the killing of up to four wolves, does not go far enough.

Wolves in France were hunted to the brink of extinction in the early 1900s. But "les grands prédateurs" (the great predators) made a reappearance in 1992. Hailed by Serge Lepeltier, France's environmental minister, as the pride of France's natural heritage, wolves are fully protected in the Mercantour National Park on France's border with Italy. The present population is estimated to be 39 to 55 wolves ranging the Alpine region of the country.

The government-authorized cull is aimed at calming the fury of Alpine sheep farmers, who claim to have lost 2,177 animals in 500 wolf attacks in 2003. The Minister of Ecology has supported protection of wolves in France under the 1979 Berne Convention and has firmly resisted the demands of some farmers to be able to shoot wolves on sight. The government insists the wolf will be preserved in France and the cull will not affect its long-term survival.

But many protectionists strenuously disagree. Ours-Loup-Lynx Conservation (FERUS), an organization whose mission is the preservation of bears, wolves and lynxes, the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) and the Société Protectrice des Animaux (SPA) have condemned the killing of the two wolves. The wolf's existence in France remains threatened, these organizations say, because of illegal killing and because the number of reproducing packs is low. Measures funded by public money to prevent wolf attacks (guarding dogs, shepherding and night parks for sheep) have not, they claim, been given a fair test. One of FERUS's key field activi-

*Environmental and wildlife activists gathered in Paris in November 2004 to protest the French government's wolf management policy and to enlist international support for their cause.*



Sandrine Andrieu/FERUS

ties is *Pastoraloup*, a program whose goal is to promote coexistence between wolves and farmers. Volunteers in *Pastoraloup*, which is co-sponsored by the WWF and the SPA, help protect the flocks of sheep grazing in the mountains against wolf attacks during the summer.

Several organizations have launched legal challenges accusing the government of poaching and disregarding international agreements. In November 2004, environmental and wildlife activists gathered in Paris to protest the French government's wolf management policy and to enlist international support for their cause. Meanwhile, under the rules of the limited cull, two more wolves could be killed before December 31, 2004. Minister Lepeltier said that if the first three wolves killed were females, he would not allow a fourth hunt. The death of the male wolf has erased that option, thus allowing two more wolves to be taken before the end of the year.

Lise Donnez of FERUS insists that killing wolves is not going to solve the problems of French sheep farmers. She claims that a number of economic problems plague the sheep-raising industry, which is heavily subsidized by the government. It is time, she says, to "deliver a real conservation plan for wolves that is acceptable to all parties involved."

The author acknowledges the following sources of information:



Henley, John, "Limited Cull of Wolves Ordered to Save Sheep," *The Guardian*, July 20, 2004, <http://www.guardian.co.uk/print/0,3858,4974468-110633,00.html>.



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Donnez, Lise, e-mail message to author, October 27, 2004.



Courtesy of FERUS

In October 2004, two wolves were killed in southeastern France in a government-sponsored hunt to calm Alpine sheep farmers who have lost animals in wolf attacks.

## WOLVES IN IRAN

### New Hope for Wolves in Iran

*It was seven o'clock of a very warm evening when Father Wolf woke up from his day's rest, scratched himself, yawned, and spread out his paws one after the other to get rid of the sleeping feeling in their tips. Mother Wolf lay with her big gray nose draped across her four tumbling, squealing cubs, and the moon shone into the mouth of the cave where they all lived. "Augrh!" said Father Wolf. "It is time to hunt again."*

— Rudyard Kipling, *The Jungle Book*

**T**he Jungle Book, Kipling's timeless tale of a human child nurtured by wolves, takes place in India, not in Iran. But young Mowgli's protector is *Canis lupus pallipes*, also known as the Indian wolf, the Middle Eastern wolf and the Asiatic wolf. This is the subspecies of wolf in Iran.

