

# INTERNATIONAL WOLF

A PUBLICATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL WOLF CENTER  
SUMMER 2013

Loss of wildlands  
could increase  
wolf-human conflicts, **PAGE 4**

A conversation about  
red wolf recovery, **PAGE 8**



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# INTERNATIONAL WOLF

THE QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL WOLF CENTER  
VOLUME 23, NO. 2 SUMMER 2013

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Livestock and pet losses due to wolf depredation are likely to increase as rural sprawl devours more wolf habitat. The tension between humans and wolves is bound to escalate and could threaten the sustainability of wolf populations in substantial parts of the western Great Lakes states.

*By Jim Hammill*



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Becky Barne/USFWS

### A Closer Look at Red Wolf Recovery: A Conversation with Dr. David R. Rabon

An estimated 100-120 critically endangered red wolves still live in the wild. The ultimate goal of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Adaptive Management Plan is to control hybridization between red wolves and coyotes in an effort to preserve and restore red wolves to northeastern North Carolina.

*By Neil Hutt*

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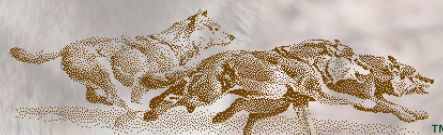
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### On the Cover

Photo by Ethan G. Knuti

Knuti lives in St. Paul and teaches high school language arts. He enjoys photographing and traveling the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness and is a frequent visitor to the International Wolf Center.



**International Wolf Center**



# INTERNATIONAL WOLF

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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 Tom Myrick, magazine coordinator.

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

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We are extremely grateful to Camp Van Vac owner Nancy jo Tubbs for sponsoring color in this issue of *International Wolf* magazine.

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## From the Executive Director

### Counting on Volunteers to Count Wolves

Unlike most states, Wisconsin utilizes trained citizen volunteers to conduct its annual wolf census, which has been performed every year since 1995. More than 200 trained volunteers canvas over 24,000 square miles (6.2 million hectares) during winter to collect tracking data that are used to determine wolf population trends and monitor pack sizes and locations. Their work has provided the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) with some of the most-detailed annual data compiled by any state.



Rob Schultz

This winter, I had the opportunity to attend a two-day wolf ecology workshop at the Sandhill Outdoor Skills Center in central Wisconsin. This workshop is conducted annually by the Timber Wolf Information Network (TWIN) and is one of two training programs that all Wisconsin wolf census volunteers are strongly urged to take.

During the TWIN workshop, wolf researchers and volunteers teach the public about ecology and wolf behavior. Time is spent in the field tracking wolves and learning about pack territories and social structures. It's an intense introduction to the complexities of this species and an incredible experience to meet the frontline volunteers who are in the field tracking wolves and collecting this important information.

I commend the Wisconsin DNR for its use of citizen volunteers in collecting these data. And we salute TWIN volunteers for teaching the public about wolves through these workshops and being engaged participants in the annual Wisconsin wolf census. It's a wonderful example of how public-private partnership can provide better data on population trends, while getting those of us who love wolves outdoors to experience the excitement of tracking these magnificent animals.

I encourage all of our readers to get involved as wildlife volunteers in their state, province, or country. Nothing is more gratifying than to be able to experience wolves and other wildlife firsthand through volunteer opportunities like this. ■

Rob Schultz, executive director



TWIN volunteers study fresh wolf tracks.

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# Wildlands: The Last Best Places



BY JIM HAMMILL

# Recently,

I hunted in British Columbia. The extent and beauty of these wildlands were awe-inspiring. It occurred to me as I looked over vast unpeopled landscapes that the next horizon and the next after that were the same—filled with stillness and natural beauty. Wildlife in this place lived by nature's text, essentially unaffected by humans. The experience was a stark contrast to the struggles of wildlife on landscapes that have been greatly altered by people; such is the case in most of the United States where wolves live. Many of our "last best places" for large-home-range

species like wolves are being parcelized, subdivided, roaded and built upon at alarming rates.

Most wolves that live in the western Great Lakes area occupy "working forests." These landscapes are primarily owned by individuals. Corporate, state, county and federal ownerships exist also. However, private non-industrial forestlands form the foundation of much of the wolf-occupied wildlands here. The sustainability and endurance of these intact forest tracts are likely the pivotal factors determining wolves' persistence, at least in Michigan. However, the prospect for sustaining these wildlands is doubtful. According to surveys, most private landowners would like to pass their forestlands to "the next generation" in their families. However, they are ill-prepared to make this transition, and their successors are ill-prepared to accept the responsibilities of forest stewardship. The natural result of this lack of preparedness is that over 23 million acres (9.3 million hectares) will



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change ownership and pass out of forest use over the next 50 years in the United States. Much of this forest acreage will undergo conversion to other uses, primarily housing development. This change is not only a concern for the distant future; we are awash in these changes today. The number of housing units in the Midwest grew 146 percent between 1940 and 2000. Housing growth has been pronounced in areas particularly valuable for conservation purposes (forestland and waterfront), and large, formerly wooded landscapes can now be categorized as low-density-housing rural sprawl.

How does this affect wolves? Contrary to what most of us in the wildlife management profession

believed 30 years ago, wolves are remarkably adaptive and can prosper in working forest environments. They are not relegated to “wilderness.” They can live among us, but there is a limit to this phenomenon, and social costs could outweigh the value of having wolves “among us.” Wolves might be capable of adjusting to more human-dominated landscapes, but it is unlikely that people will tolerate wolves as common neighbors due to the wolves’ predatory nature and territorial behavior. Livestock and pet losses due to wolf depredation are likely to increase as rural sprawl devours more wolf habitat. The tension between humans and wolves is bound to escalate and could threaten the sustainability of wolf populations in substantial parts of the western Great Lakes states. We have failed to recognize and deal with the collision course that wolves are on with our development of lands wild enough to sustain them.

Clear lines have been drawn between those who believe that wolves, like many other species, need to be managed by population control and those whose values preclude any

human-caused mortality. The issue of to hunt or not to hunt wolves has dominated wolf conversations across the country and has resulted in untold human and financial resources being devoted to the issue. Meanwhile, little attention has been given to the rapid erosion of wolf habitat that could make the other emotion-filled arguments about wolves meaningless in the long run. Retention of large, interconnected blocks of wildlands capable of producing the life requisites for wolves must rise to a level of importance that transcends our personal values for wolves themselves. Many people shrug off the loss of forestlands as though it’s an inevitable cost of economic development and population growth. I disagree.

Numerous surveys have shown that private landowners value their wildlands for wildlife and recreational values above all. These surveys have also shown that intergenerational transfer of these lands is important to the average landowner. Also, as Aldo Leopold put it: “The nation needs, and has a right to expect, the private landowner to use his land with foresight, skill and regard for the future.”

