

WOLF VISIONS

THE PERIODIC NEWSLETTER FROM MISSION:WOLF

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Sabretooth's striking eyes still capture the imagination of all who meet him. Photo by Tracy Ane Brooks

FEATURE WOLF: SABRETOOTH

As some of Mission:Wolf's most outgoing residents, Sabretooth and his mate Peaches are the first wolves visitors meet when they come to the refuge. Sabre loves to lounge in the shade of his big ponderosa pine and sleep away the hot summer days. Although he is one of the refuge's senior citizens at 11-years-old, Sabre is still known as "the puppy that never grew up." He will bound around his enclosure chasing rabbits and magpies, and beg for personal attention from Kent. Everyone says Sabre looks like the happiest and goofiest wolf here.

Sabretooth's story began back in 1992, when his litter was bred to be a part of a wolf film documentary. There were five pups in his litter, but the producer only wanted to use three of them. Sabre and his sister Passion were not needed for the movie and came to live at Mission:Wolf while they were still very young.

Continued on Pg. 5

WOLF VISIONS 2003-2004

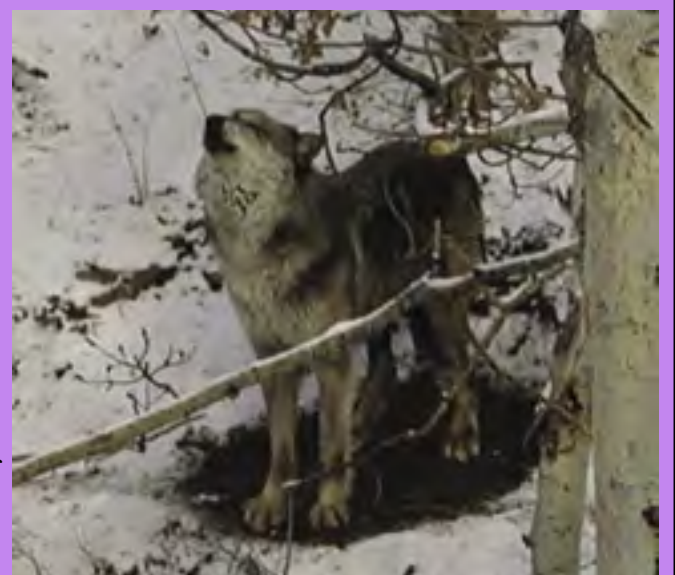
Hello and welcome to Wolf Visions, our periodic newsletter about living life with wolves. The last year has been full of memorable events that continue to shape our future and inspiration that pushes us forward.

After seven years we were finally able to take in a few new wolves that have brought a new sense of life and purpose to the refuge. We have also made significant improvements to many wolf enclosures and are over 50% complete on fencing our new 20 acre playground. Most significantly, in August of 2003, we started the final phase of construction on our community kitchen and bath. This is a building that has been in our thoughts for years, especially for those of us who have used the outhouse for multiple winters and heated water we carry by hand on the woodstove.

Daily, we receive encouraging comments and motivation from visitors and students as we watch them react to a personal encounter with a wolf. Public requests for the Ambassador Wolf Program seem more like demands as people across America try to find a way to re-connect with nature. In the past year, the wolf bus has traveled over 10,000 miles from coast to coast educating thousands of people.

In the last decade alone, we have exposed over 500,000 people to the world of wolves and wildlife. Many of the people we meet live in areas void of predators and, some in places, where they have never seen a free running wild deer. We witness their reactions as they come face to face with a wolf. Instantly a wide range of emotions come rolling out simultaneously. In a flash people often feel a sense of admiration, fear, joy, intimidation, love, violation and inspiration. After they catch their breath, they are left somewhat stunned. Many state that they feel like they were just interrogated or scanned. Somehow this produces a sense of satisfaction and hope as people become aware of the power of nature and the magic of wolves. Although we are here to help wolves, we recognize that our work is helping humans as well.

In the end, we dream that places like Mission:Wolf will become obsolete as people learn to respect wild animals in their wild habitat. When this happens, hopefully, we will allow nature to thrive with diverse and balanced ecosystems across the world. The continued return of wild wolves across the US is a good sign our dreams may come true. I wish to thank all the generous and caring people who continue to help us keep M:W and the wolf bus running. - Kent Weber



Beorn howls his heart out during the March snowstorm that covered the refuge for three weeks. Photo by Annie White

A Brief Overview

Our *mission is to inspire respect for all life*, be it wolf, human, plant, or insect.
As people learn respect for the wolf, a creature so hated in our society, they also learn heartfelt respect for all life.
Ultimately this respect is aimed at *supporting the protection and enhancement of wild places*.

Mission: Wolf is a non-profit 501-c-3 organization created in 1988 that offers:

- **A remote refuge for 41 captive wolves and wolf-dog crosses located on 449 acres of protected land.** Since all of the wolves and wolf-dog crosses at M:W were born in cages and are imprinted on humans, they cannot return to the wild. We provide a home for them until the end of their days, giving them as natural a life as possible through our feast and famine feeding schedule, large natural enclosures, and the ability to go through natural mating rituals. Mating behavior is possible without producing more wolves in cages, as we vasectomize our males. The wolves are divided into 20 separate packs throughout diverse alpine terrain. Habitat expansion is a continual process dependent on the availability of land, labor, funds and fencing.

- **A solar powered educational facility that provides visitors and volunteers a hands-on learning experience.** Visitors can show up for a tour of the facility from 9am to 6pm to learn the stories of our resident wolves, as well as present day issues concerning wildlife conservation and wolf recovery. We recommend our refuge for children 6 and older. In our visitor's center, we have multi-media resources on wild wolves, captive wolves, wolf-dog crosses and more. Formal wolf programs for group field trips and camp-outs are available with advanced notice.

- **A national traveling wolf education program that features Ambassador Wolves and supports wildlife conservation.** The Ambassador Wolf program gives thousands of people across the US the chance to meet a wolf face to face. This opportunity often instills respect for wolves and wildlife as well as dispels fears associated with the wolf. For more details please see the Ambassador Tour articles on pages 7-9 and our website, www.missionwolf.com for details.

- **A plan that has secured 409 acres of habitat with potential to secure another 2000 acres adjacent to the San Isabel National Forest.** This acreage will be placed in a land trust that will protect the area for the purpose of wildlife conservation (please see "Land Update" on pg. 5).

- **Opportunities for Interns and Volunteers.** M:W provides camping sites and limited cooking facilities to self-motivated volunteers and student interns. Projects range from wolf education, feeding, fence maintenance, cabin construction, to computer input and paperwork. If you have a positive attitude with energy to spare, we are in need of help on countless projects. Full time staff positions that offer room and board are available on a limited basis.

- **An example in community supported sustainable living.** Energy for our entire refuge is provided by solar and wind power that operates our office computers, power tools, kitchen appliances and water pumps. Attempts to preserve our habitat include planting xeriscape gardens, using native vegetation as windbreaks and to combat soil erosion. Our human community is nourished by an organic garden that recycles our composted organic material and chicken manure. A large portion of our fresh wolf food is supplied by the donation of deceased animals from local ranchers and residents.



Resident wolves Peaches and Passion wait to greet visitors to Mission:Wolf. Photo by Tracy Ane Brooks

EYE TO EYE WITH A WOLF

Through our experience in human-wolf encounters, it has become clear that all of the lectures, films, photos, and books combined do not compare to a personal encounter with a live wolf. Today Mission:Wolf is fueled by an increasing public demand for people to touch, feel, smell, hear and taste nature. It has become our greatest gift to help not only wolves, but people as well by providing individuals with a personal experience. Below we list a few ways to have an encounter with a wolf that can occur at Mission:Wolf, at another wolf refuge, or in the wild.

VISITS TO THE REFUGE

The isolation of the M:W refuge provides the resident wolves with a peaceful sanctuary. It also means that to visit the refuge we simply ask people to come prepared for the mountain weather. Any interested visitors that arrive between 9:00 am and sunset will be offered a tour of the refuge (30 min. to 1 hr., depending on interest). After the tour, individuals may observe the wolves, explore resources and gifts in the visitor building or volunteer to help on a project. Camping and extended stays are welcome. The rules are simple: as long as you do not place a burden on the staff or startle the wolves, you may camp out and enjoy the howling.

WILD WOLF EXPERIENCES

Twenty years ago it was nearly impossible to see wild wolves anywhere in the U.S. Today wild wolves reside in twelve states, with efforts underway to return them to several others. For the first time in our history, any individual with a bit of patience and the ability to travel may gain a personal experience with a wild animal. There are many organizations with expert guides that provide education while leading people in search of wildlife. For more information, please see our website: www.missionwolf.com.

Plan a Trip to Learn More About Yellowstone's Wild Wolf Packs:

www.nps.gov/yell/nature/animals/wolf/wolfpup.html
www.forwolves.org/ralph

US Fish and Wildlife Service grey wolf status report:

www.fws.gov www.r6fws.gov/wolf www.r6.fws.gov/endspp

How You Can Help Wild Wolves:

Currently, the US Fish & Wildlife Service is proposing to reclassify the wolves of the lower United States from "endangered" to "threatened," a status that may allow for more flexibility in managing wolves. Please explore the following sites for more information:

www.nwf.org www.nwf.org/wolves/nwefforts.html
www.fws.gov www.defenders.org

OTHER CAPTIVE WOLF REFUGES:

W.O.L.F., CO: www.wolfsanctuary.net

Wolf Hollow, MA: www.wolfhollowipswitch.com

Candy Kitchen, NM: www.inetdesign.com/candykitchen

Wolf Haven, WA: www.wolfhaven.org

W.E.R.C., ID: www.wolfcenter.org

International Wolf Center, MN:

www.wolf.org

Colorado Wolf & Wildlife Center, CO:

www.wolfeducation.org

Grizzly Discovery Center:

www.grizzlydiscoveryctr.com



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Write for information regarding wolf programs, visits, volunteering, membership and directions.

Directors* and Staff 2002-2003 Ed Forgham-Bailey, Shauna Baron, Joshua Beck, Steve Beights*, Kathy Bennett, Nelson Brooke, Tamas Brooks, Tracy Brooks*, Pam Brown, Jan Conway*, Cara Craickshank, Rosie Enos, Heather Higgins, Rhianna Holmes, Kevin Honness*, David and Julie Kreutzer*, Inge Lauwers, Claire Lucas, Luke Matzke, Jessica McCrea, Kelly Misiak, Bittany Mendleson, Abby Nelson, Adem Peach, Will Rounds, Jeff Schwartz*, Michael and Sara Stenson*, Stacey Sonnenshein, Peggy Struhsacker, Emily Tate, Lucy Kay Wall, Kent Weber*, Annie White, Randy and Sarah Woods*, and Tom Zieber *Printing Services by Mountain Mail, Salida, CO*

They Should Have Been Wild

By Will Rounds

After returning from a dusky hilltop hike one fine summer eve, my good friend and I stumbled upon a graveyard full of deer. Not being accustomed to such wild abundance, we were shocked into stillness. There was a certain misty majesty to the moment, something that seems physically insignificant when I add up all the deer we have now seen in our lives. But in my mind it seems that their presence was more than just some deer in a clearing. They could have fled if they wanted when we approached, but instead they chose to slowly release themselves from the edges of forest and growing darkness. They decided to deny the temptation of flight over the juicier temptation of fresh summer grass.

It was a moment of nature at its freest and fullest . . . if only it could always be that way. If only nature could always be so bursting. Thoughts of a dreamer. Such moments are slipping like sand through our fingers.

The wolves that I live with have never tasted freedom; they can only dream of it on the sun-baking slope of the afternoons. This is the best they can hope for in this world. They are unable to fend for themselves in this world of congressmen, suburbanites and riflemen. The world fears them and persecutes them as devils and villains or desires them as soft blankets to wrap their babies in. Or the world, with well-intentioned graces, loves the beautiful creatures so much that it tries to capture their wildness and preserve it with a backyard chain. A fate just as bad.

The wolves howl as the sun rises and as the sun sets. Sometimes their howls are screams for the fences to be ripped down. They want to race past the home of wind, to swallow the rising sun, to seek what they have never seen.

Yes, to see their clever faces every morning fills me with intense joy - I cannot deny that. But the joy would be a thousand times greater if they had been born as free as deer in a graveyard meadow, if I could only open every gate and know they would survive the outside world with as much grace and skill as they survive this one that has been created for them.

But the wolves can't see my dreams beyond the chain-link. We are captors; they are prisoners. They run in circles, their packs divide and fall and crumble. Their urges are made dull and confused. They are made into martyrs in this place.

And yet somehow, some way, sometimes the wolves are so peaceful, relaxing in the sun the way life was meant to be. They seem not to care at all that humans have imprisoned them. Instead they seem to focus on the comfort of curling up into their favorite spot, blinking heavily, yawning, and laying their head on a log for a pillow. No matter the weather - snow, driving wind, sunny morning - they can be this content. I wish I could crawl in there with them, lay between their bodies, sigh heavily, and fall asleep to the sweet caress of the mountain breeze.

But no, because they are behind fences we are displaced from them. We cannot really touch them. We are outside them; they are outside us. The majesty of stumbling upon graveyards full of deer is lost behind fences.

Perhaps it is possible to touch wolves through a fence. I don't know. I do know that they somehow reach beyond that intruding metal as if it isn't there and brush their tails across my eyes. They can touch us. But they are wild animals not meant to be behind fences. They should have been wild.

We can't be captors and prisoners anymore; we must be brothers and sisters instead, grandmothers, uncles, children. The calm staring of their eyes defines that equality between wolf and human. This is what the world needs to see again. Yellow fire smolders in those patient eyes set in faces painted by raven wing tips and the wind off the rocks. Those unwavering stares that I used to break away from because I felt untrained to stare back. Those eyes will follow me forever.



Lucus reminds us all that wolves should always be wild.
Photo by Tracy Ane Brooks

Worries of Wildfire

Drought and wildfire wrecked havoc across the West during 2002. Rain and snow levels reached lows not seen since the Dust Bowl. Grasses browned, flowers never bloomed and creek beds dried up... all anyone wanted was to survive the summer and witness the return of snow during the winter months.