Smaller than the races of wolves in North America and northern Europe, this unique subspecies once ranged across the Indian subcontinent and in parts of Turkey, Iran and Israel. Kaveh Hatami of the Iranian Cheetah Society estimates that at one time more than 10,000 wolves lived in Iran. But in 2003, the World Conservation Union (IUCN) reported only about 1,000 surviving in marginal habitat.

Iranian wolves stand 18 to 30 inches at the shoulder and weigh between 30 and 70 pounds. They inhabit a variety of ecosystems, from semiarid deserts and grasslands to scrub forests. Thus, behavioral and physical differences exist among individual populations of Iranian wolves. Ones living in the hot southern climate of this huge country have

short pale coats with little or no underfur. This adaptation to their harsh environment keeps them cool and helps them blend in with their surroundings. These wolves often hunt in pairs, their prey consisting of small mammals, including hares, mongooses, rats, squirrels and ground-nesting birds. They are known to consume rotting fruit to quench their thirst, and Hatami's researchers have observed them eating watermelons. Reports indicate they seldom howl, although no one seems to know the reason. Perhaps it is an adaptation that makes them able to elude humans. Northern Iranian wolves inhabit the richer scrub forests and have larger prey available such as ibex, gazelles, wild boars, mountain sheep and deer. Thus, they are slightly larger and tend to hunt in packs.

Despite its declining numbers, *Canis lupus pallipes* has not been given the protection afforded other threatened and endangered wolf subspecies. Many factors have contributed to the disappearance of wolves in Iran. Among them are loss of habitat, decline in prey populations due to human subsistence hunting, and encroaching human



populations. People living in Iran's wolf range are often too poor to be concerned about the welfare of wild animals. They view the wolves as threats to their livestock even though much of the damage to domestic animals is actually caused by wild dogs. Wolves are routinely shot, trapped and poisoned.

If wolves in Iran are to be preserved, steps must be taken to reduce the level of hatred toward these endangered predators. Eco-tourism might be one way for local villagers and livestock owners to

benefit from protecting wildlife. Education is also needed, especially in the schools, to eradicate the negativity toward wolves within the culture and to keep it from passing from one generation to the next.

According to Hatami, there has been "no good news on wolves in Iran" during the past decade. However, in May 2004, Hatami announced fresh evidence of wolves surviving in northeastern Iran. He reported a pack of 16 or 17 wolves in Mian Dasht Wildlife Refuge in northeastern Iran, and a large wolf print was found southwest of Golestan National Park. These recent discoveries have elated researchers and scientists studying ways to prevent *Canis lupus pallipes* from becoming extinct in Iran. As a result, Hatami said, there are "new hopes for wolves surviving." ■



The author acknowledges the following sources of information:

Sefcik, Sue M., "The Iranian Grey Wolf" *Wolf Print* (U.K. Wolf Conservation Trust) 16, Summer 2003.

Hatami, Kaveh, "New Hope for Wolves in Iran," e-mail report from Iranian Cheetah Society, September 17, 2004.

Neil Hutt is an educator and International Wolf Center board member who lives in Purcellville, Virginia.

*Smaller than the gray wolves of North America and northern Europe, *Canis lupus pallipes* once ranged across the Indian subcontinent and in parts of Turkey, Iran and Israel.*

# Rancher in a Pickle over Truth, Wolves

by Todd Wilkinson

This article was first published in the Billings Outpost, August 26, 2004.  
Reprinted by permission.

**D**ear Ladies and Gentlemen: I don't have a license to sell real estate, and I doubt I'll receive a penny of commission if any of you—upon reading this advertisement—decide to part with \$1.1 million to buy the Next Right Thing Ranch. (I swear to you, this IS the ranch's real name).

Situated in Paradise Valley, Montana, some 25 miles north of Yellowstone National Park, the Next Right Thing recently came on the market and what follows, verbatim, is the owner-seller's description of his property:

"At the Next Right Thing Ranch, wildlife are your closest neighbors. Moose, big horn sheep, grizzly bears, WOLVES, mule and white-tailed deer all share the neighborhood as do a wide variety of smaller species, such as beaver and coyotes. One of the most visible wildlife species is elk that winter on the adjacent Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation's Winter Range. HERDS NUMBERING IN THE THOUSANDS are not uncommon."