What can we do as individuals to help preserve and maintain wolf habitat into the 21st century? There’s a lot that people can do. Many of us are landowners, and even more of us know others who own wildlands. Here are some ideas that might apply to you or someone you know who owns or has interest in wildlands:

- Become engaged in local land-use planning at the township, county or state level. Did you know that many townships do not even have zoning ordinances that control development?
- Encourage and promote the development of forest management plans on your lands or the lands of those you know.





- Help spread the facts about wild-land tax-abatement programs that may be available in your state. These programs greatly reduce tax burdens, making it more financially practical to keep wildlands wild and free from parcelization.
- Become knowledgeable about the option for conservation easements on private lands. Easements often provide excellent financial benefits to landowners and can ensure wildland status into the future.
- Make a plan for intergenerational transfer of land and include the entire family in the decision-making process.
- Engage in public-input processes for county, state and federal forest-land planning. Encourage our land stewards to actively manage and also provide for wildlands preservation whenever possible.

As I came to the conclusion of this article, I asked myself what is it that I want you to take from it. My wish is that you come to recognize that most of the public debate over wolves has been a clash of our own cultural values about wolves. I really can't do much about your personal values regarding wolves, and I wouldn't want to. But there's something that we all might be able to agree on—the need to preserve, protect, plan for and manage wildlands capable of sustaining a robust wolf population. If these valuable wildlands continue to disappear, nothing else matters in the world of wolves. ■

*Jim Hammill, a native and current resident of Michigan's Upper Peninsula, recently retired from his position as a wildlife biologist for the Michigan Department of Natural Resources after 30 years of service. He is president of Iron Range Consulting and Services, a land and wildlife management company that he runs with his wife, Julie Hammill. Jim is a former board member of the International Wolf Center, has served on both state and federal wolf recovery teams and led the Michigan wolf recovery program for years.*





# A Closer Look at Red Wolf Recovery

A Conversation with Dr. David R. Rabon



PHOTOS BY  
BECKY BARTEL/USFWS



*EDITOR'S NOTE: In the 2010 Fall issue, International Wolf interviewed the coordinators of the two remaining endangered wolf populations—the Mexican gray wolf (*Canis lupus baileyi*) in the Southwest and the red wolf (*Canis rufus*) in the Southeast—about the challenges they face and efforts they make to save these species. In this interview, Cornelia Hutt, an educator, writer and chair of the Red Wolf Coalition, gets an update from Red Wolf Recovery Program Coordinator Dr. David R. Rabon. This interview delves deeper into the groundbreaking and unique management and conservation actions being employed to recover the critically endangered red wolf.*

**Hutt:** What is the current population of red wolves?

**Rabon:** At the end of 2012, we estimated the wild population of red wolves in northeastern North Carolina at 100–120. Approximately 65 are monitored with very high frequency (VHF) radio-telemetry collars. The rest are mainly pups born last season that we are currently capturing to check their general health and fit with radio-telemetry collars now that they have reached full size. We also have about 192 captive wolves housed at 43 zoos and nature centers throughout the United States that are partners in the Red Wolf Species Survival Plan ([www.redwolfssp.org](http://www.redwolfssp.org)).

**Hutt:** In our last interview you talked about the use of adaptive management to assess, control and manage hybridization between red wolves and coyotes. Can you review the purpose and importance of adaptive management?

**Rabon:** The concept of the Adaptive Management Plan (Plan) was developed about 12 years ago following a facilitated workshop by the Conservation Breeding Specialist Group of the International Union for Conservation of Nature's (IUCN) Species Survival Commission. The purpose of the Plan was to develop

a way to reduce interbreeding between red wolves and eastern coyotes (*Canis latrans* var.) while simultaneously building the wild red wolf population.

**Hutt:** How does the Adaptive Management Plan work in controlling hybridization or increasing the wild red wolf population?

**Rabon:** The Plan specifies the framework and general goals of controlling hybridization between red wolves and coyotes while outlining continuing efforts to restore red wolves to northeastern North Carolina. Additionally, it retains the flexibility to adapt to new findings, either from the analysis of the data collected during implementation or from research findings. Through the combined use of field data and population-simulation models, the Red Wolf Recovery Program can assess the Plan's progress and recommend changes as necessary. In practical terms, the Plan advocates techniques to capture and sterilize a hormonally intact coyote and release the sterile animal back into its territory. Because sterile coyotes cannot breed, this method limits the growth of the coyote population within the red wolf recovery area and restricts hybridization between coyotes and red wolves.

**Hutt:** How was the sterilization technique developed?

**Rabon:** Decades have been spent trying to remove coyotes to protect domestic livestock from predation. However, such efforts are often problematic and produce inconsistent results. Because coyotes are territorial and typically kill domestic animals to feed their pups, researchers began testing whether surgically sterilized, but hormonally intact, coyotes could function to protect livestock by defending space against other coyotes. It is this concept of holding space that is being applied to manage hybridization between red wolves and coyotes by providing managers time, information and a higher degree of control over the recovery landscape while providing a reproductive advantage to the red wolf. Ultimately, sterilization allows territorial space to be held until the sterile animal can be replaced naturally by a red wolf or with the assistance of management actions.

**Hutt:** It's obvious that sterilization precludes reproduction, but can you elaborate on how exactly a coyote holding space helps the red wolf?

**Rabon:** The underlying tenet of the Plan is that space—and therefore canid territories—is limited within the red wolf recovery area in northeastern North Carolina. Given a small, reintroduced red wolf population, that space is initially best occupied by breeding pairs of red wolves, non-breeding mixed (red wolf-coyote) pairs, or non-breeding coyote pairs. By sterilizing coyotes, infiltration of non-wolf genes will be controlled and territories will be unavailable for colonization by breeding coyotes or red wolf-coyote pairs. As the red wolf population grows, having space available for dispersing red wolves becomes increasingly important, and this space is



# As a Matter of Fact: The Red Wolf

**Scientific name:** *Canis rufus*      **Common name:** Red wolf

**Physical characteristics:** Weight 45–80 pounds (23–36 kilograms). Long legs, slender body, height at shoulder about 26 inches (68 centimeters). Color varies from dark gray to gray mixed with cinnamon, buff, tan and black with creamy underbelly. Often has reddish traces on its long ears and backs of legs.

**Original range:** Once the Southeast's top predator, the red wolf was found from the Atlantic and Gulf Coasts, north through the Ohio River Valley, through central Pennsylvania and New York and west to southern Missouri and central Texas.

**Present range:** Lives in the wild only in the 1.7-million-acre (680,000 hectares) restoration area in northeastern North Carolina. Recovery plan calls for two additional reintroduction sites.