Well, summer 2003 has now come and gone... and even though the snowpack was better this year than last, we faced another year of extreme heat drought. With thoughts and fears of wildfires remaining with Mission:Wolf throughout the year, we have continued to develop an evacuation plan and prepare for the coming seasons. In January, M:W staff Jessica, Tamas and Kathy attended a wildlife handling and immobilization clinic to learn more about possible evacuation situations (see article on pg. 5). We have also purchased an air-pump tranquilizer gun in order to better capture the wolves if the need arises. Large dog crates are one of our most needed items to transport the wolves in case of fire. To slow a possible wildfire's path through the refuge, we have built a horse pasture on sight (so the tall and dry surrounding grasses may be grazed down), ensured that functioning extinguishers are located in each building, drained and repaired our make-shift fire truck, and begun building fire-proof bunkers in each wolf enclosure.

THE CRIMZON FUND

Mission:Wolf is reaching maturity as an organization, and so are many of our resident wolf friends. Currently over 80% of our residents are considered geriatrics at 8 years of age or older. Beyond this age we experience a significant need for increased diet changes and medical care.

A typical surgery costs between \$1,000 and \$3,000; each year we find ourselves in the waiting room two or three times. Less dramatic vet runs can easily cost from \$200 to \$500, depending on what the problem is and what follow-up treatment is required. While most of our veterinarians donate a portion of the cost of the various surgeries, drugs and office time, they can not reasonably be expected to provide these services for free.

With the increased need for more vet services, we have created a fund for the sole purpose of paying veterinary bills. Contributions of cash and medical supplies for the Crimzon Fund will be used for the future medical care of all wolves living at M:W.



A view over the Mission:Wolf refuge includes the Visitor's Center, wolf enclosures, tipis and the Sangre de Cristo Mountains. Photo provided by a friend of Mission:Wolf

W i s h L i s t

As the refuge staff works through another year we find ourselves in need of a few items. It seems many people are eager to help when they know what we need. Although most of our projects require substantial amounts of money and materials beyond the reach of many supporters, basic daily supplies help us just as much in reducing our daily operation costs. The M:W staff has unanimously agreed that the following items will be put to good use.

WOLF FEEDING SUPPLIES:

FROZEN CHICKEN AND BEEF, FRESHLY DECEASED LIVESTOCK OR WILD GAME
ELECTRIC MEAT SAW - HAND HELD STYLE, HIGH QUALITY BUTCHER KNIVES
BOXES AND BOXES OF RUBBER GLOVES, MEDIUM, LARGE AND X-LARGE COVERALLS

WOLF CARE AND FENCING SUPPLIES

CANINE STRETCHER, STAINLESS STEEL TABLES, WASH TANKS, STAINLESS STEEL TRAYS,
HEART MONITOR, BLOOD O2 MONITOR, MICROSCOPE, DRIP LINES, GENERAL ANTIBIOTICS,
L AND XL AIRLINE KENNELS (NEED 20 MORE FOR FIRE EVACUATION), STAINLESS STEEL WOLF
PROOF KENNEL, BANDAGES, RUBBING ALCOHOL, BETADINE, MINERAL OIL, GLUCOSAMINE,
IAMS OR SCIENCE DIET SENIOR CANNED DOG FOOD AND KIBBLE, CANNED SALMON, DART GUN
SUPPLIES (PLEASE CALL MW FOR DETAILS), SYRINGES (1CC, 3CC, 6CC & 50CC)

WOLF FENCING SUPPLIES

CHAIN LINK FENCE (9 GA., 8' TALL), 2' DIA. STEEL POLES
(10'LONG), DOOR HINGES FOR WOLF FENCES, TREATED WOOD BEAMS, GATE LATCHES, SMALL
CARABINERS, SINGLE AND DOUBLE STRAND WIRE, HOG RING PLIERS, FENCING PLIERS

REFUGE OPERATION TOOLS AND SUPPLIES:

HEAVY DUTY WASHING MACHINE, PAINT BRUSHES, BATTERY POWERED TOOLS - DRILLS,
SAWZALL, CIRCULAR SAW, WORK GLOVES (ALL SIZES), COVERALLS, FIREWOOD, SPAR VAR
NISH, 1"-3" SCREWS, MEASURING TAPES, TIE STRAPS, PLASTIC TRASH CANS WITH LIDS (30
GALL. AND 10-15 GALL.), BINOCULARS, FIRST AID SUPPLIES

OFFICE NEEDS - BIG AND SMALL:

PHOTOGRAPHIC PAPER FOR INK JET PRINTERS, DESK AND HANGING LAMPS, PENS, GLUE STICKS
LAPTOP COMPUTER CAPABLE OF RUNNING WINDOWS XP, WINDOWS XP PROGRAM,

NEW DICTIONARY, SET OF ENCYCLOPEDIAS, SCIENTIFIC PAPERS/ MAGAZINE SUBSCRIPTIONS/
TEXT BOOKS ABOUT WOLVES, BEHAVIOR & ECOLOGY, DIGITAL CAMERA AND MEMORY,
DISKS (3 1/2 FLOPPY, ZIP, BURNABLE CD'S), PAPER CUTTER, CANNED AIR, CD BURNER

EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS - WOLF BUS:

PORTABLE PA AMP AND SPEAKER(S), WIRELESS MICROPHONES (2), INTERPRETIVE DISPLAYS,
WOLF BOOKS TO DONATE TO SCHOOL LIBRARIES, COPIES OF EDUCATIONAL HANDOUTS,
INK JET PRINTER, SLEEPING BAGS AND BLANKETS, STUFFED AND CHEW TOYS FOR WOLVES,
CEDAR BEDDING AND "YESTERDAY'S NEWS" FOR KENNEL, FOAM PADS FOR BEDS,
COUCH CUSHIONS FOR WOLF BEDDING, FILM

BUILDING MATERIALS:

FLAGSTONE AND SAND FOR PATHWAYS, LOG POLES FOR HANDRAILS
EXTERIOR WOOD SIDING, TRIM, PLYWOOD, ROOFING AND NAILS
EXTERIOR WOOD SEALER, WHITE ENAMEL PAINT, HARDWOOD FLOORING

PARCEL SHIPPING ADDRESS FOR UPS, FED EX, ROADWAY...

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80 SHEEP CREEK RD.
WESTCLIFFE, CO 81252

REFUGE NEWS

Update on 2002 Arrivals

Luna, Magpie, and Raven



Luna has grown much since she arrived at Mission:Wolf.
Photo by Annie White

During the summer of 2002, Mission:Wolf unexpectedly took in three wolf pups that needed homes. Luna, who was sold as a pet and ended up living in an apartment bathtub in Chicago, spent most of the summer living and growing with the refuge staff. In late August, we heard about two pups being kept in Pagosa Springs in a very small enclosure. It didn't take long for us to decide to take in the movie-project extras, now known as Magpie and Raven. Soon after Magpie and Raven came to live at Mission: Wolf we introduced them to Luna, who had not seen another wolf pup since she was 10 days old. Luna, having been raised by the staff at M:W, had no idea what to do or how to react to these strange creatures. She wanted to

crawl up and hide in the laps of her beloved humans. We taught her how to play and showed her that these girls had only good intentions. After a few days she got the hang of it and was running and tumbling down the hill with her new sisters. Rami, our veteran, 10-year-old Ambassador Wolf was ecstatic to have these beautiful babies to watch over and showed off to all the other wolves who looked on jealously.

All three of the pups showed outgoing personalities towards humans, and, knowing that Rami would be a great teacher, we thought they might make a great new Ambassador pack. As we started to introduce them to school groups and others, we saw that they had a profound effect on everyone who had the privilege of looking into their eyes. Magpie and Raven, however, did have to be reminded by Luna and Rami that these humans were not as tough as wolves and did not like to have their lips pinched like wolves would! In late Sept., they all packed into the bus along with Kent, Tracy, and Annie and set out for their first adventure as Ambassador Wolves (see Fall Tour article, pg. 8).

After an eye-opening experience on the road, all three pups spent a quiet winter showing off to neighboring wolves Guinness and Whisper. As the days passed, we discovered that Luna is indeed a wolf-dog cross, barking at strangers and bullying her two much bigger sisters around. In late March, the pups experienced their first big snowstorm (see article on pg. 15). It was quite a sight watching them swim through 4 feet of snow, sliding down the hill on their noses and ambushing each other in the drifts. When the snow finally melted enough, the wolf bus pulled down the driveway with Rami and the pups for the Spring Ambassador Tour (see pg. 9).

Since their return from the Spring Tour, they have continued to be the princesses of Mission: Wolf, receiving daily visits and rubs from the staff. Raven is showing that she wants to be the alpha female of her pack someday, but for the time being she still listens to the reprimands of Granny Rami.



Yearlings Magpie and Raven still capture everyone with their piercing eyes. Photo by Adem Peach



Yaqui and Nali lounge in the summer sunshine shortly after they first met.
Photo by Annie White

Nali and Gandalf

Mission:Wolf also became home to two white wolf-dog pups in August of 2002, named Nali and Gandalf. These German shepherd/collie/wolf siblings were sold as exotic pets at a Denver gun show and lived on choke chains at a trailer park before we found out about them. When the city threatened to put Nali and Gandalf down because they were part wolf, we took them in. Their first months here were spent hiding from, and barking at staff and visitor alike. These two pups didn't understand that we wouldn't hurt them.

After months of effort, we finally won their trust. The problem now was their constant screaming and whining for more attention. We moved them all over the refuge trying to find an adult wolf to act as a mentor and show these two hooligans the ropes, but no one would accept. They were too old (and too noisy) for anyone to put up with. We were all frustrated and annoyed, but every time we were ready to give up on them, Nali and Gandalf would look at us with those innocent eyes and we couldn't say no. In a last ditch effort to find Aurora (see New Arrivals article on pg. 14) a companion, we separated Nali and Gandalf. With much screaming and crying, their separation was traumatic for everyone... but it worked out in the end. Gandalf now spends his time running around and playing with Aurora. Nali moved in with the staff for a while, getting to eat dinner in the kitchen, watch movies with the staff in the Visitor's Center, and go for walks every day. Recently, Nali has moved once again. She now lives with an ancient wolf-dog named Yaqui who makes a point of howling in her face whenever Nali gets too rambunctious.



Gandalf spent the winter enjoying his new home and getting to know the staff.
Photo by Annie White

Caretaker's Corner

When longtime wolf caretaker Tom left in August 2002 he turned over his duties to Jessica, who became the new wolf caretaker, with the willing assistance of other Mission:Wolf staff members. All of us eagerly agreed to take on this new set of responsibilities. Little did we know, however, the surprises and excitement the wolves at the refuge had in store for us...

Shortly after Kent, Tracy, and Annie left on their adventure to the East Coast, we had to deal with our first animal emergency without Tom, Kent, or Tracy to lean on. One morning, when Tamas went out to feed Little Dancing Bear her breakfast, she would not eat and was walking stiffly. We realized, due to her past difficulties with her digestive system, that her colon was severely blocked and that we had to act quickly. Unfortunately, the wolf bus cell phone stopped working, cutting off our communication with Kent and Tracy. We had to rely solely on Dr. Bill Hancock's wise advice and guidance. He was able to instruct us on immobilizing Little Bear and giving her an enema. The whole process proved even more difficult when the drugs would not take full effect because of Little Bear's terrified and uncomfortable state. After almost 48 hours and countless very late night calls to Dr. Hancock, we were successful; she pulled through wonderfully.

The next incident occurred about three weeks later when we noticed that Rogue was in severe pain. About a year before, Rogue had suffered an injury to his left eye that seemed to be minor. However, he developed glaucoma and eventually it became infected. We knew that surgery was inevitable, so we again called up our friend Dr. Hancock. He was just as concerned as us and two days later made the long journey to the refuge, arriving with stethoscope and medical bag in hand. Jessica and Tamas, along with the help of Dr. Hancock, were able to quickly immobilize Rogue, examine his eye, and decide that it must be removed. We lifted him onto a stretcher and transported him up to the Vet Building for surgery. The procedure took almost an hour and was a complete success. After a week of recovery time, Rogue was back to romping and playing with Saidee, much more comfortable and happy than before.

All of us at Mission:Wolf would like to pay a huge Thank You to Dr. Hancock. We would never have been able to respond to these emergencies without his generous help and guidance.

In the months since this article was first written, Jessica has moved on from Mission:Wolf and passed her duties on to staff member Abby. The challenges of wolf caretaking never cease... since she has taken over, Abby has had to face fighting between pack members, immobilizing and moving wolves, introducing new animals to each other and the untimely death of Porini. The hard work of Jessica and Abby, along with the help of Dr. Hancock, the experience of Kent and Tracy, and the return of long-time staff member Tom have made this a very successful year at Mission:Wolf.

Caretaker Of The Year

Bill Hancock

Four years ago we created a special award to honor some of the many special people who make significant contributions to the welfare of the wolves living at M:W. Although many are deserving of this award, we find each year that there is always one or two people who stand out above the rest. We are pleased to announce that we have selected Dr. Bill Hancock as our caretaker of the year. For several years now, Bill has patiently and professionally helped us recover and care for many sick and injured animals. He has counseled us with our emotions as a friend, and guided us as only a veterinarian can, in the face of trauma and dying animals. With his help we have a well trained staff that at a moments notice can call him for advice and re-assurance. Dr. Bill has managed not only to respond to after-hour emergencies but has often kept trying to help where other vets would have given up. As a typical example of his dedication, when one of our resident wolves named Crimzon was diagnosed with diabetes, Bill rushed in his own car to meet us half-way from Colorado Springs with insulin. Years later, a wolf named Shaman, who went into a coma and became hypothermic in the snow, was so close to death we had basically given up. In a flurry Bill managed to diagnose the problem and revive him. Three years later, Shaman is still doing well at the age of fifteen. In just the past year, Dr. Bill has helped the refuge by removing Rogue's diseased eye, advising on the treatment of Cookie Bear's digestive problems, offering help when both Skinwalker and Mowgli turned up with bite wounds, and advised us on the care of Lily's foot when it was seriously injured. Thanks to his help, all of our animals have fully recovered.