Yes, the place sounds a lot like nirvana (and it is), if you're a person who appreciates having true wildness out the back door and all of the

elements that come with it. The seller goes on to explain that Paradise Valley "should have been a national park on the scale of Yellowstone"; that's how ecologically rich it is.

In the name of full disclosure, I should note the Next Right Thing Ranch isn't owned by just anyone in this breathtaking dell chock full of movie stars, corporate CEOs and other bigwigs who merely want a place where they can relax anonymously and not be hounded.

This 41-acre tract is owned by Robert T. Fanning Jr., one of the most vocal anti-wolf crusaders in the American West, who has gone before western state legislators, members of Congress, Wise Use groups and TV cameras tirelessly informing the public how wolves have decimated the landscape near his ranch and transformed

Yellowstone into "a biological desert."

In fact, you read right here [Billings Outpost] how Mr. Fanning, a few years ago, declared that by 2004 (this



year), the "largest migrating elk herd on Earth [Yellowstone's Northern Elk Herd, which inhabits lands around Mr. Fanning's property] WILL BE COMPLETELY EXTINCT."

Mr. Fanning added: "We predict entire communities in Montana will vanish because no one spoke up for social justice for the people who were forced to live with wolves."

More recently, he claimed the nearby Absaroka-Beartooth mountains, which he called "continental America's most productive public hunting grounds and Montana's most popular hunting grounds" are now destroyed by wolf predation.

Being a lowly journalist, I admit that I don't know much about the real estate business, but I do know that, by law, the sellers of private property AND THEIR AGENTS have to tell the truth when they are listing a piece of land.

A guy can get sued for lying or deliberately misleading prospective buyers if the property is not what it is claimed to be.

Mr. Fanning's real estate representatives have him quoted as saying: "Anyone who buys this ranch won't be disappointed. It is a one-of-a-kind, end-of-the-road ranch, providing one of the last chances to live in Paradise Valley—a place that is indeed paradise for anyone who loves wild things and wild places."

I was thinking that maybe Mr. Fanning could clear up what appears to be a significant contradiction.

In the past, Bob Fanning and other sportsmen in the anti-

*In the past Bob Fanning has promoted a vision of wolves turning the Greater Yellowstone ecosystem into a wasteland devoid of big game. Now he is advertising his ranch as a landscape teeming with wildlife.*



Mike O'Connell

wolf movement have promoted a vision of wolves turning the Greater Yellowstone ecosystem into a wasteland devoid of big game, especially elk.

But in his real estate ad—read it at [www.nextrightthingranch.com](http://www.nextrightthingranch.com)—he creates a visual scene of a landscape teeming with wildlife. "One of the most visible wildlife species is elk that winter on the adjacent winter range," Mr. Fanning says. "Herds numbering in the thousands are not uncommon."

Once and for all, Bob, set the record straight: Are the public lands around your \$1.1 million ranch a wildlife Shangri-La or a wasteland; are there good numbers of elk or are there not?

Tell us, in the name of full legal disclosure: Is having wolves and abundant wildlife an asset or a liability to the value of your land? You're not under oath, but someday you could be. ■

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# Personal Encounter

with great surprise I realized what eyes were staring at me from 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...

## The Treasures of the Tundra

by Patricia Meyer

A piercing yell woke us from our early morning dreams and propelled us from our bunks to the window overlooking the tundra. We were rewarded by a close view of one of the many treasures of the tundra, a handsome grizzly, no doubt attracted by the tempting aroma of breakfast. Alan Rebane, the lodge owner, did his best to persuade the grizzly to leave, but after many futile attempts, he resorted to popping the bear with a stinging but harmless rubber bullet. I was sad to see the frightened carnivore sprint off into the distance, but I was learning that life on the tundra is tough—for all the animals.