**Endangered Species Act status:** endangered/nonessential experimental.

**Prey:** Primarily white-tailed deer, nutria, marsh rabbits, raccoons and small rodents.

**Social structure:** Lives in family groups or pairs (packs). Often hunts alone or in pairs.

**Reproduction:** Breeding season is February and March. Average litter is three to five pups born each year in April and May.

provided through natural interspecific competition and/or management actions.

**Hutt:** Does sterilizing the coyote affect its behavior or its ability to maintain its territory?

**Rabon:** It doesn't appear so. Studies have shown that sterilization reduces the predatory rate of coyotes associated with pup production and the provisioning of pups. However, sterilization had no effect on coyote territorial behaviors, compensatory reproduction (i.e., an increase in the number of offspring produced to compensate for the loss of individuals not reaching reproductive age as a result of ecological or social constraints) or other behavioral components of coyote social ecology.

**Hutt:** Does sterilization have any effect on the coyote population as a whole?

**Rabon:** Sterilization is an efficient coyote management strategy for reducing coyote population growth. Conversely, coyote populations that are heavily exploited (i.e., hunted or reduced through other lethal removal strategies) are characterized by younger





age structure, lower adult survival rates, increased percentages of yearlings reproducing, increased litter sizes and relatively small packs. Even under the most severe removal programs, repopulation by coyotes can be expected within months to two to three years.

**Hutt:** Doesn't leaving coyote pairs or red wolf-coyote pairs on the landscape prevent another wolf or wolf pair from claiming the territory?

**Rabon:** Sterile or "placeholder" coyotes are naturally replaced when the larger red wolves displace or kill the coyote. However, on occasion we might remove a coyote when we can insert a wild or translocated red wolf into that territory or if we have a red wolf dispersing there. We are evaluating and analyzing our data on these interactions, but so far our findings suggest that red wolves always win over coy-

otes in territorial disputes, whether we have taken management actions or not to remove a coyote. In other words, our preliminary analyses show no instances of a coyote successfully defending a territory against a red wolf.

**Hutt:** It sounds as if the Adaptive Management Plan is working and buying time for recovery efforts to help promote an increase in wild red wolves. But what happens when red wolves are lost? How does that affect the implementation of the Adaptive Management Plan?

**Rabon:** The Plan works by giving a reproductive advantage to the red wolf, which leads to an increase. In the first few years of the Plan's implementation, we saw an increase in the area occupied by red wolves, total number of red wolves and red wolf social units as well as a decrease in the total area where the status of canids,

in general, is unknown. With regard to losses in the wild red wolf population, a certain number of deaths are expected. However, when these losses approach or exceed recruitment or substantially reduce the number of available wolves to fill vacant territories, we worry that the population of red wolves could decline. A high rate of loss sustained over an extended period could lead to a population crash. But the number of losses isn't the only concern. We also look at the type of loss or period when losses are greatest to determine if the loss can be prevented or mitigated.

**Hutt:** We read on your Web site ([www.fws.gov/redwolf](http://www.fws.gov/redwolf)) that the Red Wolf Recovery Program lost 19 wolves in 2012. That seems like a high rate of mortality for a population estimated between 100 and 120 animals. How does the number of mortalities compare to previous years?





**Rabon:** The overall annual number of mortalities has been relatively constant since implementing the Plan (c. 2000), ranging from 14 to 28 deaths per year with an average of 19. However, the proportion of mortality types has changed. From about 2000 to 2004, gunshots and vehicle strikes equally accounted for the highest number of deaths, followed by management actions. From 2005 to 2012, the number of wolves killed annually by gunshot nearly doubled and appears to be steadily increasing, while deaths from vehicle strikes remained at similar levels and management-related deaths have declined significantly.

**Hutt:** How does the loss of that many red wolves affect the sustainability of such a small population or the implementation of your management actions and fulfilling the goals of the Adaptive Management Plan?

**Rabon:** The death of a single red wolf can have an enormous impact on the small, wild red wolf population by disrupting the population dynamics of a pack and possibly surrounding packs and reducing the number of breeding animals and pairs. The loss of a breeding wolf and the dissolving of a breeding pair also can preclude that pack's reproduction for a year or more, reducing recruitment, and can increase opportunities for hybridization. And the effects extend beyond the loss of red wolves. The loss of sterile coyotes also impacts our red wolf recovery success because their loss increases the potential for hybridization as intact coyotes fill the empty space, which is needed for red wolves.

**Hutt:** What are the next steps in the recovery efforts for the critically endangered red wolf?

**Rabon:** There are obvious immediate needs, such as finding solutions to avoid, and control for, the unnecessary

and unnatural losses of red wolves and managed coyotes. We are taking a multi-pronged approach to resolve these issues by focusing on improving regulations and policies to protect the red wolf and implementing innovative management and conservation techniques. We work closely with the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission on these issues. We are also extending our reach to educate the public on the value and importance of red wolves, our efforts to recover the species and our recovery strategies and goals by connecting through various social media. Our partners, the Red Wolf Coalition and Friends of the Red Wolf, and numerous Red Wolf Species Survival Plan cooperators, greatly assist in these efforts. We continue to assess the effectiveness of, and make informed decisions about, our management techniques and strategies. And we're also looking to the future. Our recovery plan calls for three separate reintroduced populations of red wolves, and we are taking the steps to make those populations a reality. Partners will play an intricate roll in our success to recover the red wolf. Therefore, we are invigorating old relationships and forging new partnerships to help us deal with the challenges that lie ahead. ■

*Dr. David R. Rabon, coordinator of the U.S Fish and Wildlife Service's Red Wolf Recovery Program, is a conservation biologist with a Ph.D. from North Carolina State University, where he studied factors affecting social and reproductive behaviors of red wolves.*





“...the ideal international venue for both celebrating wolves and planning for their promising future...”



Mike O'Connell



# 2013 INTERNATIONAL WOLF SYMPOSIUM

## Wolves and Humans at the Crossroads

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KEYNOTE  
PRESENTATION

## TED TURNER

“The Turner Endangered Species Fund has promoted conservation of various imperiled species, including the gray wolf, over the last 16 years. It’s important that we do all we can to save these magnificent creatures from extinction and needless harassment and persecution. To succeed in this endeavor we must educate ourselves and others on how to coexist with the wolf. Progress will remain impossible otherwise. That’s why events like the International Wolf Center’s symposium are so important; they provide us with this much-needed education, ultimately benefitting imperiled species like the wolf as well as humans.”