We recognize the sacrifices Bill must endure with his family and work to come to our rescue time and time again. Recently, Dr. Bill has started a new chapter in his life, passing his practice on to another veterinarian and beginning to work in an emergency clinic. Best of luck in all of your endeavors. We wish to thank him for his work helping all animals and proudly name him Mission:Wolf Caretaker of the Year.



Dr. Bill Hancock has dedicated his life to helping all animals. Thank you for all of your support, advice and help over the years.
Photo by Kathy Bennett

Land Update



Obediah and Nyati overlook their home on the Promontory divide at Mission:Wolf.
Photo by Kent Weber

In 1986, the need to locate a remote parcel of land to create a wolf sanctuary directed the refuge to its current location. Mission:Wolf has successfully secured 449 acres of land. Of this, 191 acres have been placed in the wolves' names. An additional 258 acres of adjacent land is privately owned and earmarked for conservation. In total, Mission:Wolf has secured a 50 acre refuge, a 40 acre farm and 359 acres of habitat set aside for conservation.

For several years our nearest neighbor lived seven miles away. Today that distance is less than two miles. To assure the long-term future of the wolf refuge and protect vital wildlife habitat and watersheds, M:W has created a plan to secure surrounding land, known as the Mission:Wolf Wilderness Preserve. The first priority, or Phase I, of the plan is dedicated to the future of the wolves of M:W. We hope to create a 490 acre nature center adjacent to National Forest and State Trust lands, surrounding the existing 50 acre wolf refuge. Phase II includes nearly 1,300 acres of private, subdivided land bordering the San Isabel National Forest. This land, known as the Promontory Divide, lies south of the refuge and provides watershed for five drainages into the national forest. It also serves as a wildlife migration corridor between the Sangre de Cristo and Wet Mountain ranges. Phase III is a 1,000 acre land conservation project designed to preserve the partially developed Williams Creek Drainage north of the refuge.

At this time we have almost completed Phase I. We have secured as much land as our credit limits and assets allow. Our current land debt exceeds \$150,000. If you would like to help us meet our goals it can be done in several ways. One is to simply donate the money to help pay off our current debt. Another is to donate the land itself or the money to buy a specific parcel (\$25,000 to \$75,000 per parcel). A more complicated yet feasible way for M:W to achieve this goal is to simply encourage individuals to purchase the available land, retain title and use of the property while protecting future wildlife with the benefits of a tax deductible conservation trust plan.

If you wish to become part of Mission:Wolf's Land project contact Kent at 719-429-9653.

Feature Wolf Continued (from pg. 1)

Sabretooth earned his name when he was only four weeks old. We had just picked him and his sister up at the film producer's home. Our first stop was the baby food aisle at the nearest grocery store for some quick nourishment: minced chicken. His first ever finger-scoop of chicken from the jar started his motor; the second finger-full went down in a fury; the third found his mouth covering half of Kent's finger in a frantic attempt to get every drop of food off it. As Kent's finger retreated from the fourth feeding Sabre panicked, and fearing it just might take away a precious crumb, he managed to bury his tiny ¼ inch long fangs into each side of the finger. As Sabre's teeth hit bone, the resulting scream and pain found the wolf pup eating from a metal pan and a big bandage on Kent's sore finger.



Sabretooth has always enjoyed being the center of attention.
Photo by Kent Weber

Since Sabre spent his early months bonding with refuge staff and getting used to visitors, he trusted people enough to travel with the Ambassador Wolf Program. Sabre loved to travel with Peaches and the rest of his human pack. His favorite part was getting to explore new places when he took runs on the leash for exercise. After maturing into an adult wolf, when it was time to walk into a room full of strangers, Sabre became timid and did not enjoy it. As he matured Sabre proved to be an excellent traveling companion for Sila and Peaches and didn't mind being left behind while the more outgoing girls did the programs. By the age of three Sabre and his mate Peaches retired from traveling and now reside full time at the refuge, where they are the most affectionate pair at Mission:Wolf.

Wolf Care Clinic

In mid January, Jessica McCrea, Tamas Brooks, and Kathy Bennett were able to attend a seminar on wildlife handling and immobilization taught by Mark Johnson, DVM, and hosted by the California Wolf Center. It was an intensive three days filled with everything anyone would want to know about dealing with animal emergencies. We learned about chemical and non-chemical immobilization, taking blood and giving vaccinations, dealing with emergencies such as shock and hypothermia, and dealing with wildfires. This class served to train a new group of wolf caretakers at Mission: Wolf. We also were privileged to be able to spend time with Mark Johnson. He is a very knowledgeable vet concerned with the emotional as well as the physical well-being of the animals he treats. Throughout the courses Mark teaches he emphasizes minimizing stress to the animals and respecting their emotions. With the knowledge we gained at the class we have been able to put together a wolf caretaker notebook that provides all of the information needed for dealing with animal emergencies, from the drug doses needed for each animal to the effects and down times of each drug. This way, any of the staff at Mission: Wolf will be able to deal with an animal emergency even if the wolf caretaker, Kent, and Tracy are all away from the refuge. We are in the process of purchasing an air pump powered drug delivery pistol so that we will be able to more effectively evacuate our wolves in case of a fire emergency. Additionally, after talking to the staff at the California Wolf Center, who recently had to deal with a wildfire emergency, we realize that it may not be feasible to plan to evacuate all of our wolves. Due to this possibility, we have begun to build fire-safe shelters in many of the wolf enclosures. We would like to thank Mark Johnson and the California Wolf Center for all the valuable information they were able to offer us.

WOLVES AND WILD FLOWERS

PROJECTS AND PROGRESS AT THE REFUGE

After a productive summer of fencing in 2002, the SCI crew in September helped us cut quite a load of burnt ponderosa pine. Donated firewood helps M:W staffers stay warm during wintertime at the refuge. As the weather becomes colder and the days get shorter, life at Mission:Wolf slows down a little. Volunteers hold down the fort while the wolf bus makes its way to New England in the fall. With fewer volunteers around at this time of year, taking care of the wolves and making improvements around the refuge can take up all of our time.

We were able to make significant fencing improvements around the refuge, including progress on the lower portion of Gene's 20 acre playpen which allowed for the completion of a new horse fence at the bottom of our hill. Kent and Tracy's farm was equipped with new wind generators and solar panels just before the big 2003 storm hit in March. Around six feet of snow over three days definitely slowed us down! Digging snow was a full-time job for weeks, and the snow was still inches deep five weeks later. In April our new wind generators rose into the sky at the refuge. In May our new kitchen steps and patio were started paving the way for much anticipated summer work on Gene's Kitchen.

Much needed spring and summer rains helped the summer of 2003 become greener than most. Abundant wildflowers and afternoon thundershowers provided a welcome contrast to the previous summer. Our new welcome kiosk and good weather greeted visitors at our summer party this year. Path work and large projects on wolf enclosures were made possible with the help of SCI and other volunteer groups of all ages. We readied a new enclosure for our newest arrivals: Katimik & Selway; completed upper mesh fencing on Gandalf & Aurora's enclosure; nearly completed a rebuild of Jordan's enclosure; and built a few new fire bunkers for the wolves. Before our second SCI crew of the summer moved on, they helped us erect the first walls of Gene's Kitchen, marking this August in M:W history.

Many of the new kitchen's main structural beams are locked in place and we are in the process of covering our work with a roof for the winter. All of our summer volunteers have moved on and we are now welcoming new fall and winter volunteers who will help us hold down the fort as the wolf bus sets off on yet another cross-country adventure...

Gene's Kitchen

In 1986, Kent started using an old 1956 vintage trailer house as a temporary shelter while he built a house. Soon the overwhelming requests from people all over the country to come learn about wolves, combined with the daily demands of fence building, feeding and caring for wolves made it convenient to postpone the construction of the house. By 1988, the need to build more wolf enclosures and a visitors' center for friends and fieldtrips to get out of the weather overpowered any plans to build our house. Year after year, the staff patched up the old trailer and spent most of their time dealing with wolves and visitors. A decade later, in 1998, Kent developed a set of plans to create an oversized community kitchen for the staff, and a bathroom for visitors. Soon after we took out a loan and started construction on the foundation. Midsummer 1998, we found ourselves once again overwhelmed with wolf needs and the complications that arise with emergency vet runs to care for sick wolves. With only the concrete foundation complete, we had to postpone the construction.



Construction has hit full swing on Gene's Kitchen. Photo by Annie White

In 1999, we started to frame the walls of our new kitchen with a small collection of old, used lumber. That same year, we received notice that one of our members had passed away and had named M:W as a beneficiary. When we discovered that we were about to receive enough funds pay off the refuge land debt, we were so relieved and thankful that, as a tribute to Eugene S. Principe Jr., we named the new kitchen in his honor. It has taken us three years to redesign the building, collect quality materials to build the primary structure and obtain the appropriate permits. Finally, in August of 2003, we lunged headfirst into framing the first walls of our new community building. Valley Ace Hardware of Westcliffe donated Mission:Wolf innumerable trailers full of wood which made the framing possible. By winter we hope to have the exterior shell completed and will work throughout this year and into next summer on interior finishes. When completed, the 1200 sq. ft. building will host a large kitchen and dining area, a food pantry, a staff shower and bathroom, a visitor bathroom, a large sleeping loft and a green house. It will be solar heated through a hot water radiant floor heating system. When completed, Gene's Kitchen will

resemble the head of a wolf looking out over the Sangre de Cristo Mountains.

Now that we have finished the plans we have created a list of missing items. We are restricting ourselves to using quality materials that fit the project and have implemented the use of many donated doors windows and framing materials. Some of the items on our list are common and recycled products will work fine. However, many of these items are specific and need to be purchased. Please contact Kent at M:W (719-429-9653) if you have an item to donate or are able to provide the funds for a specific item on our list.



Jan Fennell shows us how to "join-up" with Lady during her visit to Mission:Wolf this summer. Photo by Tracy Ane Brooks

refuge, building fence for our new wolf arrivals, finishing the last details on our new kiosk, sending out invitations, organizing travel plans and preparing food.

Finally, on July 28th, Jan Fennell arrived at Mission:Wolf and the festivities began. We spent one night with the residents of Westcliffe at the Jones Theater, smiling as the Ambassador Wolves pulled their handlers around to meet the audience and Jan gave advice on how people could learn to live in peace with their dogs at home. The next morning, Jan taught us all how to "join-up" with M:W's horses, and the wolves taught Jan a bit about the origins of dog behavior. The day of the annual party was filled with tours of the refuge, excited talk of the future of Mission:Wolf, laughter between friends and many delicious cheesecakes baked by Tamas Brooks. As the sun began to set, we brought out Rami, Luna, Raven and Magpie to meet the crowd. The wolves were so happy to see everyone that they couldn't sit still for a moment. Jan spent most of the evening interpreting the wolves' behavior and teaching people that anyone can do the same, as long as they watch closely. By the time the stars came out, people were beginning to disappear down our driveway and the wolves sang a fond farewell to Jan on her way to the airport. This year's party was a whirlwind, but as always, it was so much fun we can't wait to see what happens next year.



One of the 2002 SCI crews takes a moment to relax with Kent and Will after a long day of cutting and hauling burnt ponderosa for firewood. Photo by Nelson Brooke



A rough drawing of what our new community building will look like. By Kent Weber

A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S PARTY

It all started a couple of years ago, when we decided to invite the surrounding local community out to Mission:Wolf to meet each other and get to know the wolves. We wanted to thank everyone for all of the support and friendship they had shown Mission:Wolf over the years. The plan was to cook a good meal for a few people, show them around the refuge and introduce them to our Ambassador Wolves. Little did we know at the time that the party would become a huge hit. When the next summer arrived, people all over the Wet Mountain Valley started asking us when our "annual party" was coming up. The M:W staff all looked at each other, and realized that this would indeed need to become an annual event. So, in 2002, we invited Levi Holt from the Nez Perce Nation out to talk, visited the Pueblo Zoo and Westcliffe's Jones Theater with the Ambassador Wolves, cooked food for 300 people and had a great time with everyone during a long night of story telling and listening to the sound of howling wolves.

This year, as the hot, sunny days of mid summer settled upon the refuge and all of the wolves were enjoying a season of rest and relaxation, the staff of Mission:Wolf went into high gear getting ready for our annual BBQ and party event. The party promised the excitement of a visit from Jan Fennell, the famous dog trainer and behaviorist also known as the "Dog Listener." We were all excited to learn everything we could about relating to our wolves, and we looked forward to a chance to hang out with our neighbors. We spent the weeks leading up to the party cleaning the

... A SUMMER IN THE SANGRES

INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTEERS

Each year Mission:Wolf hosts two or three international work camps. These camps are organized by Service Civil International/International Voluntary Services (SCI/IVS) around the world as a means of promoting global peace and understanding.

Our job as a host is to provide local transportation, food, shelter and a project with tools, materials and leadership. The international campers' job is to provide their own transportation to the local bus depot in Walsenburg and to come equipped with tent, sleeping bag and warm clothes. In the back of our trucks every summer, we haul several road weary travelers up the dirt road to M:W.

For three weeks a dozen individuals led by a M:W staff volunteer tackle tremendous jobs including wolf enclosure expansions, feeding wolves, building cabins, cutting firewood, improving visitor paths and other refuge projects. In the process, hundreds of M:W visitors and staff become intertwined as language barriers transform into comical charades. At the end of three weeks of working and eating as a community, a family emerges full of pride at the amazing accomplishments that can be made by a small group of individuals.

2003 marks our thirteenth year hosting SCI/IVS Camps. International participants in past camps ranged from a 13-year-old girl from Austria to a 63-year-old grandmother from Germany. Over two hundred individuals have become a part of a huge extended family that stretches worldwide. Each summer, for nine weeks, visitors will find M:W buzzing with unique accents and friendly people from many far places.

M:W has provided a day of work from each camp to support community projects in both Custer and Huerfano Counties. Projects include helping to construct and maintain a local food store/co-op to installing road signs for our local home owners' association. We also expose each group to the beauty of hiking the Great Sand Dunes National Monument and the romance of the American Cowboy at local rodeos.