The grizzly visit was among many highlights in a memorable week on the central arctic tundra at Aylmer Lake in the Canadian Northwest Territories. Attracted by the chance

to see arctic wolves with David Mech, I had joined the International Wolf Center's annual August trip to Aylmer Lake Lodge. The experiences on the tundra opened my eyes to the forces at work in a land so vast and a climate so harsh that it seems amazing that anything lives there at all. But life there is, and much of it.

Every day after fixing our lunches, we'd squeeze into our lifejackets and head out in the motorboats along the lake. Our mission was to locate the wolf pack that Dean Cluff, the regional wildlife biologist for the government of the Northwest Territories, had seen denned near the lake edge. We knew the pack was nearby as they had welcomed us with a wonderful sighting on our first evening's climb to the low ridge behind the lodge. Late in the day, as the shadows lengthened, we had

hiked up the hill, then settled down to watch the treeless terrain. Sometime later, four beautiful white wolves streamed along the valley floor, bound for somewhere only they knew, to be followed later by a single wolf. Perhaps she was the breeding female, which had made a late decision to join the hunt, torn over leaving her pups. As the wolves loped along, the second one paused briefly, turned and looked toward us as we sat high on the ridge. Dave felt they would have continued along the floor of the valley had they not known of our presence a few hundred feet away, but instead they headed up through the rocky slopes to disappear over the far ridge line. Unfortunately, like most of the animals in the area, they are extremely wary of humans, as they are hunted, often for no more than a trophy for some den wall.

On our first excursion along the lake Dave and Dean successfully located the den, which was exciting to see, but the wolves were gone. Dave explained that a pack will sometimes move the pups to a rendezvous site away from the den, often in a protected group of dwarf willows, which grow close to the ground in sheltered areas. The rendezvous area was to prove very elusive.



Patricia Meyer

During daily forays into new terrain some members of the group were explorers who would walk and investigate (left) while other members of the group were spotters and would settle on a hilltop to keep close watch on the many miles around (right).

For our remaining days at Aylmer Lake we searched for the hidden pups. We were not lacking in modern technology to aid us, as Dean's extensive computer software and skills enabled us to keep track of the areas we had searched. Also, Alan and Dean flew over the area in Alan's plane, looking for new areas to investigate. Meanwhile Dave's superior knowledge of the ways of the wolf enabled a jigsaw puzzle of ideas to be sorted out and our next day's plan designed. During our daily forays into new terrain we would follow Dave's suggestions and split into groups, some to be spotters and others to explore. The spotters would settle on a hilltop to keep close watch on the many miles around, while the explorers would walk and investigate. On the hikes we found titillating signs of wolves—huge footprints in the sand and mud, scats and old chewed caribou bones—but no signs of the pups. On a few occasions we watched a lone wolf that Dave felt was the breeding female, and proof that the pups were close by—without the pups, the breeding female would have left.

Once when Dave saw the wolf, he asked us to get down on the ground. We watched the wolf travel along the hill for some time. With my untrained eyes I hadn't noticed anything other than the wolf loping

on its journey, but Dave was able to recall many behaviors exhibited by the wolf: it had squatted and urinated and had turned to look behind on more than one occasion. Dave was a great trip leader, full of information, possessing a great sense of humor and having unlimited patience with our endless questions.

As the days progressed, it became clear that the caribou that normally migrate south through the Aylmer Lake region during August were nowhere to be found. Dean and Alan confirmed this on their flight over the area. Without the caribou, what were the wolves eating, or how far were they traveling to find food to bring back for the pups? What was to become of the breeding female and her pups?