—Ted Turner, founder of CNN and the Turner Endangered Species Fund



**“This fall’s Wolves and Humans at the Crossroads symposium heralds a great American conservation success story—the rebound of wolves. Once nearly extirpated from the continental United States, they’ve reclaimed portions of their historical range. But that success brings the responsibility of managing their growing numbers and their increased interactions with humans. The International Wolf Center’s October 2013 event in Duluth, Minnesota, is the ideal international venue for both celebrating wolves and planning for their promising future. I wouldn’t miss it and neither should you.”**

—Paul Schurke, polar explorer and educator

**“This symposium is a rare opportunity both to learn the latest scientific updates about wolves from world experts and to share your own perspective. Our relationship with wolves truly is at a crossroads. Attending this conference is your chance to hear and be heard regarding the future of this cornerstone predator.”**

—Don Shelby, former WCCO TV/CBS news anchor





# “Pack up and prepare for new incentives in wolf education and greater opportunities for collaboration with visionary partners. See you at the International Wolf Center’s symposium in October!”

— Maggie Howell, executive director,  
Wolf Conservation Center

## PRELIMINARY SYMPOSIUM SCHEDULE

\*Schedule subject to change.

### Thursday, October 10

7 a.m.–5:30 p.m.	Wolves and Wilderness Bus Tour
6–9 p.m.	Registration
7–9 p.m.	Welcome reception Holiday Inn

### Friday, October 11

7–8:30 a.m.	Registration
8:30 a.m.	Welcome/opening remarks
8:45–10 a.m.	Panel: What is wolf recovery? Ed Bangs, Mike Phillips, and others, Nancy jo Tubbs moderator
10–11 a.m.	Individual sessions
12 p.m.	Keynote Ted Turner: Wolves and a world full of challenges and opportu- nities, Mike Phillips as moderator <i>OPEN TO THE PUBLIC</i>
1:15–1:45 p.m.	What is wolf recovery? Nancy jo Tubbs, moderator
1:45–3:15 p.m.	Panel: Mexican wolf recovery plan, Carlos Carroll, Rich Frederickson, John Vucetich, Doug Smith, Peter Siminski, and Carlos Lopez- Gonzalez, Mike Phillips as moderator
3:15–5:30 p.m.	Individual sessions
7–8 p.m.	Dog’s relationship to wolves: genetics, behavior and conflict, Ray Coppinger <i>OPEN TO THE PUBLIC</i>
8:15–9:15 p.m.	The life of wolf ‘06, Bob Landis <i>OPEN TO THE PUBLIC</i>

### Saturday, October 12

8:30–10:15 a.m.	State management of wolves: How are we doing? Bob Ream
8:30–10:15 a.m.	Individual sessions
10:30 a.m.–12 p.m.	Panel: Should wolves be hunted?
12:30–1:30 p.m.	Poster session and exhibit review
1:30–5 p.m.	Individual sessions
6–8:30 p.m.	Banquet, awards, <i>Wild Wolves We Have Known</i> , Dick Thiel
8:30 p.m.	Book signings

### Sunday, October 13

8:30–10:45 a.m.	Individual sessions
10:45–11:45 a.m.	Dr. L. David Mech: A 55-year career in wolf research
11:45–12 p.m.	Closing remarks
1–3:30 p.m.	International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Wolf Specialist Group (WSG) lunch and meeting at Holiday Inn

Funding for the 2013 Symposium has been provided by: Arthur L. and Elaine V. Johnson Foundation, Harold W. Sweatt Foundation, Turner Endangered Species Fund and anonymous donors.

**To register or for more information: [www.wolf.org](http://www.wolf.org)**





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Gateway to the north woods and  
Minnesota's wolf territory.



### SYMPOSIUM HIGHLIGHTS

#### What is wolf recovery?

Panel Moderator **Nancy jo Tubbs**  
*International Wolf Center board chair*

What is the ultimate aim of the Endangered Species Act? What roles should federal agencies play to improve the status of species listed as endangered or threatened under the law? When is that protection no longer needed? This panel will consider the biological, scientific, and socio-political aspects of the species' restoration in an attempt to develop a credible answer to the controversial question, “What is wolf recovery?” The panel includes wildlife biologists Mike Phillips, Ed Bangs and others.

#### Sound management

**Bob Ream** *Formerly with Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks*

How hunting policies were implemented differs among states. It is important at this crossroad, to compare the differences and learn what has worked well, what hasn't and where to go from here in managing wolves. The path for states has been a difficult and extremely controversial one, with criticism on both sides that management is not based on science.

#### Wild Wolves We Have Known

**Dick Thiel** *Retired biologist and a wildlife consultant*

A collection of tales spanning the globe, from the earliest studies to the present day, *Wild Wolves We Have Known* tells the stories of individual wolves through the lenses of those who know them best—the biologists who have studied them. Immerse yourself in the fieldwork, observe the challenges facing the species, and bear witness to the extraordinary resilience of remarkable wolves.

#### The life of wolf '06

**Bob Landis**  
*Wildlife Cinematographer*

Emmy Award-Winning Wildlife Cinematographer Bob Landis explores the life of beloved wolf 832, AKA female '06, the queen of the Yellowstone Lamar pack, in this exclusive presentation featuring footage of '06 that he captured before her death in December 2012.

#### A 55-year career in wolf research

**L. David Mech**  
*U.S. Geological Survey,  
Northern Prairie Wildlife  
Research Center*

In this fascinating presentation, Dr. L. David Mech, one of the world's most renowned wolf experts, will share from his wealth of knowledge on everything from basic wolf ecology and behavior to his personal interactions with moose, deer, elk, caribou and muskoxen. He will also present highlights from five decades of research on wolves in Isle Royale National Park, Minnesota, Denali National Park, Ellesmere Island and Yellowstone National Park.



**“I plan to be at the symposium because I want to be part of the next chapter on conservation and education for wolves around the globe. Mark your calendars for this must-attend event!”**

—Kim Wheeler,  
executive director,  
Red Wolf Coalition

**To register or for more information: [www.wolf.org](http://www.wolf.org)**

Wolf photo: Robert Dewar



**Wolves and Humans at the Crossroads**



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Thank you again for all of your  
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grad school but also in being  
a truly committed and  
outstanding educator:  
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*Thank You!*



# Tracking the Pack

## Formation of a Pack: Maturing of the 2012 Pups

by Lori Schmidt, wolf curator,  
International Wolf Center

Every four years the International Wolf Center acquires and socializes two wolf pups to add new life to its Exhibit Pack. In 2012 Luna and Boltz were our newest additions, and despite some initial management challenges, Wolf Care staff integrated the pups into the Exhibit Pack. Initially, observations led to some concerns about food resources for the pups, and

staff responded with increased feedings. As winter progressed, Luna demonstrated the tenacity of a small but intensely possessive dominant female. Of course, she's the only female, so without gender-specific competition, she had very few limits on her behavior. Luna showed threat displays whenever food resources were present, and eventually her confidence led to active

dominance displays, which included scruff biting Denali or facing off with Aidan.