The staff of M:W looks forward to meeting the new international volunteers each summer and offers a huge thank you to all the individuals that continue to make this project a success.



The August 2003 SCI camp and refuge staff worked hard to get Gene's Kitchen built. Thanks to Kathy, Ricardo, Simon, Annie, Pablo, Marco, Patricia, Inge, Abby, Ginny, Harry and Nelson for all of your effort.
Photo by Kent Weber



Magpie greets summertime visitors to the refuge.
Photo by Adem Peach

Of Wolves and Kids...

As each summer comes and goes, the Mission:Wolf refuge gears up for hundreds of visitors who come to learn about wolves. One of our favorite parts of the busy summer season is getting to meet and talk to so many school groups and kids' camps. The high energy and new perspectives the kids bring with them to the refuge is always inspiring. Great associations such as Interlocken, Road Less Traveled and Science Discovery send groups our way for days at a time. In exchange for a tour of the refuge and answers to all of their questions, the kids offer help with many of our summer projects. It is always wonderful to have a few extra hands to put up fence, haul meat to the wolves, and work on Gene's Kitchen.

Each year, more and more lucky classes convince their teachers to take them on a **fieldtrip** to Mission:Wolf. One of the best ways to teach students about the world is through hands-on projects. What better way to teach respect for wolves, wildlife and all life than to give students the opportunity to look a wolf in its bright yellow eyes and realize it isn't all that different from us after all. With each class that comes to the refuge, the students ask more challenging questions, making our staff think harder about wolves and all of the issues that surround them, and the kids go home more inspired than we can imagine. Many return years later as adult volunteers.

If you are interested in organizing a fieldtrip or camp visit to the refuge, please see our website for details or leave a message at (719)859-2157. As the old saying goes - even one person can make a difference... students, parents, teachers, anyone can set up a visit.

The Ambassador Wolf Program 2003

In response to continued requests from people seeking a chance to connect with nature and learn about wolves, the Ambassador Wolf Program is back on the road again. In a busy twelve weeks, the wolf bus will cover more than 15,000 miles and reach over 30,000 people ranging from the Idaho Rockies to New England hardwood forests. After more than a decade of nation-wide education, the Ambassador Program has witnessed the return of wild wolves to twelve states. It is possible that wolves may return to yet another dozen states within the next decade. The long term success of wolf conservation and wild ecosystem preservation lies in our knowledge of how to co-exist with nature.

The impact a human receives from a face-to-face experience with a wolf cannot be matched by all the lectures, books, photos and videos combined. It is this personal experience that allows individuals to find value and respect for nature. Through the Ambassador Wolf Program, Mission:Wolf offers just such an experience to people across the country that cannot visit the Colorado refuge. By bringing live wolves into classrooms, museums and public events, many people are given the rare chance to connect with nature on a personal level.

A very unusual wolf named Rami will lead this year's upcoming fall journey. She is a ten-year-old gray wolf with numerous achievements to her name. Her travels have taken her from coast to coast several times with appearances in front of congress people, senators and thousands of students. Rami provides a clear example of wild behavior and illustrates the reserved nature of wolves, dispelling the fears people associate with these creatures and the fantasies many have about keeping a wolf as a pet. Rami will be joined this year by three yearling pups, Luna, Raven and Magpie. To learn more about the pups and their previous journeys on the wolf bus, please see "Updates on 2002 Arrivals" (pg. 4) and the Ambassador Tour articles on the following pages.

During the Fall 2003 tour, the wolves will be visiting the Northeast once again, as well as numerous classrooms across Colorado. To schedule a program in your community, please see our website www.missionwolf.com for details... planning usually needs to start months in advance, so don't wait too long.



Ambassador Wolf Rami overlooks her home in the Colorado Rockies. Photo by Nelson Brooke

Wolves Across New England

Ambassador Wolf Program Tour Fall 2002

It is coming up on fourteen consecutive years that the M:W ambassadors and educators have covered thousands of miles each fall on what is now an annual migration to New England. It seems that each year we push a bit farther north to work closer to the people who may soon be living near wild wolves. Although it is exciting and fulfilling to work in the big cities of New York, Boston, and Washington DC; each year we are pulled farther north as the potential for the return of wild wolves from Canada increases.

In late September 2002, four wolves and three people boarded the bus for a six week journey from Colorado to Maine and back. After three years of traveling alone, Ambassador wolf Rami adopted three pups during the previous summer. Tiny Luna came first, at the age of four weeks. Luna was sold as a Wolf for \$500, Rescued for \$400, transported to M:W and was handraised by the staff. Two months later we took in two more wolf pups - Raven and Magpie and placed them with Rami and Luna.

With a bit of uncertainty how the pups would handle the traveling, Kent, Tracy, and Annie started up the bus and pulled out of M:W. Rami knew exactly what was up, her excitement and waggly tail put the pups at ease, but once the bus was moving, little Magpie seemed a bit woozy and stayed close to the floor. Soon she discovered the view from up in the loft next to her sister Raven, who acted like she had done this all her life. Within a couple days she was busy playing with her sister and Luna or begging Rami for another mouthful of food.

It only took a couple of times out of the bus to exercise on a leash for the girls to realize how stimulating new places were to explore. The pups all followed Rami's lead and soon began to feed off the constant attention they received by everyone they met. At the first few public appearances in Western New York, Rami promptly regurgitated food for her adopted pups in front of hundreds of students who watched in disbelief as the pups inhaled it as fast as Rami could deliver it. We worked our way across New York with brief stops in Vermont and New Hampshire before reaching the Atlantic coast of Maine. We savored our time on the beach and were quite entertained as we watch the pups react to their first ocean experience. Between the rolling surf, salty water, bold seabirds, and various clumps of seaweed and rotting debris the pups were overwhelmed and didn't know which way to go. Afraid they might miss out on something they were constantly bumping into things and each other as they ran one way while looking the other. Raven wanted to go explore the moving surf while her sister Maggie wanted nothing to do with that noisy, salty ocean. Rami, who has visited this same beach several times simply sauntered along and occasionally marked her turf.



After ten years spent travelling around the country, veteran Ambassador Rami showed her adopted pups how to relax while on the open road. Photo by Annie White



Puppy Raven looks off the stage at an eager audience during a program in Greenwich, CT. All three of the pups were a bit shy of public audiences at first but soon learned that it was fun to be the center of attention. By the end they were eager and excited to meet and play in front of large audiences. Photo provided by "Friends of Mission:Wolf"



A magical moment... as bashful Raven comes face-to-face with her attentive audience in Rochester, NY. Photo by Annie White

By mid October we were headed southwest to Massachusetts and Connecticut. After a great stay with our friends in Greenwich we moved into the Hudson River Valley Area above New York City. A week later we continued northwest and presented programs through the Catskill mountains. Stops along the finger lakes and finally Lake Erie closed out the month and sent the bus rolling west. The first week of November found us doing programs in Illinois and Kansas. A highlight on our return was a stop at Wolf Park in Indiana where Rami and the pups had a chance to run and explore a large grassy enclosure and listen to other wolves howling in the distance. Here, the pups had their first encounter with live bison. Though there was a fence between them and the bison, Raven and Magpie ran and hid, while Luna barked at the strange creatures.

After presenting a few final days of events in Colorado we safely landed back at the refuge on November 9, 2002. The wolves and people rolled out of our box-on-wheels and enjoyed stretching and relaxing while we inhaled the cool Rocky Mountain air.

In a short few weeks we managed to cover thousands of miles across many states and successfully allow thousands of people the opportunity to see a live wolf and feel the presence of their piercing eyes.

The only problems were one flat tire and a \$300 fine in New York because a piece of paper was lost in the fax process which caused an error on our state wolf license.

We send a big thank you to everyone who helped to make this a successful journey.



Rami, Luna, Raven and Magpie had a great time exploring the Atlantic coast. Kent had the biggest challenge of the tour... trying to keep their leashes untangled. Photo by Annie White



Luna, Raven and Magpie had lots of fun playing in a Colorado Springs tennis court. Photo by Tracy Ane Brooks.

Spring Tour 2003

By: Annie White

Bitter cold temperatures. Feet upon feet of snow. Unconfirmed programs in the Northwest. Wolves that need to be fed, fence that needs to be repaired, and insurance bills that need to be paid. Such was the story at Mission:Wolf the day the Wolfhound was scheduled to roll down the driveway for another Spring Ambassador Tour full of programs across four states. The first real taste of winter the refuge had seen in six years came mere weeks before the wolves were supposed to appear at the annual Inter-agency Chico Wolf Conference in Montana (see snowstorm article pg. 15). The Ambassador pack, including Rami, Raven, Magpie and Luna, were frolicking through four feet of snow, searching for the food they knew we had thrown to them somewhere. The refuge staff was just trying to survive, worried whether we would have enough food to last and tall enough fences to keep the wolves in with such deep snow. We could only hope that the snow melted fast enough to let the bus leave on time.

Much to the disappointment of everyone involved, we ended up canceling the first week of programs. The snow had actually melted, but the resulting mud turned into a quagmire that stopped all movement. With days worth of work left to catch-up after the snow, we decided to miss the Montana program and head straight to Utah. With the help of Bill Tezak, Randy Meyers and Stormy Wolmack plowing out the roads of Centennial Ranch and the M:W driveway, the wolves, along with Educators Kent, Tracy, Annie and Abby drove over the Promintory Divide and away from the refuge on April 9th.

Early the next day, Rami and the pups climbed out of the bus for their first leashed run in 6 months. Luna and Rami were so excited, they couldn't contain themselves; and Raven and Magpie were determined to pull us all into the Colorado River with them. We've found through the years that one of the wolves' favorite part of traveling is getting to explore new places and constantly expand their territory. Getting back into the Wolfhound, Magpie and Raven couldn't stop bouncing around and playing with each other, even after we started back down the highway.

We arrived at the Snowbird Ski Resort very late the night of April 11th and settled in. The special events manager had set up two evening programs at the resort for their guests. All in all, our two days in the mountains were a great way to start the trip. The wolves loved getting to run through the snow (even along some of the ski runs). In what we have come to call "Parking lot programs" people streamed in and out of the bus all day getting an up-close look at the wolves. The evening programs drew large and respectful crowds, giving the pups a chance to get reacquainted with slippery floors, crowded hallways and being the center of attention. Soon, it was off to Logan, UT for two more day of events. Thanks to the hard work of Brent Feldt and the rest of Dr. Robert Schmidt's graduate class, we were able to visit three schools and do a public event at Utah State University. Our short time in Utah was very satisfying because of a warm reception and the good work we were able to do.

After only four days in Utah, we headed back to Colorado. Along the way, the wolves got to peer over the edge of the Black Canyon of the Gunnison and run along the sandy beaches of Blue Mesa. In only two weeks, Rami, Raven, Magpie and Luna visited schools in Boulder, Longmont, Denver, Leadville, Durango, Buena Vista, Salida, Sedalia and Larkspur. As each program came and went, the pups relaxed more and more, playing in front of schoolchildren and actually refusing to leave the room at the end. At the University of Colorado, the wolves were very excited to see some of their human family from the M:W refuge and CU Sinapu members. The University of Denver audience got to meet the pups one-on-one as they pulled their handlers around and around the room. We were very happy to finally be visiting Durango again after 10 years and Buena Vista after 12. The schools of Longmont were so enthusiastic that they were able to schedule an extra program with no notice. High Mountain Institute of Leadville invited us back for programs each semester. The children of Salida, Sedalia and Larkspur were shocked by Raven's ability to jump higher than Kent's shoulder and by Magpie's strikingly yellow eyes during our last two days of the tour.

Two and half weeks after leaving the refuge, we tucked tail and headed home. One last night spent on the road, and one last morning run in the Royal Gorge, and we saw the familiar sights of Westcliffe again. Waiting for us as we pulled up the driveway at the refuge were the rest of our staff (Jess, Tamas, Kathy, Nelson and Will) and a group of CU Sinapu folks. With open arms for the wolves and a round of hackysack for the rest of us, they welcomed us home in grand fashion.

Since returning to the refuge, we've added up a few of the statistics:

People reached in programs: 3,780
 Total programs: 25
 Time on road: 16 days
 Total miles driven in Wolfhound: 3,500
 Number of educators on Wolfhound: 4 wolves, 4 people (one crowded bus)
 Number of hours spent fixing Wolfhound: 0 (hooray!)
 Total pounds of raw meat fed to wolves: ~ 400 lbs.
 Number of toys, blankets, beds, paper towels, and newspapers shredded by pups: innumerable



Maggie and Annie spend some rare quiet time together on the road. Photo by Tracy Ane Brooks

Ginger's Rescue

Within two days of returning from the Spring Tour, Mission:Wolf received a call from a man wanting to donate his sick horse to feed the wolves. It is from calls like this that our resident wolves get much of their food. However, this one seemed a bit different... this one still needed to be put down and, from her owner's description, we thought the mare might stand a chance of surviving and regaining a good quality of life.



Gene trimmed Ginger's hooves when she first arrived, with the help of Annie and Kent. Photo by Jessica McCre

When we found the horse waiting for us, we all fell for her sweet face, gentle nature and inquisitive personality. The little mare hobbled out of her stall and revealed foundered feet, overgrown hooves with a bad case of thrush, arthritic joints and lameness in both front legs. Most would have probably shaken their head and walked away, but we saw the spark left in her eyes and couldn't leave her. We arranged to come pick the little girl up the next day.

After much ado getting the horse trailer ready to go and a pen set up near the other horses at our farm, we set out once again. By the time we returned with the mare, it was well past dark. She limped into her new pen and gleefully whinnied to Moses, Lady and Raven (Tracy's other horses). A night spent getting to know handsome Raven, left the mare with bright eyes and excited to see us the next morning. We spent the next couple of days cleaning her legs and hooves, adding supplements to her diet and waiting for the farrier to arrive.

When veteran farrier, Gene Ovnicke came to see our little mare, he thought she may have Cushing's disease. Clipping her hooves back into shape and duct taping styrofoam pads to them, Gene warned us that Cushing's horses are difficult to take care of. With the comfort of her new shoes and some encouragement, the little mare didn't want to stop walking and exploring her new home. Thanks very much to Gene, we were all left with much more hope for her.