Our searching continued. On our travels we were rewarded with new experiences, such as seeing shaggy musk-oxen, permanent residents of the tundra that survive the winters with help from their floor-length coats. We learned about the unique plants that grow and seed quickly during the very short summer, and



Debbie Reynolds



Patricia Meyer

*Top: A visit from a grizzly was among many highlights in a memorable week on the central arctic tundra at Aylmer Lake in the Canadian Northwest Territories.*

*Above: Returning from a flight over the area, Dean Cluff and Alan Rebane confirmed that the caribou that normally migrate south through the Aylmer Lake region during August were nowhere to be found.*



Patricia Meyer



Dave Mech prepares to howl to the wolves.

the permafrost that keeps the earth permanently frozen except for a shallow top layer. The permafrost prevents the melted snow and ice from soaking into the earth—thus the endless lakes, ponds and wet areas. Amid the damp grow tufts of plants on top of mounds, called hummocks. The hummocks were the object of many a swear word as we slogged our way for miles, either balancing on top of them or trying to follow the narrow caribou trails, fashioned by the migrating herds as they travel single file.

On a hike to a different area of the lake, while Dave and Dean continued with the pup search, we were treated

to the diversity of the tundra: a rare sighting of a wolverine, a double-entranced fox den, red foxes, arctic hares and two wonderful hairy caterpillars, one rust, one bright green.

The days passed too quickly. Each night my roommates and I would giggle and talk about indoor plumbing and other missed home comforts, but now I'm ready for the tundra again. The experience was so different, at times challenging, yet so rewarding. My most unforgettable memory is of the afternoon on our last day on the tundra, when we watched a lone wolf, probably the same breeding female. She seemed unsure which way to travel, turning and retracing her steps. Then she sat down, put her head back and howled. That sound is like no other—it is magical. No doubt she was calling to her tundra treasures—only she knew where they were. ■

*Patricia Meyer lives north of Los Angeles with her four golden retrievers. After a career as head of human resources and administration for an insurance company, she now enjoys her many volunteer activities, including working as a docent lecturer at the Los Angeles Zoo. She recently formed Friends of the Island Fox, Inc., which will join in the efforts to save the highly endangered island fox found only on the California Channel Islands.*



Debbie Reynolds



Debbie Reynolds



Debbie Reynolds

Visitors to Aylmer Lake were treated to the diversity of the tundra including sightings of a bear, an arctic hare and a shaggy musk-ox.

To participate in an International Wolf Center trip like this one to the Northwest Territories, contact Trip Coordinator Cornelia "Neil" Hutt at [qhshades@aol.com](mailto:qhshades@aol.com), or write to 16156 Jonella Farm Drive, Purcellville, VA 20132.

*The International Wolf Center conducts an annual trip to Aylmer Lodge (below) in the Canadian Northwest Territories to experience the central arctic tundra.*

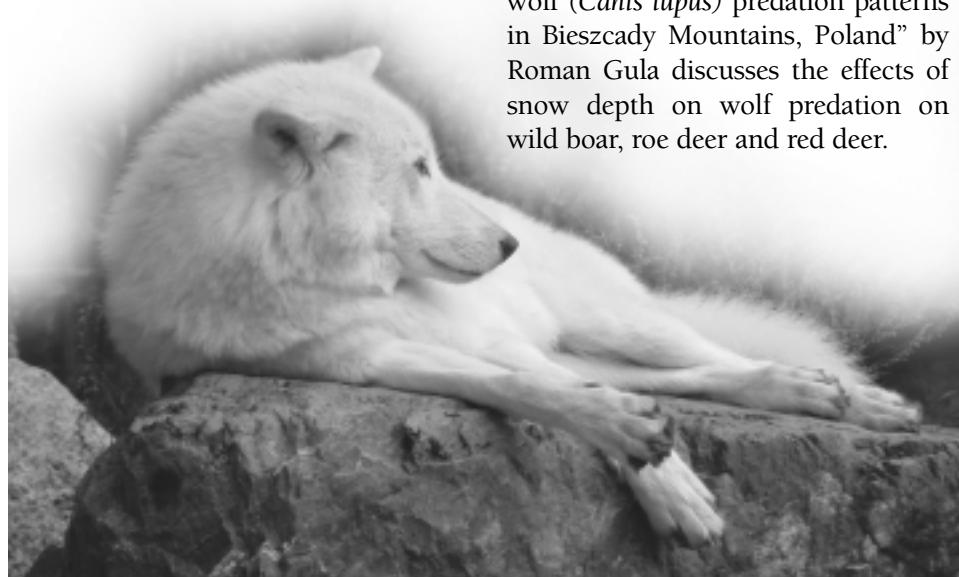


# News and Notes

**WOLVES IN LOWER MICHIGAN.** A female wolf collared in Michigan's Upper Peninsula was accidentally killed by a coyote trapper in Lower Michigan 40 miles southeast of the Mackinac Bridge. Since then, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources has confirmed a pair of wolf tracks, a few miles from there.