Boltz, as a male member of the pack, had limits. Aidan clearly displayed tolerances for Boltz, but when his juvenile testing behavior became too excitable, Aidan would display a hard muzzle bite and pin Boltz to the ground. Boltz would respond with a drop of the head, a submissive tail wag and lick to the side of Aidan's face, all submissive gestures. Having three males increased the interactions within the male rank order and activity within the Exhibit Pack. In our experience, captive wolves can be more prone to gender-specific, rank-order displays than a wild pack, which typically consists of a dominant pair and its offspring. By late winter, Boltz willingly accepted the lower-ranking position,

*Aidan and Luna  
dominating Denali.*



International Wolf Center staff





International Wolf Center staff

*Luna asserting dominance over Denali.*

but we observed some increasing confidence when Aidan was close. The presence of a third male on the Exhibit seemed to motivate a more defined rank than displayed by the two adults, Aidan and Denali, prior to the introduction.

The overwhelming question for Wolf Care staff is whether an association of a dominant male and dominant female will develop. Even in a captive facility with spayed and neutered animals, we have observed pair-bonding behaviors including closeness when sleeping, parallel walking and social guarding behavior. In 2005 Shadow and Maya displayed these behaviors and maintained this relationship until Shadow was retired in 2010. The Vermilion Community College ethology class will be monitoring the interactions of Luna and Aidan to see if similar behaviors develop as the 2012 pups mature and help form the dynamics of the new Exhibit Pack.

To watch these behaviors emerge, tune into our YouTube channel at [www.wolf.org](http://www.wolf.org). ■

## Survey Results Encouraging

Following our first full-color edition of *International Wolf* magazine, the editorial team decided to conduct a reader survey via email. We wanted to get a better understanding of your perspective on the magazine and the organization. We also wanted data to share with future sponsors of the magazine. We surveyed 3,052 members/readers via an email link. Roughly half clicked on the link, and 336 actually took the survey. You might be surprised by some of the results.

**81%** said *International Wolf* was a "very" or "extremely important" member benefit.

**63%** said having the magazine in color added "high" or "extremely high" value to their reading experience, but only 25% said it made them more likely to remain a member in order to receive the magazine.

### When asked to identify activities we could do more effectively, the top choices included:

**56%** Educate individuals on what they can do to promote wolf survival

**51%** Be more vocal about wolf issues in the media

**50%** Focus more on wildlands to minimize wolf-human conflict

### Other interesting findings include:

Only **53%** of the respondents said they have visited the Center in Ely, Minnesota.

**70%** of respondents were female.

**75%** were 50 years of age or older.

**63%** have at least a college degree.

### When asked what topics they'd like to see more of, respondents overwhelming said they wanted to see more stories about:

**67%** Specific wild wolves like O6

**62%** Personal encounter stories

**59%** Scientific wolf research articles

**58%** Wolf management strategies

**53%** Wolf Center operation/program updates

**42%** Pro and con stories about controversial issues

**32%** Current news about wolves in other countries

**29%** Book reviews

*To all of you who took the survey, thank you again for your time and efforts.*

*You are helping us become a better organization.*



International Wolf Center staff



# Wolves of the World

## Updates from Around the Globe

by Tracy O'Connell

The controversy surrounding wolves continues to unfold globally. Below we offer a brief summary of some of what is happening around the world, both to conserve and manage wolves.

### MONGOLIA:



(Note: Longtime IWC member Arnoud ten Haaft shared information that led to this report.) Nomadic herders in Mongolia's harsh landscape, located north of China, recently returned to a formerly popular means of predator control, the use of dogs to protect their livestock from wolves. Aiding in the multi-year project that reintroduced this practice was a Dutch conservation group, Wildlife Consult. Hans Hovens, who lives in the Netherlands and was part of a core team in the effort to reintroduce the dogs, described his experience.

From 1994 to 1997, he worked in Hustain Nuruu National Park as a wildlife biologist, researching wolves, livestock and wild ungulates. As part of the work, he interviewed all local nomadic families three times a year and asked them about wolf kills among their livestock. He presented them with the results of his work, but they were mainly interested in a way to stop what they called the wolf problem in an area where hunting wolves is illegal.

Some years later Wageningen University, named for the town in the Netherlands where it is located, asked Hovens to help restart the Mongolian wolf research; he caught wolves, radio tracked them and conducted wolf-scat analyses, but again he found the local people wanted help protecting their stock, and as a researcher he sought to help both the wolves and the rare Przewalski's horses (a subspecies of horse found in the steppes of Asia, which were subject to predation) as well. Therefore, he proposed the guard-dog project, which was funded by a grant from the World Wildlife

Arnoud ten Haaft

Petroglyphs dating from 3000-plus years ago from northwestern Mongolia depict a dog with similar characteristics to the Gartz, a square build and curly tail carried high.



Fund. Hovens tackled the project with his wife, Grietje Lenstra, and Renee Henkes of Alterra, a research center at Wageningen University. All volunteered their time.

The plan called for the introduction of an ancient breed of dog, called the Gartz, believed to be a descendant of, and very similar to, the Tibetan mastiff. The breed is also called the four-eyed dog, among other names, because its longish coat has light-colored forehead markings that resemble a second set of eyes.

Historically, use of these dogs was discontinued after wolves became extinct in Mongolia, partly because during the time of Russian presence it was believed the dogs spread disease to livestock. After wolves reappeared, no one remembered how to train the guard animals.

Hovens' team travelled 20,000 kilometers (12,427 miles) across Mongolia in 2005 in search of Gartz breeding stock and built a kennel. After pups were born, the team taught an initial