In the months since Gene's visit, the mare has been renamed Ginger by the refuge staff. Through expensive internal scoping and blood tests, we have discovered Ginger has diabetes from her foundering problem. No one knows much about diabetes in horses, so we are still feeding her all kinds of supplements and medication and keeping her away from sweetfeed. She has her good and bad days, but Ginger's spirit never flags. Every morning she nickers hello to her human friends and neighs her excitement whenever the other horses come near. With constant care, she even feels good enough to kick up her heels and canter occasionally. Although no one knows what the outcome of Ginger's story will be, it is heartwarming to know that we have at least given her a chance.

If you are interested in helping with Ginger's recovery, please contact Tracy at info@missionwolf.com or send a donation to Mission:Wolf.

From Wilderness to "Civilization", and Back Again

A History of Wild Wolves in the United States



Ned Ludd and Guinness as pups. Photo by Tracy Ane Brooks



Peaches and Passion always loved playing in the snow together. Photo by Tracy Ane Brooks

1 The Beginning

The moment the first wolf faced its fear and stepped into the circle of light cast by man's fire has been lost in time. In that now obscure moment, the history of man and wolf was forever changed. Since the moment wolf first trusted man, and man first trusted wolf, many things have changed. For centuries, the indigenous peoples of the Americas depicted the wolf in their art and stories. Most often, the painting or story displayed wolf and human joined as one powerful creature. In some legends, the wolf is given healing powers and in others the wolf saved the people from the great flood. Many Native Americans believed in man's brotherhood with the wolf.

Not so long ago, wolves roamed nearly all of the United States. Between 250,000 and 500,000 wild wolves lived in harmony with Native Americans and the rest of the ecosystem.



2 Persecution and Extermination - 1960's

Over a hundred years ago, people around the world began waging a war against the wolf. The U.S. government implemented a nationwide policy of wolf control. Wolves were seen as pests that posed a threat to the continued safety and prosperity of the American people. Theodore Roosevelt, a man widely known for his environmental activism, declared the wolf as "the beast of waste and destruction" and called for its eradication. Their skulls and skins were piled high for victory photographs and to claim the bounties. Most believed they served God and the United States by ridding the countryside of such vermin. The wolf is the only species to be *deliberately* driven to the brink of extinction by humans.

Through a systematic extermination of every wolf to be found, the US government won its battle against nature. By 1960, the once populous gray wolf was essentially extinct throughout its former range. The last 300 wolves in the lower 48 states roamed the deep woods of upper Michigan and Minnesota, only surviving by running and hiding at the first sign of humans.



3 Slow Natural Recovery - 1970's

Even though the official war against the wolf had ended in the rest of the US shortly after 1960, hunters still searched for the few elusive remnant wolves remaining in the Great Lakes' region. Despite hunters' best efforts, the northern timber wolves held their ground and actually began to make a slight comeback. With the cover of a vast, dense forest and the immigration of dispersing wolves from Canada, Michigan and Wisconsin's wolves persevered. By 1970, there were a few reports of wolf sightings father from the Canadian border than there had been in over a decade. The last of America's wild wolves were starting to win some public interest and concern... and talk of the Endangered Species List had just begun.

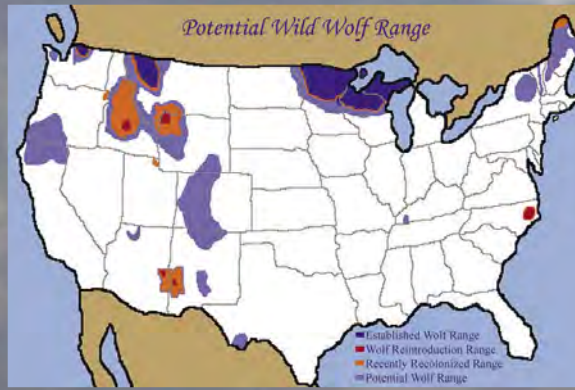
At the same time, the last of the Mexican grey wolves (a subspecies of gray wolf) were disappearing. Smaller than the typical gray wolf, the Mexican gray is usually sandy colored, lives in a small pack and is better adapted to its desert surroundings. They had already disappeared from the American South West by 1970, and the few living in Mexico were under serious attack.



8 The Future

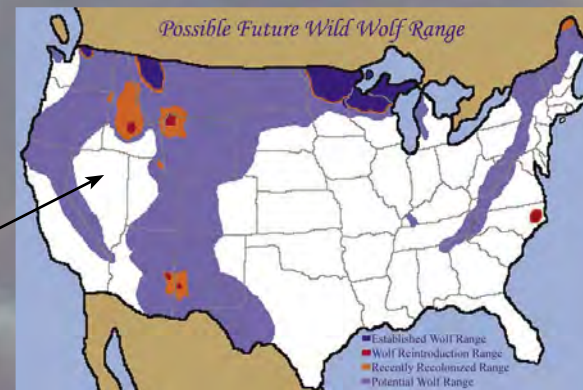
It is estimated that over a million wild wolves once roamed across North America. Although we will never see numbers that high again, wild wolves have made a remarkable comeback over the past 50 years. If recovery efforts continue, we may one day see wild wolves successfully coexisting with humans in over twenty states. As the years pass, we are learning that it is possible to live in close contact with wild wolves.

With cooperation from politicians, environmentalists and ranchers, we may not be made to chose between people, wildlife and cattle... the wild habitat that is currently left across the nation could support all three. As it stands, wolf depredations on livestock are lower than expected and wolf-watching brings in much needed revenue to rural areas. In only the past few months, wild wolves have been removed from the ESA in the Northern Rockies because the reintroduction was so successful. Now, the challenge will be to find a balance between hunting and preservation that prevents their return to the Endangered Species List and addresses the needs of local ranchers.



Recently, the Wildlands Project has proposed a plan called "rewilding" America. Under this plan, the less populated and primarily unused sections of the U.S. would be returned to its natural state. With fences removed and bison and elk allowed to roam at will, this could mean a huge recovery for wolves. Please see www.wildearth.org for more details. Despite the great challenges facing such a plan, we all like to dream of the day when wolves and people can live in har-

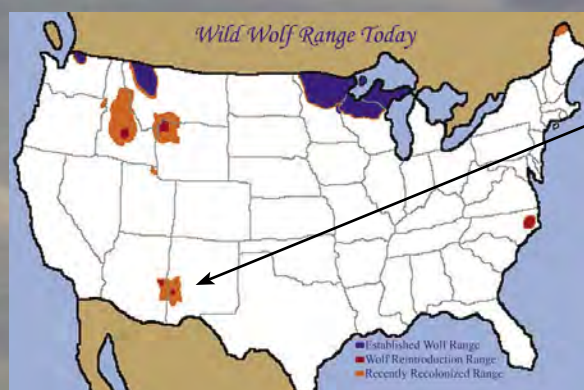
mony.



7 Today: Eleven States and Counting

Over the past 30 years, the wild wolf population in the US had grown from less than 300 to over 4,000. Even two decades ago, it looked like wolves would probably disappear forever from the plains and forests of this country. However, as people have searched harder and harder for a true connection to nature, we have slowly learned the value of wild ecosystems and the animals that live in them. In the eight years since wolves were reintroduced to Yellowstone, we have learned that wolves are a keystone species that is an essential part of the "trophic cascade" (see article on pg. 12) and a balanced earth. 1998 saw the controversial reintroduction of Mexican gray wolves to New Mexico and Arizona, with nine packs now living in the wild. The red wolf population in North Carolina is continuing to grow. Yellowstone can boast a population of over 300 wolves, reaching its recovery goals. The Great Lakes' wolves may soon be removed from the ESA because they are so abundant. In just the past year, there have been reports of wild wolves in Oregon, Utah, Washington, and even Maine.

The recovery of wolves to the US is no longer "Mission: Impossible", but we do have much work left to do...



4 The Magic Pack - 1980's

After the monumental declaration that the gray wolf was protected under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) in 1974, wolf recovery became possible in new areas. The public's interest and fascination grew in leaps and bounds as the American culture became more and more removed from nature. It was only after the wolves were gone and people had to go in search of true wilderness, that we began to value what we had lost.

1980 marked the extinction of the wild Mexican gray wolf in both the US and Mexico. However, due to pressure from the ESA, the last 4 wild males and the very last female were captured and placed in a captive-breeding program. Through a breeding registry, biologists hoped to preserve the genetic diversity of these animals and save the unique subspecies.

While the Mexican gray faced oblivion, the northern gray wolf took a huge step on the road to recovery. The first pack of wild wolves crossed the border from Canada into Glacier National Park, Montana. In the celebration, this first wild group of wolves to return to the US became known as the Magic Pack.



6 Northern Rockies Reintroduction - 1995 & 1996

Perhaps the most monumental move in gray wolf policy over the past century was the decision to reintroduce wolves to Yellowstone National Park and Idaho. After years of political battles and local grassroots efforts to win over support from area ranchers, 31 Canadian gray wolves were released into Yellowstone and 23 into the Frank Church Wilderness of Idaho.

The reintroduced wolves in Idaho were "hard released" directly into the wild from their transportation crates. One female traveled over 60 miles in the first day looking for her Canadian home. In cooperation with the US government, the Nez Perce Nation took over the reintroduction effort.

Sixty years after the last two wolves were killed in Yellowstone, the first wild caught Canadian wolves destined for reintroduction entered the park. After the wolves spent three months in acclimation pens in the backcountry, the alpha male of the Crystal Creek pack worked up the courage to take his first steps of freedom in the US. Despite the disappointment of another wolf's illegal murder outside of Redlodge, MT, biologists were overjoyed to find that it had fathered the first litter of wild wolf pups born in Yellowstone.



5 Red Wolves - 1990's

The red wolf is a completely separate species from the gray wolf, being smaller with reddish coloration and having the appearance of a gray wolf-coyote hybrid. In historic times, the red wolf is thought to have lived across the East Coast and Southeast of the US. However, like the gray, the red wolf was hunted to extinction throughout its range. By 1980, red wolves survived only in captivity, their breeding highly regulated in order to preserve precious genetic diversity. By 1990, the first red wolves were reintroduced to North Carolina.

At the same time the red wolves were making a comeback with the help of humans, gray wolves continued to do it on their own. The Great Lakes population continued to grow, spreading into northern Wisconsin. By 1990, Montana's Magic Pack had company in the form of other wolf packs migrating down from Canada, as well as the first wild packs formed by wolves born on Glacier National Park soil. The first substantial reports of wolf sightings in the Cascade Mountains of Washington State started coming in, and the US could now boast a possible population of wolves in seven states including Alaska.



More Wild Wolves...

Advances in Science: The Trophic Cascade

Since the reintroduction of wolves to Yellowstone National Park in 1995, biologists have learned much about the effect large carnivores have on an ecosystem. In the past it was thought that an ecosystem was built from the bottom up... working from the plants to insects, small rodents, birds, larger herbivores and finally to the top predators. Almost all conservation and reintroduction efforts were based on this idea. Biologists would first try to rebuild the plant life before doing anything else. However, some ecosystems could not be fixed before reintroducing an endangered top level animal. In Yellowstone National Park, the US Fish and Wildlife Service was required by the Endangered Species Act to reintroduce wolves before balancing the plant base and herbivore populations.

In the years since the wolf reintroduction, Yellowstone has become a premiere scientific laboratory for wilderness observation and ecosystem recovery. Biologists have come from around the world to watch the effect wild wolves have on the park. We have discovered that an ecological effect called the "trophic cascade" has taken over Yellowstone, with the wolves initiating a more natural ecosystem balance than has been seen in over 65 years.

The trophic cascade is a term used to describe the food chain (the population levels and the balance between all species) when it is set by the top predator. In other words, the wolves have come back into the ecosystem, and by chasing and hunting their prey and competing with

other species, they have returned balance to the ecosystem. This is what biologists call a "top-down" building of an ecosystem.

Though sometimes hard to believe, since wild wolves have returned, the elk and deer are stronger, the aspens and willows are healthier and the grasses taller. For example, when wolves chase elk during the hunt, the elk are forced to run faster and farther. As the elk run, their hooves aerate the soil, allowing more grasses to grow. Since the elk cannot remain stationary for too long, aspens and willows in one area are not heavily grazed, and therefore can fully recover between migrations. As with the rest of the country, coyote populations were nearly out of control in Yellowstone before the wolves returned. Now, the coyotes have been out-competed and essentially reduced by 80 percent in areas occupied by wolves. The coyotes that do remain are more skittish and wary. With fewer coyotes hunting small rodents, raptors like the eagle and osprey have more prey and are making a comeback. The endangered grizzly bears successfully steal wolf kills more often than not, thus having more food to feed their cubs. In essence, we have learned that by starting recovery at the top with predators like wolves, the whole system benefits. A wild wolf population actually makes for a stronger, healthier and more balanced ecosystem. From plant, to insect, to people... we all stand to benefit from wolves.



With the return of wild wolf howls to Yellowstone National Park, a balance to the natural ecosystem has also returned. Photo by Tracy Ane Brooks.



Wolves and Colorado

In 1999, Sinapu, a non-profit organization that works on predator protection and reintroduction in the Southwest, completed a comprehensive study of the suitability of Colorado for wolf recovery. Their study showed that Colorado has the most viable land left in the US for wolves, able to sustainably support over 1,100 wolves. In 1997, a US Fish and Wildlife Service poll of Colorado residents showed 70% of citizens favored wolf recovery in the state. Even though there has not been a wild wolf in Colorado since 1945, they could possibly return in the near future. The reintroduced wolves in Yellowstone National Park have been so successful that some packs are now dispersing from the area. One such wolf dispersed from her pack and found herself crossing the Snake River into Oregon. Despite few wildlife corridors and the presence of many ranching communities and I-80, we may someday see Yellowstone wolves arrive in Colorado. Over the years, there has also been talk of reintroducing wolves to the wilds of our state. This strategy would require much cooperation from the private land owners across Colorado because wolves need such large territories. M:W spends much of each year educating the Colorado public about the realities of coexisting with wolves. Hopefully, this work will pay off and Coloradoans will accept and even embrace wild wolves when they arrive.