**FOUR WOLVES ILLEGALLY SHOT** in Idaho are the subject of \$5,000 rewards by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Defenders of Wildlife. The wolves were killed in widely separated areas during October and November. Contact USFWS agents Craig Tabor or Scott Kabas, 208-378-5333, with any information. Callers may remain anonymous.

**WOLVES AND HORSES** don't get along. This new problem is beginning to plague ranchers in Wyoming as wolves appear to have attacked horses in three or four cases. In some parts of Spain, wolves live primarily on wild horses.



**ONTARIO WOLF PLAN.** The Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters has endorsed Ontario's new wolf management plan. The plan proposes for the first time various regulations and restrictions on killing wolves, including a closed season from April 1 to September 30 in central and northern Ontario, and the federation considers the plan well balanced.

**ALASKA WOLF CONTROL** is again in the news. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has asked the Alaska Board of Game to forego control of wolves and brown bears in Tetlin National Wildlife Refuge, which occupies 15 percent of Game Management Unit 12, where much of the control is proposed to help increase moose and caribou populations. The federal agency requires more analysis to be completed before such control is allowed on its lands.

**WOLVES AND SNOW** were the subjects of a new article in *Wildlife Biology*, volume 10, pages 17-23. "Influence of snow cover on wolf (*Canis lupus*) predation patterns in Bieszczady Mountains, Poland" by Roman Gula discusses the effects of snow depth on wolf predation on wild boar, roe deer and red deer.

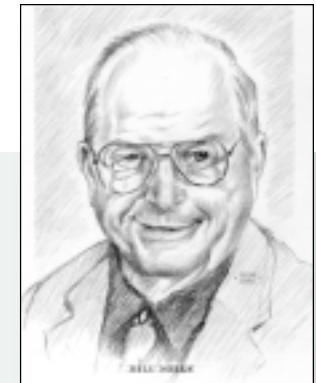


Illustration by Bob Cary

## William O. Mills, 1922-2004

The International Wolf Center mourns the loss of former board member Bill Mills, who passed away September 13, 2004, following a long illness. Bill played an instrumental part in the establishment of the Center and served as a board member for 10 years. An active member of the Ely community, Bill will be missed by both Ely residents and the International Wolf Center.

**RECENT WOLF ARTICLES** can now be found by checking <http://www.carnivoreconservation.org>. Recent proceedings, newspaper articles and other wolf-related literature can be found there, and one can search for various scientific wolf literature, including the latest articles.

**"THE WOLVES OF ALGONQUIN PARK."** The 12-year study by John and Mary Theberge is available as a monograph from Kate Evans, University of Waterloo. Order from Kate Evans, University of Waterloo: e-mail [bkevans@fes.uwaterloo.ca](mailto:bkevans@fes.uwaterloo.ca); phone 519-885-1211, ext. 3278; fax 519-746-0658; price (C.O.D. shipping included): \$23.50 Canadian; \$20 U.S. or other countries. ■

## DON'T MISS

A presentation and book signing by Doug Smith celebrating a decade of wolves in Yellowstone.

**April 28, 2005,  
at the Minnesota Zoo**

Visit [www.wolf.org](http://www.wolf.org) for details.