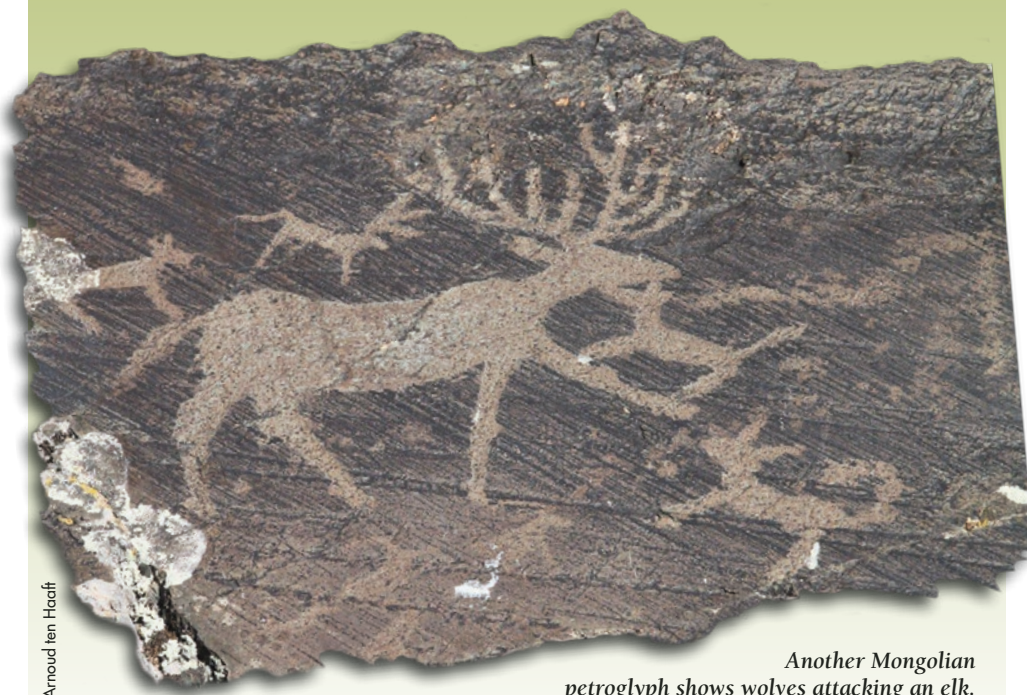


group of nine Mongolian families the method typically practiced for training dogs to guard herds—keeping them with the flocks day and night from the time they are eight weeks of age. The dogs were tested for their ability a year later, in 2007, and all proved effective, each staying with the flock and displaying protective behavior.

The Mongolians were encouraged not to teach their dogs many commands and not to play with the pups and dogs to avoid a strong relationship from developing between the dogs and the humans, which would weaken the dogs' bond with the livestock. The project was considered a success when







Arnoud ten Haaf

Another Mongolian petroglyph shows wolves attacking an elk.

it was evaluated in 2008, according to the Wildlife Consult Web site. Hovens notes, however, that while wolf predation formerly accounted for an annual average loss of 2 percent in the Mongolian herds and declined with the use of guard dogs, overgrazing takes a greater toll as nomads gather around sparse grasslands with their flocks.

Use of guarding dogs in the United States has had mixed success because often the wolves kill the dogs.

#### CANADA:



A controversial bounty hunt near Fort Saint John in north-east British Columbia has been condemned by opponents, with a call for a tourism boycott by nature photographer John Marriott. His work has appeared in publications including *National Geographic Adventure* and *Backpacker*.

Citing changes to the natural environment such as roads and seismic lines that give wolves unnatural advantages, the sponsors of the bounty contest, which include the Peace River Rod and Gun Club, say the hunt has been going on for years and has never resulted in an annual kill of more than 13 animals.

Opponents argue that hunting should be about getting out in nature or putting food on the table, not going after a prize, and oppose the promo-

tional poster, which sports art of a snarling wolf. The event has been taken to court, with legal opinions from the province's gaming authority and the West Coast Environmental Law for Pacific Wild disagreeing on whether the activity—which offers prizes for various categories of wolf taking—is skill-based, in which case it doesn't require a permit.

In Ontario, vandals released four captive wolves from the 15-acre (6-hectare) Haliburton Forest Wolf Centre preserve. The vandals, believed to be members of an animal-rights group, cut through the center's double-fenced enclosure. Once loose, one wolf was shot and killed, and another, a female named Granite, was injured by gunshot. She was captured 10 days later and treated for her injuries. Two wolves remain loose. The preserve, which operates for research and public education, according to its Web site, found itself at “the crossfire of animal rights and animal hate,” as a Facebook posting noted, since the effort to free captive animals endangered them.

#### ETHIOPIA:



A 12-year study of Ethiopian wolves (*Canis simensis*) has determined their continued survival is at risk, and scientists are still exploring whether these creatures are actually wolves or jackals.

With only 500 of the endangered animals existing in six fragmented populations (a seventh died out during the study), the genetic variability within groups is limited. According to the Zoological Society of London and other researchers reporting in *Animal Conservation* last fall, several factors combine to make their survival difficult.

These rare canids exist above the tree line in mountainous regions, preying chiefly on large rodents. Ethiopia's human population has increased over 20 years from 48 million to nearly 85 million, bringing roads and resulting car deaths, persecution of wolves in spite of bans against hunting and dogs, which have bred with wolves in some cases and contributed to the spread of rabies. Overgrazing of the African alpine meadows, where the wolves live, by domestic livestock has reduced the number of small prey animals that the wolves rely on for food and is contributing to their dwindling numbers.

#### FRANCE:



A government group formed last fall has been tasked with addressing management of France's wolf population, which has spread over the past 20 years. A representative of the National Research Institute of Science and Technology for Environment and Agriculture was quoted by *The Guardian* as saying the conservation group Wildlife Protection Association advocates “far-reaching changes in stock-farming techniques combined with proper protection for flocks” to enable a “bearable compromise” between shepherds and wolves, accused of killing up to 5,000 sheep in each of the past two years.

#### NORWAY:



According to *The Guardian*, British environmental activist and blogger George Monbiot reported that a meeting took place late last fall between the Norwegian and Swedish governments in which Norway aimed to lay claim to wolf populations living in the border



# Book Review

area between the two countries, making it legal for Norwegians to hunt wolves elsewhere.

While as much as 80 percent of Norway's public supports the presence of wolves, the government needs to show a stable population large enough to warrant the hunt to reduce wolf numbers in an area where an estimated 1,500 sheep per year are lost to wolf predation. According to Monbiot, who supports an alternate means of predator control, two million sheep a year are released unsupervised into Norwegian forests, where up to 100,000 fall into crevices, drown or are killed by trains. While farmers are compensated—"richly," according to Monbiot—for wolf-related losses, there is pressure nonetheless for the hunt.

## RUSSIA:



Yegor Borisov, president of the Sakha Republic (also known as Yakutia), which is considered a federal subject of Russia located in Siberia, has called for a massive hunt to reduce the population of 3,500 wolves to 500. Bounties are offered for each pelt, and prizes of one million rubles (\$33,283, €24,711) will be awarded to the hunters who kill the most wolves.

Wolves are blamed for five million rubles' worth (\$166,416, €123,555) of domestic livestock losses last year, which included 16,000 reindeer and more than 300 horses, according to *The New York Times*. The situation is blamed on a cyclical drop in the population of wild rabbits, although this seems unlikely because wolves in the area prey primarily on wild ungulates. While blogger George Monbiot calls for an alternate means of wolf control in the Sakha Republic, the *Times* quotes conservation groups as agreeing with livestock growers that "there are too many wolves" in the region, which is the size of India. ■

Tracy O'Connell is an associate professor of marketing communications at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls and a member of the International Wolf Center's magazine and communications committees.