For more information on wolves and Colorado, please contact:

Defenders of Wildlife:
www.defenders.org

Souther Rockies Ecosystem Project:
csf.colorado.edu/srep

Sinapu: www.sinapu.org



Someday wild wolves will return to Colorado... hopefully we can accept and embrace them. Photo by Tracy Ane Brooks

How You Can See A Wild Wolf...

Have you ever wanted to catch a glimpse of a wild wolf? If the answer is yes, you're in luck. With the amazing recovery wolves have made in the US over the past 10 years, it is now easier to find them than it has been in over a century. Thousands of people every year have the privilege of seeing a wolf in its natural habitat. Now remember, that doesn't guarantee that you will find a wolf whenever or wherever you look. It takes dedication, persistence and the right equipment to be successful.

The most likely place to find wild wolves is in the Northeastern corner of Yellowstone National Park. Since being reintroduced, the Druid Peak Pack has moved into the Lamar Valley and spends most of the year rearing its pups, hunting and socializing within a couple of miles of the road. When you reach Yellowstone, ask a Ranger where you might find the wolves, and then keep a keen eye out for large groups of people with spotting scopes. The best time of day to see the wolves is sunrise to mid-morning, and then again in the evening. Be sure to take warm clothes, sunscreen, water, binoculars, a spotting scope if you have one, and lots of patience. The most important thing to remember is... respect the wolves and other wildlife... they need lots of room and you probably won't get closer than 1/2 mile away from them.

So, go out and enjoy! Some of the M:W staff's fondest moments with wolves have been in the wild. Come to the refuge and get a close look at their eyes and learn about their personalities, then go see them in the wild, where they belong.



Watching wolves in the wild is an experience you will never forget. Photo by Tracy Ane Brooks

Making Tracks and Leaving No Trace in Yellowstone National Park

By Tracy Ane Brooks



One of the giant mules rests while the sled is loaded. Photo by Tracy Brooks

After much debate, wild British Columbian wolves were reintroduced into Yellowstone National Park in 1995 and 1996. It was decided that the wolves would be housed in acclimation pens for three months to help them get used to their new surroundings and hopefully remain in Yellowstone once they were released. During a short March visit in 1996, Kent and I had the very good fortune to help with feeding the temporarily captive wolves. At the Rose Creek acclimation pen, we met a group of wolves that would soon be released into the wild and become known as the Druid Peak Pack. It was a very memorable experience, as the Druid Peak Pack would go on to become one of the best studied wild wolf packs in the world.

At the time, the wolves were unable to hunt for themselves, so a team of mules and their handler, staff and volunteers of the wolf project were hauling food and water to the pens in a wagon on skids. The mules were awesome and immediately caught my attention; they were big - 17 hands or taller. As we loaded the wagon with lots of heavy meat, the skids helped make it easier for the mules to pull the load for the hungry wolves. I could not help but wonder at the strength of these mules. Elk, deer and people would surely be a huge weight for those two mules to pull up to the Rose Creek pen. The pen was quite a distance away from the road, and a lot of it was uphill. The mules were driven by a determined handler and they gave it their all, working their way through snow up past their knees. Their narrow hooves and amazing weight made their job doubly hard, as they sank through the packed snow.



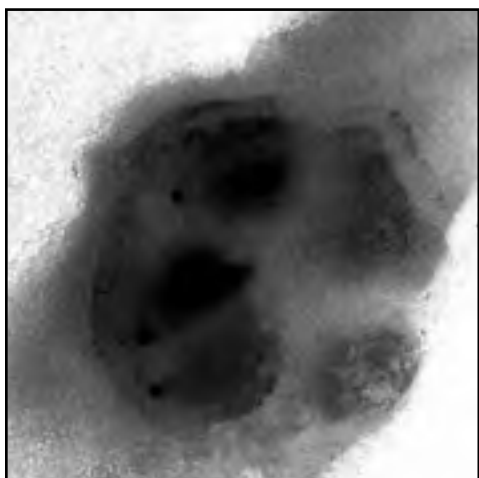
A wolf in the Rose Creek acclimation pen paces as Kent and Tracy help deliver food. Photo by Tracy Brooks

When we arrived at the acclimation pen, the tracks the mules left were actually harder to see than those of the light weight wolves. The wolves' huge feet with webbed toes acted as snowshoes, holding them on top of the snow. The mules left deep holes that soon filled in again, while the wolves left actual tracks on top of the snow.



Kent helps unload elk and deer carcasses for the wolves. Photo by Tracy Brooks

During that same visit, we went out with Nathan Varley and Dan McNulty ground tracking the wolves that had been released from their acclimation pens the year prior. We were out in snow so deep that we had to either wear snowshoes or skis. When we came upon the tracks of the first wolf of the day, Dan was prepared to make a plaster cast of the best imprint that we could find...

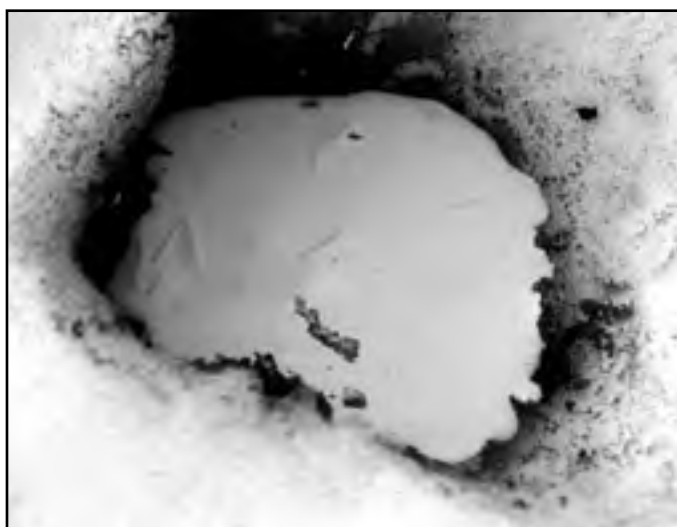


We found a deep track in the snow of a young female wolf from the Rose Creek Pack in 1996.

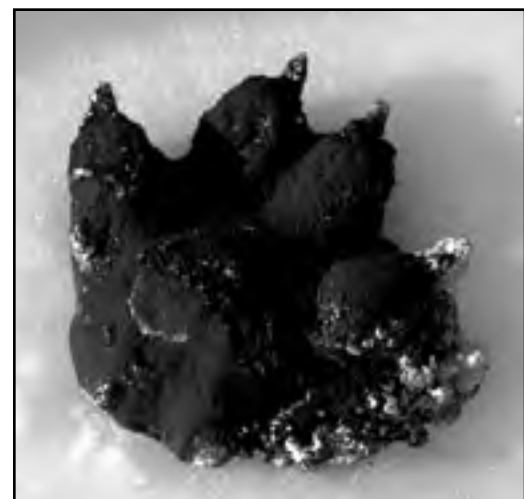
Dan McNulty first dusted the track with dried red tempura paint (sand can work as well) to prevent the plaster from sticking. He then prepared the plaster and poured it into the dusted track.



The plaster sets for a short time before he removed the cast. Dan was careful to remove all traces of the red powder and plaster from the snow.



The finished product: a plaster cast of the wolf track. As we left, no signs remained of our making a cast of the wolf print. When visiting a national park or anywhere wilderness remains it is important to never leave traces of your visits.



Now it's your turn...

What you'll need:

- sand or powder
- plaster of paris
- deep mud or snow
- lots of patience

Now, all you need is a track! Try looking in the mud or snow in your backyard or neighborhood park. The best way to find a track is to take a trip to Yellowstone or another wilderness area to look for wild wolf tracks. Just remember, all wildlife and wilderness needs both space and respect.

Once you find a track, follow what Dan did above:

- dust the track with sand or powder
- pour in the prepared plaster of paris
- wait for the plaster to set
- carefully remove the dried plaster
- clean up any remaining powder to leave no trace
- write the animal, location and date on the back
- take home and enjoy for years!

The Cold Winter

A Splitting of the Packs

Breeding season only comes around once a year for gray wolves. Our resident wolves spend all year building up to the flirting and carrying-on that occurs every February and March. Since M:W's male wolves have been vasectomized, each pack can go through its mating rituals without the worry of producing more pups to live in captivity. Along with being the most exciting part of the year for the wolves, it is also the most volatile, with patience and tolerance pushed to the edge. Like any family, our packs go through times of disagreement and upheaval. However, for many years now, the staff of Mission:Wolf has looked on as each breeding season came and went without too much discord. It appeared that after years of living together, the wolves had worked their differences out and accepted their roles within the packs.

This winter definitely rode in on the winds of change. As the first snows of February set in and the beginning stages of breeding season began, our pack known as "The Driveway Four" surprised us all. Skinwalker, the omega or lowest ranking wolf, started flirting with the only female, named Tierra. The alpha male, Kawh, growled and chased Skinwalker off. However, Skinwalker just wouldn't take the hint and kept following Tierra around. After a couple of weeks of this, Kawh's patience was at an end. He jumped on Skinwalker, growling and biting him on the face. In the wild, Skinwalker would have been able to run from Kawh and give him the distance he required. However, with the fence keeping him in, Skinwalker had no escape. In the end, the staff intervened by separating Skinwalker and the beta, or second ranking wolf, named Porini, from Kawh and Tierra. After letting Skinwalker's wounds heal and waiting for the peak of breeding season to pass, we let the four wolves back in together. Skinwalker and Porini charged through the gate and challenged Kawh for his alpha position. In order to avoid injury to any of the wolves, we separated them once again. Unexpectedly, we had two separate wolf packs on our hands.

At the other end of the refuge, another pack was going through turmoil itself. Mowgli, the alpha, Ned, the beta, and Druid, the omega, had lived together in peace their entire lives. However, in the middle of breeding season, when their hormones and stress were at a peak, Ned and Druid ganged up against Mowgli and challenged him for leadership. Had they been in the wild, these boys would have had the chance to disperse and start their own packs. As it stood, Ned and Druid chased an injured and terrified Mowgli into his den and held him there. The staff was drawn to their enclosure by Mowgli's fear barks. As the chill and blackness of a winter night fell upon the refuge, we scrambled to get Ned and Druid separated from Mowgli. After a couple of days of special attention and antibiotics, we were able to move Mowgli to the enclosure next door. While recovering from his wounds, Mowgli obsessed over getting back to Ned and Druid to show them he was still the boss.

As the first cool days of autumn arrive at the refuge, both of the split packs have settled down. Skinwalker spends his days sleeping in peace, while Kawh and Tierra are closer than ever before. Ned and Druid still watch Mowgli through the fence, but seem content to be the rulers of their own domain and to flirt with new arrival Katimik through the fence. Mowgli now dotes upon his new mate Spirit, a beautiful white wolf-dog that arrived shortly after his ordeal.

Once again, these wolves show us all why they should have been wild. M:W does everything we can to prevent injury and disruption to the resident wolves, but we still can't compare to the benefits of the wilderness. Had the Driveway Four and Mowgli's pack lived in the wild, the challenges for leadership would not have had such serious consequences. The wolves could have postured, challenged, and fought with each other, but they could have split ways much more simply. This is yet another example of why wild animals should not live in cages.



Mowgli in his new home.
Photo by Bob White

New Arrivals

Aurora

Aurora was born in March of 2001, to a breeder in Vermont who claimed she was half arctic wolf and half timber wolf. She was sold as a pet to a couple who allowed her to roam free around their home. When Aurora came into heat for the first time she ran away from home. When she showed up again a few days later she had been shot in two of her legs and was pregnant with a litter of puppies. The couple took her to a vet named Paul who ended up having to amputate her left front leg. Despite everything, Aurora recovered and returned to her humans to have her puppies. When they were old enough, all of her pups were sold as pets. Aurora then got herself into trouble again by going over to the neighbor's house and killing 5 of their turkeys. After that, the couple decided that they could no longer care for Aurora and took her back to Paul the vet. Paul and his fiancé, Jessie, agreed to take her in.

At first Aurora was very shy, but eventually learned to trust Paul and Jessie. They allowed her to roam free with the other dogs that lived with them. One day Aurora wandered onto the neighbor's turkey farm and killed 3 more of their turkeys. The neighbors were understanding and only asked that from then on Paul and Jessie keep her on a leash when she went outside. However,



Beautiful and inquisitive, Aurora explored many enclosures around Mission:Wolf before settling down with Gandalf.
Photo by Annie White

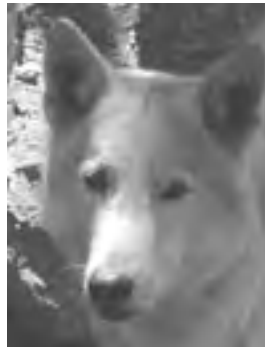
Aurora proved to be an escape artist and went back and killed one sheep and maimed another. That was the last straw for the neighbors, so Paul and Jessie were ordered by the State to either put her down or find a sanctuary where she could live. They searched long and hard and finally decided that Mission:Wolf would be the ideal place for Aurora to live.

When we received the call that there was a young, female, potential full wolf in such a dire circumstance we agreed to take her in. We hoped that she could become a companion for Beorn, who is currently living alone. However, when Jessie and a couple of friends arrived with Aurora on Jan. 31 all the way from Vermont, we realized that we were getting an animal who was a little different from what we had expected. Although initially described as a full wolf, after looking at her husky mask, her small stature, and hearing her exuberant bark we believe that she is a large percentage dog.

We decided to go along as planned and attempt to place her with Beorn. However, Beorn did not approve of our choice and immediately expressed his dislike for her. After trying to match her up with Nali and Gandalf, Mowgli, and Rogue and Saidee, Aurora is a perfect example of how difficult it is to play matchmaker with adult wolves. Recently, Aurora was successfully placed with Gandalf, and we have high hopes that these two wolf-dogs will spend their days playing and howl-barking together.

Spirit

Late springtime at Mission:Wolf, found us taking in another friend in need. Spirit is a female wolf-dog cross from a neighboring town in Colorado who arrived on the 3rd of May 2003.