Sponsored by the International Wolf Center and the Minnesota Zoo

# Wild Kids

## A Journey Through the Seasons

by Jen White,  
International Wolf Center  
Interim Outreach Educator

Do you like the cool, crisp breeze of a fall day when the leaves are vibrant with colors? Or do you prefer the warm sun of an endless summer day? Many people have a favorite season. We also have different activities depending on the season. Some days you wear a heavy coat outside, while other days you don't wear any coat at all! Have you ever wondered how wolves change with the different seasons? While you are reading along, compare a wolf's activity to how your life changes with the seasons.

### SPRING **New Beginnings**



Lynn and Donna Rogers/www.bearstudy.org

In spring pups are born, and a mother wolf sticks close to the den.

Pups spend the first few months in the den. This is because they are born helpless. They weigh only a pound and are unable to see or hear. Pack members work together to help raise the pups; they may bring the mother food so she can stay with the pups. In spring, baby elk and deer are born, and sometimes wolves catch them for food.

### SUMMER **Family Time**

In summer the pups move from the den to an area called a rendezvous site. It is often an open area surrounded by dense vegetation. The site is a safe place for the growing pups to sleep, explore and play while the pack is out hunting. It is also a social center for the pack. Pups practice being a grown-up wolf by learning how to communicate with their ears, tails and voices. By the end of the summer the pups begin to venture out on short hunting trips with the pack.





## ACTIVITY: Keeping a Record of Changes

Keep a phenology journal about the changes in your life through the seasons. A phenology journal is an account of seasonal changes you see in the world around you as well as the biological effects of those changes. Compare the seasonal activities of humans with those of wildlife.

Example: Based on human activity, how do you know when spring comes? Do you hear a lawn mower? Are people planting gardens? Did you put your snow sled in the attic? Also note what the animals and plants are doing: Are the birds building nests? Do you see baby animals? Is the grass turning green? When do leaves appear on the trees? Be sure to record the date you notice each event happening.

Date	Human Activity	Plant and Animal Activity	What date did this happen last year?
SPRING	put away sled	tulips appear	April 1
		robin observed in lawn	April 15
	First lawn mower heard		May 1
	First laundry hung outside to dry		May 17
SUMMER	swimming pool opens	temperatures hit 80 degrees for first time	May 6
	my first sunburn	cicadas heard	June 1
	vegetable garden blooming		June 15
	school starts	first leaf color observed	June 23
FALL		geese observed flying south	July 30
	wear a sweater for first time	temperature drops below freezing	July 5
			September 4
			September 8
WINTER			October 2
			October 12
	switch to warmer coat	first snow	November 12
	enough snow for sledding		December 1
			December 1
			January 10



## FALL Exploration and Discovery

When fall comes, wolves travel more as a pack. The pups travel longer distances, learn their territory and practice finding prey and hunting. It is important that they learn these things because in fall hunting becomes a full-time job. If the prey migrate to winter feeding grounds, the wolf pack may follow. In fall wolves begin to grow thick insulating fur called an undercoat, which will keep them warm during the upcoming winter.

## WINTER Adapting

Winter can be bitter cold, but wolves stay active and adapt to their environment. Wolves' sprawling feet help them travel through the deep snow. Winter is also the time to prepare to mate. Usually only the dominant male and female mate, most often in February or March, and after about 63 days, new pups are born in spring. The yearly cycle will once again repeat itself. ■

# A Look Beyond

## New Challenges for Wolf Advocates

by Steve Grooms

**A** recent front-page newspaper story carried the headline: "Big, bad reputation for Wisconsin wolves." It described unhappiness in northern Wisconsin about wolf depredation, although managers and angry citizens disagree on how serious the problem is.

The article was surprising because wolves in Minnesota, Wisconsin and Michigan have made headlines in recent years by doing well as they recovered from near extinction. Wolves, previously newsworthy for positive reasons, now are attracting negative media attention.

This has serious implications for fans of wolves.

Until recently, the main challenge for wolf advocates has been to counter ignorance and irrational fear with reassuring scientific information. People still hate and fear wolves irrationally, but that is less of a problem than it once was.