## *The Secret World of Red Wolves:*

*The Fight to Save North America's Other Wolf*

T. DeLene Beeland

The University of North Carolina Press, Chapel Hill

Publication Date: June 2013

by Cornelia Hutt

When nature writer T. DeLene Beeland began her search for information about the red wolf's natural history and identity as a species, she was surprised and dismayed by the limited resources. Available were a few good books for young audiences, some scientific and popular articles and occasional single chapters in general books about wolves. But there was nothing comprehensive about a top predator that once roamed the southeastern and middle-Atlantic regions of North America.

Determined to "write the book she wanted to read," Beeland traces the compelling story of the red wolf from its possible origins to decline in the wild, reintroduction and modern management. Using first-person narrative as well as the objective voice, she weaves together the perspectives of Red Wolf Recovery Program biologists, conservationists, landowners in the North Carolina red wolf recovery region, geneticists and wildlife managers. The result is a lively, intimate, and deeply thoughtful book that provides excitement and suspense, the integrity of rigorous research and accuracy and the dramatic impact of the all-out effort to save a species still at the edge of extinction in the wild. Beeland addresses the tough challenges of red wolf restoration, among them climate change and the possible effect of sea-level rise on the red wolf's only reintro-



duction site in coastal North Carolina.

Beeland writes in her preface that she hopes her book will entertain, educate and inspire all who are interested in modern conservation efforts to revive and stabilize populations of endangered animals. She succeeds with a captivating read for general audiences, wolf lovers and scientists alike. ■

T. DeLene Beeland is a science and nature writer who lives in Asheville, North Carolina. Her articles have appeared in several publications including the *Charlotte Observer* and *Wildlife in North Carolina*. Three essays from her blog, "Wild Muse," appear in selected annual editions of *The Best Science Writing Online*. "Wild Muse" covers ecology, evolution and the environment and can be found at <http://sciencetrio.wordpress.com/>. More information about *The Secret World of Red Wolves* can be found on "Wild Muse" as well as information about "Friends of the Red Wolf," a group Beeland established to augment conservation efforts in red wolf country. For more see [www.friendsoftheredwolf.org](http://www.friendsoftheredwolf.org) and visit Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/RedWolfFriends>.

Cornelia Hutt, a writer and educator, is chair of the board of directors of the Red Wolf Coalition, the only nonprofit advocating for the long-term survival of endangered red wolves. Please visit the Web site at [www.redwolves.com](http://www.redwolves.com) and support the work of the Coalition.



With great surprise I realized what I was looking at; six sets of eyes were staring at me from only 100 feet away. And then, I heard a muffled half-bark followed by a deep, smooth, heavy sound rising into the air. None of the other wolves

# Personal Encounter

## Of Loons and Wolves

by Tom Myrick, communications director,  
International Wolf Center

We all have sanctuaries, places we hide out as kids and places we now go to as adults to connect with creation, revive the soul, and, yes, hide. My particular place of refuge is a small cabin nestled a half dozen feet (1.8 meters) from the northern shore of lake Wabana surrounded by the Chippewa National Forest. For the past 40 years, this is

where I have gone to preserve my sanity and to experience many wonders in the wild, including as it turned out, my first encounter with a wild wolf pack.

In the fall of 2011, the same year I joined the staff at the International Wolf Center, I found myself alone, enjoying a bit of what I call solo time, sitting by the campfire, trying not to think about the eventual aching drudgery of pulling out 32 feet (9.75 meters)

of water-logged dock sections from 45-degree (7.2-degree Celsius) water and closing up the place for the winter. As the shadows slowly engulfed the shoreline, I waited in anticipation to hear the loons calling one last time. The Wabana chain of lakes is home to a very robust population of loons, so it is not uncommon to hear a riot of mournful cries echoing back and forth from every point on the compass. With the sun finally down, the last and best light of the day set the stage, and the loons did not disappoint.

The first tentative call came from the northernmost bay. It was a short half call, almost as if some tuning were needed. Then came the first full-throated cry, a single mournful note that faded and then lingered for what seemed like a full minute. And then, to my utter surprise, and for the first time in my life, I heard a new voice on the landscape, a reply just as melancholy but unmistakably the single howl of a wolf. Breaking free from my fire-induced reverie, I catapulted to my feet and raced out onto the dock to see if I could make out exactly what part of the lake the howl had come from. There was just enough ambient light



iStockPhoto/Rich Phalin





left to see the far northeastern shoreline, but I could see nothing on the move. There was only silence and a slight troubling of the water from a northerly breeze.

I wondered if the loons were as shocked as I was. To my relief they started up again, but this time the cries came from the small lake to the west connected by a narrow channel. Soon a pair of loons to the south joined in, and the couple in the north bay countered with a very high-pitched, double-noted wail for which they are so well known. The chorus ended just as abruptly as it had begun. I waited. And waited. A full minute went by, and then it came, not from the north end of the lake but from the eastern peninsula known as Phillips Point, much closer to my spot on the lake. I counted at least three distinct howls. Was the pack on the move, or split up on a hot trail? "Ho-lee-cow," I said out loud, punctuating the moment. "We have wolves here."

I sat back down next to the aging fire and tried to unpack what had just happened. All was quiet again but for a few croaking frogs. Each passing second seemed to add exponentially to the weight of anticipation. What would call next? Wolf or loon? Several logs and several hours later the loons started up again, but no howls followed or mingled. At midnight I put out the fire and called it a night—

and what a night. I turned in thinking about how this encounter had changed my sense of this refuge, which I so enjoy. It seemed fuller. Wilder. More complete. With a double measure of gratitude and satisfaction I turned out the light and listened through the half-opened window to the faint echo of loons from nearby lakes.

The next day I decided to do a bit of grouse hunting and wolf exploring. I canoed over to Phillips Point, which is state land now, donated five

decades ago by the family that owned it. The estate once had a large cabin, many out buildings and a road, now overgrown with a variety of grasses but perfect for surprising early morning grouse. Within half an hour of walking that road I came across my very first wolf-kill site. It must have been a small ungulate. There were only bits of fur, some scat, trampled vegetation and not much else. I never did see any grouse, but on that day it really didn't matter. The first-hand knowledge that I had some new and rather magnificent neighbors was more than enough for me. ■