Spirit's gentle demeanor endears her to all.
Photo by Annie White

At a young age Spirit was sold to a breeder and spent much of her life producing puppies to sell. Eventually, her owner left Spirit, 7 newborn puppies and the male to which she was being bred in a tennis court in Walsenburg. City officials called Mission:Wolf looking for help, but we didn't have room to take in any of these animals. We did, however, provide them with a list of potential wolf rescues and as much advice as we could in taking care of them.

A month later, the puppies and the male had found homes, but Spirit was still living in the tennis court. As is the case with many captive wolves, the people responsible for Spirit decided to set her free. Usually when this happens, the wolf or wolf-dog runs up to the first person they see looking for food and get shot out of fear. When this doesn't happen, the animal stays in the woods and starves to death because it doesn't know how to hunt. Thankfully, this wasn't the case with Spirit. Some kind people in Walsenburg found Spirit running loose, realized the implications of this, and returned her to the tennis court. They started taking care of her, and called Mission:Wolf in desperation. When we heard about Spirit's predicament this time, we were able to tentatively think about taking her in. Mowgli had just been kicked out of his pack (see Splitting of the Packs article above) and needed a companion.

Upon her arrival, it was obvious that Spirit was emaciated and in need of some TLC. Her confidence was seriously dented and it seemed that she would shy away from almost anything and anyone unfamiliar. We decided to try playing matchmaker with Spirit and Mowgli. Matchmaking like this usually takes months and months to begin to work out because wolves are so suspicious of new members in their pack. However, after only two weeks, Mowgli and Spirit were rubbing up against the fence that separated them, squeaking at each other and wagging their tails. We opened the gate, and now they can always be found side by side. In the time since their introduction, Mowgli has taught Spirit to be more outgoing around strangers and not to bark as much at tours. Now, after a couple of months of special attention from Mowgli and our staff, her health has greatly improved and she has more spring in her step. As she races around her enclosure, we have to wonder if she is part shepherd or greyhound, with so much speed and endurance.

WINDS BRING CHANGE

A Winter Wonderland of Snow

The weathermen warned everyone it would be a huge storm. They had said the same thing a hundred times before. The difference was... this time they were right. The third week of March saw the biggest snowstorm Mission:Wolf has had in six years. Monday, the clouds moved in and a few inches of snow fell. Tuesday, the snow kept coming down and everything started turning white. Wednesday, we woke up to over 4 feet of snow with no end in sight.

For the next three weeks, Mission:Wolf went into survival mode. The staff of Mission:Wolf scrambled to feed hungry wolves using sleds to haul the frozen meat. The snowmobiles wouldn't go more than 25' in the deep soft snow for days, so we spent a lot of time digging them out between the refuge and the farm. We searched through drifts of snow to find enough firewood to keep the buildings warm, while Will and Abby moved into the Visitor's Center as their cabins were buried in deep drifts. Most of our time was spent just trying to get by. However, Kent took the time to find many of our neighbors and offer help. In a great community effort, food and propane were snowmobiled in to stranded residents. Neighbors Bill Tezak, Randy Meyers and Stormy Wolmack donated the time, equipment and labor to plow out much of Centennial Ranch. It is very much thanks to them that we all survived the snow as well as we did.

Back at the refuge, one of our wolves decided to try climbing his fence with the help of the tall snowdrifts. Time and again, Gizmo climbed over the top of his inner fence, but never escaped the buffer fences that surround the refuge. All Gizmo wanted to do was explore the buffers and rile-up the neighboring wolves. Every time we found him sitting in his buffer, we would open the gate



It took us weeks to even get this much dug out. Some of the drifts around the greenhouse were six feet deep! Photo by Nelson Brooke.



Peaches swims through the snow to retrieve her daily "toothball" of meat and vitamins. Photo by Abby Nelson

and he would run right back into his enclosure with packmates Lily and Polar Bear. With snow up to our armpits, we managed to build higher fencing around Gizmo's enclosure. After days of work and lots of frustration, Gizmo couldn't climb high enough to get out, even with the help of the snow.

The rest of our wolves were having the time of their lives, plowing paths through the snow and playing with each other. Rami and the pups spent their days sliding down their hill and ambushing each other, but little Luna couldn't get off the broken paths without disappearing from sight. The

staff was finding a little bit of time to have fun too, despite the heavy workload. We had a blast sledding and skiing down the steep M:W driveway, building a snowfort (unfortunately, the sun returned before we could finish it) and creating snowmen and snowangels in front of the kitchen.

Once the snow began to melt, the runoff turned roads, paths and yards into a muddy mess. A couple of visitors, including a Colorado College group, braved the mud and deep snow to visit the refuge. During the first days of April, the snow and mud were still so deep that the Ambassador Wolves' Spring Tour was postponed for over a week. All in all, the winter wonderland of 2003 was wonderful. Even though the refuge was faced with many challenges and frustrations, we found the time to have fun, enjoy the moisture, and grow closer as a community. It is said that the wolves here are happiest when the snow is falling the hardest... now we know this holds true for humans as well.



Asha tries to peer over the drifts in her enclosure. The wolves had a great time playing in the snow. Photo by Abby Nelson

New Arrivals

Katimik and Selway

Selway and Katimik were born in Idaho, and spent their last seven years at the Grizzly Discovery Center in West Yellowstone, Montana. They lived there as a part of the Gallatin pack, along with seven other wolves. Chaos broke loose when the alpha female died this past winter. Without her presence, the pack could not settle into a stable hierarchy. Selway and Katimik were removed from the pack, and all seemed to settle down. The girls were left living in a small holding pen and the staff knew they needed a better situation.

It didn't take long for them to call Mission:Wolf, and discuss their predicament with Kent. It just so happened that we had two males, Ned and Druid, living by themselves at the time. Even though Ned and Druid seemed relatively content as bachelors, we thought they might like some company. So, Kent told the Grizzly Discovery Center that we could take in their two displaced females. It was decided that Selway and Katimik would make the long journey to Colorado a week and half after our decision, and the staff of Mission:Wolf were left with a lot of work to do. Even though we believed the boys and girls would get along together, you can never be sure



A couple of months after her arrival, Katimik is beginning to trust her new caretakers. Photo by Annie White



Selway's curiosity gets the better of her as she comes up to see visitors. Photo by Ed Forgham-Bailey and Rhianna Holmes

of captive wolves' reactions to each other. So, we needed to rip down a part of Ned and Druid's enclosure and rebuild it into two separate sections. This was easier said than done, because the boys had to live in the enclosure while we were working. After a solid week of fencing through some of the most intense lightning and rain storms in memory, we were able to move Ned and Druid to the upper half of their enclosure as Selway and Katimik arrived.

As soon as the girls were set free in their new enclosure, they ran up to the fence and began flirting with Ned and Druid. Even though the boys didn't seem too interested, Selway and Katimik weren't deterred. They spent the next week strutting along the fence, trying to catch the boys' eye. With the competition for Ned and Druid's attentions, both Selway and Katimik decided that they wanted to be in charge. In the wild, the girls would have split up and started their own packs, but the fences kept them in and they fought over leadership. We decided to separate Selway and Katimik to prevent any serious injury. Katimik still lives fence-to-fence with Ned and Druid trying to win their affections. Selway has just moved in with Guinness, a big male wolf who lost his mate last year, and is enjoying her newfound alpha position. We have learned over the months since their arrival that both Selway and Katimik are sweet, gentle dispositions. They are curious about the staff, and if we are working nearby, they will warily come up to the fence to see what we are doing. Selway seems to love water, and after a huge rainstorm was seen splashing around in the small pond in her enclosure. Hopefully these two beautiful and spirited girls will settle down in their new homes and learn to fit in at the refuge.

Saying Goodbye to Friends

Nikkolah



Nikki will always be remembered for his fabled persistence and baritone howl. Photo by Tracy Ane Brooks

Nikkolah, often times known as "Tricky Nikki," arrived at M:W in the summer of 1987. He was born in a Florida backyard as the result of an accidental litter. At the age of six weeks, he and his four brothers were transported to Colorado to create a wildlife center near Durango. Two brothers stayed at the center, two brothers were given to individual owners and Nikki came to live at M:W when only nine weeks old. We had already accepted six other pups when Nikki came along, so it made little difference if we took in one more. Nikki grew up and lived with his adopted littermates, exploring the refuge freely as puppies while we built large enclosures. Within a year we were saddened to learn that all four of Nikki's true brothers were dead - all were killed when they escaped their confinement and were shot, a demise that happens to many captive wolves and wolf-dogs. Nikki soon settled into the role of the beta male, and for 14 years of his life looked up to his leader Lucus. His pack varied over time from four to eleven wolves. As he and his adopted siblings aged, some of the rivals were given new enclosures, leaving Nikki in with Lucus, Raven, Nyati and Jordan. He earned his nickname "Tricky Nikki" when he climbed over the fence separating the boys from the girls during breeding season and became the father of one of the only litters of pups to be born at the refuge.

When they reached the age of fourteen, he and his life-long partner Jordan were given their own enclosure in which to live free of the pressure and competition for food that occurs with a larger pack. Nikki and Jordan spent a happy year hobbling around their enclosure showing off to Nyati and Lucus through the fence. However, in early May, we went to check on sixteen year old Jordan who has having a hard time moving around. We found Jordan growling at Nyati as usual, but Nikki was paralyzed in the hips. Within a few days he faded and, with tears in our eyes, we helped Nikki pass over on May 7th 2003. His stories and antics are known to many and he was truly a teacher to those who took time to know him.



Puppy Nikkolah explores his world with life-long companion Jordan. Photo by Monty Sloan

Dancing Bear *(aka Cookie, Little Bear, Cookie Bear)*

Little bear was born on January 2, 1990. Her parents came from New Jersey and were from a long line of documented wolf-dog crosses. As a little pup, Cookie resembled a bear cub and did a little dance as she was fed from a bottle by Kent and Tracy. Although she was small in size, she was big in heart and voice. She earned the nickname "snapping turtle" for her display of teeth as she defended her food and territory. Little Bear lived with Shaman most of her life and even traveled with the Ambassador Wolf program for a short time. She is probably best known for her appearance on Mr. Roger's Neighborhood as a small pup. Cookie danced around the stage in her usual fashion, stealing the show from Shaman, Kent and Mr. Rogers alike. As she grew and retired from traveling, Cookie moved in with her sister, Ghost Dancer, and an older Shaman. The two girls became known as the "cackle sisters" because of their incessant bickering over food, hierarchy and attention.



Little Bear always loved to play in the snow. Photo by Tracy Ane Brooks

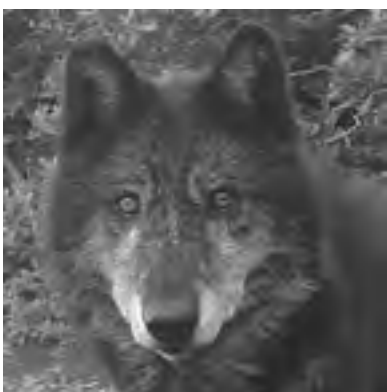
At the age of thirteen Little Bear became ill and nearly died when her digestive system failed. An emergency run to the vet for surgery gave her a boost, but within two weeks she was blocked up again and in severe pain. Tracy and the staff were forced into tranquilizing Cookie and flushing her system out. With the thought that she was about to die, we took her over to the farm so she could receive 24 hour care in a quiet environment. Within a few days Little Bear was rebounding and before long she was back to her dancing habits at feeding time. She became quite accustomed to her special diet and hot meals each morning, and if it were a bit late she wasted no time letting us know of her disapproval. Over the next two years she had ups and downs and we thought we were going to see her pass several times. In late February Cookie slowed down and throughout the month of March she dropped down lower and lower. In early April she rebounded and had one of her happiest and most active months in two years. Seemingly overnight, on June 17th 2003, Little Dancing Bear did not have the energy to greet us for more than a moment before falling back asleep. While we worked in the yard that afternoon she got up, walked down the hill and quietly passed away. She will always be remembered for her dance.



Cookie in her younger days. Photo by Tracy Ane Brooks

PORINI

Porini was born on April 2, 1995. His mother Jazmine, was born at a wildlife game farm in Montana and came to live at M:W as a pup. His father Fenris, was born and raised at M:W. Since Fenris was vasectomized to prevent the birth of pups and had lived for two years with his partner Jazmine, you can imagine our shock and disbelief when we discovered five new pups in Jazmine's den. Porini lived with his littermates Guinness, Ned, Kestrel and Mowgli for most of his puppy life. He lived his entire adult life with four other wolves named Kawh, Tierra, Beorn and Skinwalker (aka Skinny). As a pack they were known as the "Driveway Five". After eight years of being chastised by beta wolf Kawh and alpha wolf Beorn, it seemed that Porini teamed up with the omega, Skinny, and Kawh. As a threesome they managed to displace Beorn, the long-standing alpha male. Beorn, with a wounded body and pride, was relocated and watched as Kawh and Porini spent days trying to decide who was actually going to be the new boss. Porini grudgingly accepted the beta role, but when breeding season was in full swing he once again teamed up with Skinny and challenged Kawh for leadership. We recognized it was time for these wolves to go their separate ways and separated them into two pairs. Porini seemed quite happy to be able to dominate Skinny and be the alpha without interference from Kawh. During this time Porini became greedier over food and would deprive Skinny of his share if he could. It is the term "wolfing down your food" that rings true in Porini's case. After a few months of this, Porini was getting more assertive. Finally, a day after feeding, Porini died doing what wolves love to do most - eating. He had managed to stuff so much meat in himself that he could not digest it. Although he looked fine in the morning, he had passed over by early afternoon. His stomach twisted and he died of bloat on August 15, 2003.



How could anyone not fall for this face? Photo by Adem Peach.



The eternal troublemaker, Porini's antics will be missed. Photo by Tracy Ane Brooks

COLOR ME WILD!