The new challenge for wolf fans is to help the public *maintain* a positive image of wolves. Meeting this challenge will involve different tactics than were effective at debunking old spooky stereotypes. Now that wolf restoration has been so successful, the most daunting challenge is to design management policies that might preserve the public tolerance for wolves, even if those policies involve the death of individuals that habitually attack pets or livestock.

Irrational wolf hatred still exists, in some places worse than in others, and all admirers of wolves must be

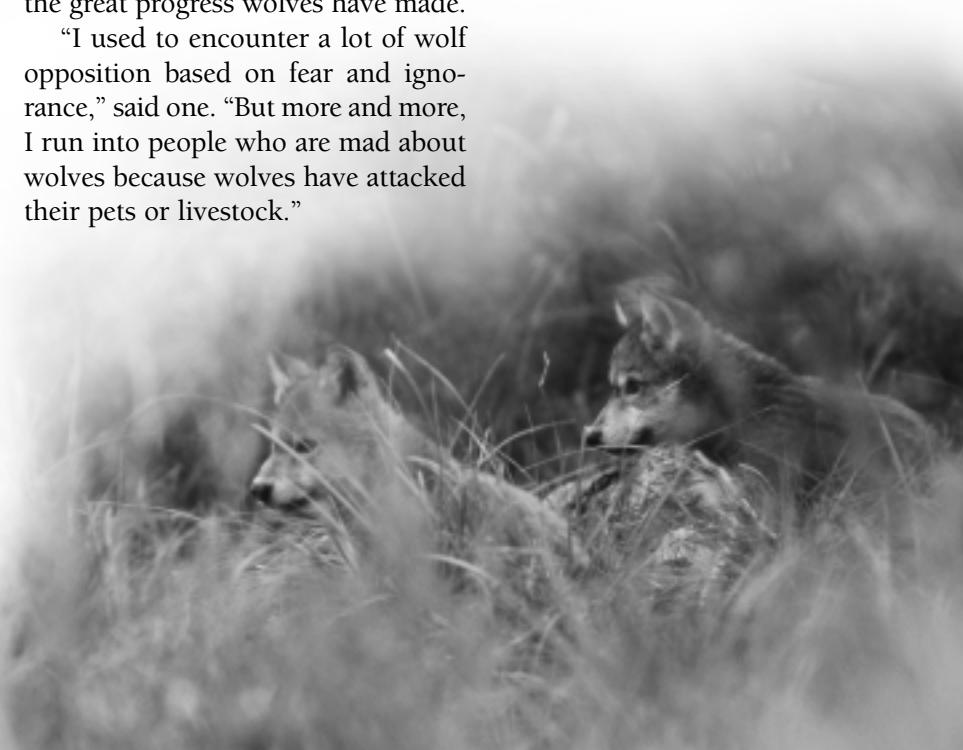
prepared to defend the animals from the sort of hysterical fears that were once so common. At the same time, the greater challenge for wolf advocates now is to help design sensible wolf management plans that promote strong wolf populations in prime habitat while minimizing wolf-human conflicts elsewhere. That might mean endorsing programs that are harsh on wolves outside prime wolf country, which is odious to wolf fans, even if it might be in the best long-term interest of wolves.

I recently spoke to wolf managers in Minnesota, Wisconsin and Michigan. They were concerned about a new trend in public attitudes, a trend that has the potential to reverse the great progress wolves have made.

"I used to encounter a lot of wolf opposition based on fear and ignorance," said one. "But more and more, I run into people who are mad about wolves because wolves have attacked their pets or livestock."

Wolf fans who insist on championing wolves exactly as they have done for three decades might not be doing a kindness for wolves. Instead of maximizing wolf numbers, the new challenge for wolf advocates will be to minimize hostility between people and wolves. This approach will greatly help maintain the positive view of wolves we have worked so hard to accomplish. ■

*Steve Grooms has just finished totally revising and updating his best-selling book Return of the Wolf. The third edition, published by Nova Vista Publishing, will go on sale in spring 2005.*



Isaac Babcock