International Wolf Center

Tom Myrick



# Wild Kids



sherry jokinen

My grandma (Lori Schmidt) is the wolf curator at the International Wolf Center, and I have been coming to the Center since I was 2 years old. I would ride in the truck when my grandma picked up roadkill, and I would use the hose to fill the wolves' water bowls through the fence. There are three rules in the wolf yard, no running, no yelling and never

ever put your fingers near the fence. When Grizzer needed a new enclosure, I walked around the enclosures and tried to think what Grizzer would like. I helped save the Center a lot of money by designing an enclosure between the Exhibit Pack and Retired Pack, keeping Grizzer in the mid-

dle so he would feel like part of the packs. Because Grizzer was alone, my grandma decided to get a dog that could hang out in the wolf yard and keep Grizzer company through the fence. I went to the dog shelter and helped pick out Oscar, and I was the first one to walk him on a leash and bring him into the wolf yard. Oscar is a very active dog that sometimes scares people, but he always listens to me. My grandma also needed help when she picked up the wolf puppies in April 2012. She said the pups were a little older than she usually raised, so she was worried that big people might be too scary. So, she got me out of school, and I was the first one to meet Boltz. He was very active, and a few of his sisters were very afraid and hid in the corner, but Boltz came running to me and would let me hold him. I actually nicknamed him "Bolts" because he could run away so fast. Luna was pretty small and didn't do much when I met her, so the Wolf Care staff held her, and I sat in the backseat with Boltz on the way back to Ely. I spent a lot of time with the pups during the summer, and they still come running when I visit now that they are a year old. I can't wait until I am old enough to go in the enclosures. ■

—Gavin Winebarger, age 12

## Meet the Pack



## Luna

Luna is one of two Great Plains wolves in the Exhibit Pack. Luna is easily distinguished by her black coat and, as the only female wolf, her much smaller size. Great Plains wolves inhabit states in the Great Lakes region, including Minnesota, Michigan and Wisconsin. The black phase occurs in less than 5 percent of the wolf population in this region. Luna can also be distinguished by her bold personality and her intense food possession. Prior to Luna's arrival, Denali was the most food-oriented wolf, but Luna's willingness to defend all possessions from the males, which range in size from 95 to 135 pounds (43 to 62 kilograms), suggests that Luna will be the most food-aggressive wolf on exhibit.



International Wolf Center





## Notes from the Field

Once summer arrives, pups grow and develop quickly. They are between 1 and 2 months old and join the pack with short, high-pitched howls, using body language to display dominance with their littermates. They also wean off milk and begin to eat regurgitated meat. These pups follow the adult pack members on hunts for short distances. They also transition from living inside a den to a rendezvous site within their habitat. By the end of summer, pups join the adults on their hunts for longer periods, and all become nomadic within their territory.

International Wolf Center

# Play!



## Word Find

Find the words from the word bank in the puzzle below.

**Word Bank**  
Luna  
Boltz  
Yearling  
Regurgitate  
Summer  
Den  
Pup  
Cache  
Coat

R	A	C	T	P	P	C	O	A	T	S	L
E	C	L	Z	N	U	R	M	Y	F	P	U
G	S	U	M	M	E	R	M	T	A	U	K
U	Z	Y	E	D	H	A	B	E	R	P	A
R	L	D	S	J	N	I	U	B	L	T	E
G	K	J	U	R	A	C	K	O	W	R	D
I	A	T	N	Y	E	A	R	L	I	N	G
T	S	E	P	Q	A	C	R	T	U	W	U
A	D	N	O	G	N	H	U	Z	M	N	J
T	G	W	C	P	I	E	V	C	I	P	A
E	H	F	X	O	G	I	G	B	O	V	R
B	I	H	C	D	E	N	R	A	Y	M	L

## Vocabulary

### Behavior:

What an animal does; its reactions or actions under specific conditions.

### Habitat:

The natural environment of a species (plant or animal) that provides the food, water, shelter and space required for it to survive. Forests, deserts and lakes are a few examples of habitats.



# A Look Beyond

## Come for the Adventure: Sigurd Olson Exhibit Opens in Ely

by Nancy Jo Tubbs, chair of the International Wolf Center

**Y**ou may know that Sigurd F. Olson, who lived in Ely, Minnesota, and found inspiration at a cabin at Listening Point on Burntside Lake, was one of the eminent environmentalists of the 20th century. You may even know Olson as a popular writer and successful activist for the conservation of wildlands. But the new “Sigurd Olson Legacy: Wilderness, Writings and Wolves” exhibit at the International Wolf Center, May 19 to October 31, will give you a peek into the Olson you don’t know.

For example, Olson first agreed with the public’s disapproval of wolves and support of their extermination until he began work toward his master’s thesis in 1930. Olson’s pioneering wolf research, though unsophisticated by today’s standards, transformed him into an admirer of the species and resulted in the first-ever scientific study of wolves. His thesis, “The Life History of the Timber Wolf and the Coyote: A Study in Predatory Animal Control,” ended with the proposal that Minnesota’s Superior National Forest be designated as a sanctuary for carnivores.

Olson struggled painfully for many years to find his personal literary voice and become a regularly published writer. A replicated corner of his “writing shack” will be on display in the exhibit. “The only thing that will give me real joy is the painting of word pictures, moods and emotions,” he wrote in his journal. The lyricism of his essays lets his readers feel the splash of a lake wave on the hull of

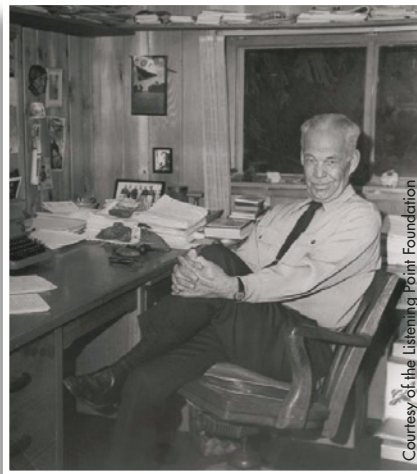
a canoe and find rejuvenation and meaning in the yodel of the loon or the spark of a campfire after a long portage at the end of the day.

His first book of 34 essays on wilderness and the Quetico-Superior canoe country, *The Singing Wilderness*, was published in 1956 when he was 57 and was followed by eight additional wildly popular works.

As a wilderness activist and advisor to presidents, policymakers and environmental organizations, Olson was instrumental in the creation of the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness, Quetico-Superior and the

expansion of the national park system. He fought for wildlands in legislative and policy battles over dams, logging and development and mining, much like those in contention today.

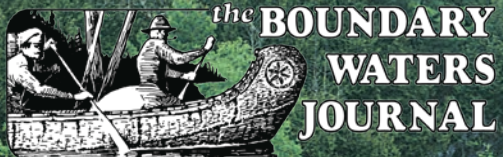
The 2013 Olson exhibit will feature pen-and-ink drawings by the illustrator of several of his books, Francis Lee Jaques, as well as the breadth of Olson’s wilderness advocacy and his wolf research. The exhibit was created by the Listening Point Foundation, which celebrates Olson’s legacy, in cooperation with the Center and with funding from the Duluth Superior Area Community Foundation and the Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund. ■



*As an Ely outfitter and canoe-country guide, Olson built a reputation as an explorer and a naturalist who keenly experienced the beauty, mystery and adventure of Minnesota’s wilderness.*







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Luna—Photo by Darcy Berus

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