"Moonlight Mystery"

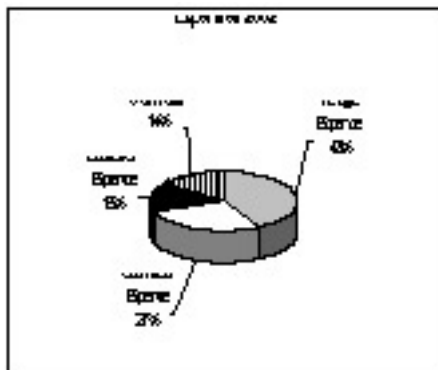
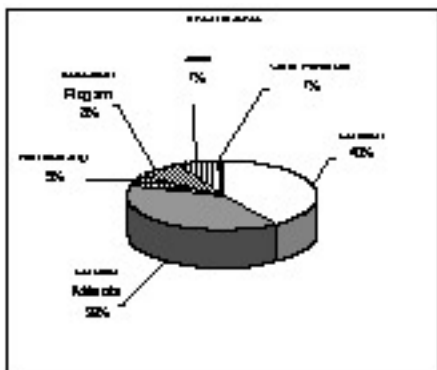
Color in this scene as both wolves and ravens reveal a bit of their magical mystery during a midnight meeting.



ARTWORK BY TRACY ANE BROOKS

THE BUSINESS SIDE OF LIFE

Mission: Wolf continues to grow, and with growth comes many new changes to what we call "the business side of life". For years Mission: Wolf got by on nickels and dimes and life was simple survival. Money to pay for things like insurance and tools was not even a thought yet. Today our little 501-C-3 non-profit has secured 449 acres of land, has multiple bank accounts with accountants, and has computers and training to follow small business accounting principles. To ensure our future we have created a small endowment. This has increased the work on our business side of life, as well as our operation costs. Below are two pie charts showing last year's expenses and income. Mission:Wolf was designed to keep overhead low; we use solar and wind power so we don't have to pay high electric bills. Wolf food cost was smaller last year thanks to a donation of over 60 elk from a local game rancher. However insurance has caused our overhead to increase in the last few years. Insurance alone cost Mission:Wolf \$18,000 last year and the price continues to rise. If you have tips on ways to help reduce costs, especially insurance, please contact us, as we hate to spend the wolves' money on overhead.



TECHNOLOGY IN THE WOODS

For years our phone was in Gardner, 16 miles away, we had a P.O. Box for mail, and if you were lucky, we had enough solar power to operate a light bulb for a few hours a night. Today we have a cell phone at the refuge and enough solar and wind power to operate power tools and even computers. The computers now have satellite internet access, allowing us to communicate though e-mail. Recently our website has flourished with the hard work of M:W staff and Bob Thompson of Creative Minds. But the cost of the computers and equipment is expensive, in both time and money. We are constantly in need of updating and replacing computers and software in order to keep up with the demands of the modern world. Bob and the staff have been working on bringing our membership database up to date, so even a seemingly simple thing like mailing this newsletter will become more efficient over the next few months. If you would like to donate office related items please see our Wish List.

THANK YOU!

We want to be sure to thank a few of the many people who have gone out of their way to help us further our mission over the past year. There are many more than we can possibly name and we trust that you know how much we appreciate your support. Mission:Wolf could not accomplish what it does without the help of so many generous people. We send our heart-felt gratitude to our new and old wolf caretakers who provide more than just food for the wolves, and to all of our volunteers who have put so much effort into our endless projects. Special thanks to those who provide the financial means that allow those projects and our dreams to become realities. The continual generosity that Mission:Wolf receives reminds us that people truly care about wolves and wildlife.

We would like to thank the following people for their generosity: Dennis Weber; Bill Tezak and Family; Paul and Hope Wenke; Dave, Julie and Bruce Kreutzer; Dave Nora and Peggy Kavookijian; Stan, Bob and Sally Stiffler; Randy Dresler; Harold and Lisa Frank; Rob and Sundee Simons; Luis Marquez; Jerry and Mary Seifert; Randy Meyers; Stormy Wolmack; Wayne; Lenny and River; Bob Thomason; Bill Hancock; Mark Johnson; Jan Fennell; Michael Whiting; The Hammerbecks and Hansons; and Jerre and Judi Waltersdorf; and Heidi and John Gard.

Another huge thank you goes out to our local supporters: Westcliffe Supermarket; Sunflower Natural Foods; Valley Ace Hardware; Shoot the Moon; Pat and Allen at Solar Solutions; Bob, Linda and the Flock at Red Bird; Payman and Ann at Coleman Beef; The Jones Theater; Western Tire; All Seasons Rental; KB Mountain Adventure and Bear Basin Ranch; Gardner Co-op; Bob Langowski of Rocky Mountain Fire Extinguisher; and our local DOW and USDA agents.

A huge thank you to Jennings Market and the Jennings and Senderhauf families. Thank you so much for the many years of support and kindness you have showed us. To the Jennings employees, thanks for always treating us with friendly family service - we will truly miss shopping with you. We have always tried hard to support our local community and we will miss all of our friends at Jennings.

A special thanks to all our neighbors - the cattlemen and ranchers of the Wet Mountain Valley, and CRAMA (Centennial Ranch

and Aspen Mountain Ranch Association) who throughout the years have offered lost visitors directions and support.

Thanks to our Wolf Caretakers and members. With out your support, we could not exist. A special thanks to our Patron and Fund Donors: Mendelson Family; Nora Maloney; Carolyn Buongiorno; Mildred Hendrickson; Mary Jane Bradbury and Family; Mac and Adrienne Bradford; Noah Garrett; Dianne Thie,, Judy and Charlie Scott; Nicholas and JoAnn Wargo; John and Judy Rinas; David Farmelo; Maggie and Jim Cox; and John Langhus.

Thanks to our allies in the effort to educate the public about wolves: the USFWS; Dave Axtel and SCI; Yellowstone's Wolf Project and all of their interns; Colorado Environmental Coalition; Science Discovery; Road Less Traveled; Wolf Park; California Wolf Center; Sinapu and CU Sinapu; Defenders of Wildlife; Ken Hubregson; Keith Rose; Genessee County Village and Museum; Helen McGill; Sharon and David Fletcher; the Byer Family; the Struhsacker Family; Roger Tory Peterson Institute; Massabesic Audubon Center; Silk Farm Audubon; National Wildlife Federation; Lamoille County Nature Center; University of New England and Earth Echo; Snapper Petta; Friends of Mission:Wolf and Irene LaRusso; Dorna Schroeter, the NY Boces program & the staff of the Madden Outdoor Education Center; Rutgers University; Albany Law School; Pine Hill Community Center; Lauragene Passantin; Pilar Sanjuan; Beaver Lake Nature Center; Cornell Extension and Ecohouse; Helmen Nature Center; Scott Air Force Base; Snowbird Ski & Summer Resort; Misty Lee Clark; Pramila Patel; DU and CU; High Mountain Institute; Paula Lutz; Greg Hogan; Eric Meythaler; Dr. Robert Schmidt, Brent Feldt and the rest of USU's wolf class; and of course, all of the many communities and schools we visit throughout the year that always welcome the Ambassador Wolves and Mission:Wol staff educators with open arms.

A special thanks to all our local and national Animal Welfare Agencies and Vets: Colorado Wolf and Wildlife Center; W.O.L.F.; Candy Kitchen Wolf Rescue; and CFAWA and all its members. You are the ones who help those we can not.

Last, but not least, we wish to thank the people who support our staff and understand the need we have for such valuable people: The Brooke Family; McCrea Family; Bennett Family; Nelson Family; Rounds Family; Zieber Family; and The White Family.



Lily enjoys a quiet moment under her favorite tree thanks to the generosity of donors and volunteers alike. Photo by Tracy Ane Brooks

MONEY DOESN'T GROW ON WALL STREET ANYMORE

A few years ago the Mission: Wolf Board of Directors decided to set aside some money to provide for the refuge on an annual basis. We created a \$34,000 endowment named after the principal contributor to the fund, Eugene S. Principe, Jr., and set out considering investments. Right away, we decided to go with "socially conscious" mutual funds. Why not leave investing to the experts? And why invest in things we don't believe in?

These decisions led to further questions, such as, "how socially conscious?" Some "SC" funds are very green, investing only in companies that, for example, research and produce solar or geo-thermal power products. Others simply avoid companies that manufacture arms, tobacco, and other truly damaging products. We opted to be both green and practical, investing in the Parnassus Fund and an Ariel Mutual Fund. They both simply invest in companies that are doing no harm.

In the past these funds have done very well compared to similar funds and even compared to traditional "dirty" mutual funds. Both of our funds have historically, and even recently, performed significantly better than the Standard and Poors 500. Doing better than stock indices, however, is not great - the market is down and both of our funds have lost value (we only loose money IF we cash out while behind). So, unfortunately, our endowment has been unable to return cash to the refuge for the last two years. However, the endowment remains a source of long-term financial security for Mission: Wolf, and can even serve as a rainy-day fund if absolutely necessary.

Please contact David Kreutzer, Fund Trustee and M:W Board of Directors member, if you would like to learn more about assuring M:W's financial well-being into the future. Our funds are down slightly now, but with market recovery and additional investments it will be an important part of the refuge's cash flow.

Wolf Puppy Greeting Cards and Wolfy Gifts for People



Colorful photographs of resident wolf puppies capture the beautiful innocence inherent to all infants. These wolves have grown considerably since the photos were taken and have established themselves within their packs.

Each 5"x7" greeting card is blank inside with a paragraph on the back about the featured wolf & comes with envelope. High quality reproduction is suitable for framing.

Individual cards - \$ 1.00 Pack of twelve - \$ 10.00
 Photographic images by **Tracy Brooks**
 Printing Provided by **The Dancing Crane**.

Shirt Clearance!!!

Over the years, M:W has built up a quite an inventory of shirt designs. It's time to clear the storage shelves and make way for something new. This is your last opportunity to get these designs...



Four Wolves



Peaches



Raven

T-shirt - \$8
 Long Sleeve - \$10
 Sweatshirt - \$15

Please specify design and size...
 color selection and size is very limited,
 but we will try...

Raven: pink, yellow, white Four Wolves: white
 Peaches: white, black, blue, gray, red



POSTER

"THE WOLVES OF MISSION:WOLF"



SNOWDANCER
 photo by Tracy Brooks

32"x24" poster
 \$25.00



THE NEW MISSION:WOLF T-SHIRT

AN ORIGINAL DESIGN BY TRACY BROOKS FEATURING RESIDENT WOLVES IN
THE ENCHANTED COUNCIL



Lucus and Nikkolah wait in anticipation of their next meal. Photo by Tracy Ane Brooks.

Become A Wolf Caretaker

The expression "*WOLF-ING DOWN YOUR FOOD*" comes to life at feeding time. Each week we watch the resident wolves gulp down nearly a *thousand pounds* of raw meat in a few minutes. It is a sight we see often, yet it still leaves us somewhat speechless at each feeding. This food consists of road-kill deer & elk, fresh expired livestock (cows, calves & horses) donated by local ranchers, slaughterhouse scraps and fresh poultry from packing houses. Volunteers perform the grueling (and often fragrant) process of hauling in, butchering, and distributing animal carcasses to the twenty packs of wolves and wolf-dog crosses. The money to pay for this and to operate the refuge comes from our **wolf caretaker program**. Sales of merchandise and donations fill in the gaps.

To sponsor a wolf and order merchandise, fill in the coupon and send check or money order to **Mission:Wolf, PO Box 211, Silver Cliff, CO 81252**.

"Eugene S. Principe Jr. Wolf Education Fund"

An Endowment for the Future of the Mission:Wolf Education Program - min.\$250.00 or \$ _____

Wolf Caretaker Packets

Includes:

- 8x10 color wolf photo & biography
- One year membership
- Wolf Visions Newsletter
- Personalized Certificate
- M:W Window Decal

Student / Senior \$25.00/ year
 Individual \$40.00/ yr.
 School / Family \$100.00/ yr.
 Feed the Pack \$1,000.00/ yr.

Circle name of wolf desired (we'll pick one if left blank)

Peaches, Sabretooth, Merlin, Jazmine, Beom, Ned Ludd, Druid, Katimik, Selway, Mowgli, Spirit, Polar Bear, Lily, Gizmo, Zephyr, Kestrel, Hina, Obediah, Jordan, Lucus, Nyati, Guinness, Asha, Rasta, Whisper, Aspen, Gandalf, Aurora, Rogue, Saidee, Kawh, Tierra, Skinwalker, Shaman, Ghost, Yaqui, Nali, Rami, Luna, Raven, Magpie Horse: Ginger

Business/Club:(print) _____

Your Name: _____

Address: _____

Wolf Caretaker Category _____
 (\$ 25 / 40 / 100 / 1000) / yr. = \$ _____

Land Fund Artwork

Photo Poster of Uncle Bowdi (Wisdom) or Peaches (Snowdancer)
 \$25.00 each

Wolf Photos, color 8x10 please specify wolf
 \$15.00 each

Wolves of Mission:Wolf Poster by resident artist Tracy Brooks
 \$ 5.00 each

Color Photo Poster \$25 x _____ = \$ _____

Please circle which poster at left

8 x 10 Color Photos \$15 x _____ = \$ _____

Please specify wolf

M:W Posters \$5 x _____ = \$ _____

T-Shirts, Sweats and Tote Bags

Exclusive original design by Tracy Brooks

Wolves of Mission: Wolf

"Enchanted Council"

- Short Sleeve T-Shirt (ss) \$15.00 ea.
- Long Sleeve T-Shirt (l s) \$18.00 ea.
- Sweat Shirt (s w) \$25.00 ea.
- Canvas Tote Bags-(Raven Design) \$15.00 ea.

Shirt Sizes: Kids S, Kids M, S, M, L, XL, XXL
 Colors: Black

Please use this form for clearance shirts too... just let us know!

Style Size Quantity

_____ = \$ _____

_____ = \$ _____

_____ = \$ _____

PACKAGE AND SHIPPING

Please add \$ 6 for totals = \$50 or less = \$ _____
 \$ 8 for total more than \$50

Total US Funds Enclosed = \$ _____



Mission:Wolf's newest poster is based upon this photograph by Tracy Ane Brooks. Have you ever met someone you just didn't see "Eye to Eye" with?



Long-time Ambassador Wolf, Sila will always be remembered for her intelligent gaze and inspiring drive to teach people about her species. Photo by Tracy Ane Brooks

Mission : Wolf
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