

# WOLF VISIONS



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## WOLF EDUCATION

*EYE TO EYE WITH MAGPIE*

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2007 marks the 19th year that Mission:Wolf has offered people nationwide an eye-to-eye educational experience. In 2006, the Ambassador Wolf Program completed the longest adventure in our history.

Wolf Magpie, with chauffeurs and interpreters Tracy and Kent, managed to visit over 30,000 people spread across 25 states. Programs were held at various venues including schools, museums, agency offices, businesses and nature reserves.



Spring '06 started with events across the northwest and a focus on wolf recovery in the Northern Rockies. By May we were in Arizona working to support the recovery of the Mexican Wolf.

Summer kept Magpie busy amid daily encounters with visitors and volunteers at the refuge. In the Fall we started events in upstate New York and ranged up to Maine.

We worked ourselves south to Cape Cod & Rhode Island and ended October at our annual "Friends of M:W" event just north of New York City.

In early November we stopped for a presentation at the USFWS near Wash., DC before starting a rapid journey south to Florida. Magpie was the center of attention at the Defenders of Wildlife's Carnivore Conference, and public demand across the country for an experience with nature and a wolf is tremendous.

Co-founders Kent Weber and Tracy Brooks continue to lead the program and have provided over a million people across thirty states the opportunity to look into a wolf's eyes at close range — even nose-to-nose.

No video, lecture or book can replace the feelings a person experiences in the presence of a live wolf.

Magpie has matured into a confident and dignified leader. She and her sister Raven were bred for a movie project but not used. As four-month old pups they were adopted by M:W and raised by veteran Ambassador Wolf, Rami.

Magpie's outgoing and self-assured personality around people allows her to lead the program and carry on the legacy of an Ambassador. However, due to being born in captivity, she is thus imprinted by humans and cannot be reintroduced into the wild.

Magpie's presence impresses and inspires many people and helps to develop compassion for animals. The future of wolves depends on the knowledge and respect they receive by our society as a whole.

Our message is to help people understand the job wild wolves do to keep nature healthy and balanced. This understanding is essential for both the return of wolves and for the protection of many other species' fragile habitats.

## Raven and Magpie



Magpie at the Grand Canyon

# MISSION:WOLF-EDUCATION VS. EXTINCTION

| <u><b>Wolf Sanctuary</b></u>  | <u><b>Sustainability</b></u>  | <u><b>Hands-on-Learning</b></u>  | <u><b>Land Conservation</b></u>  |
|---|---|--|--|
| <p>Mission:Impossible<br/>To provide a wolf born in captivity a future.<br/>To accomplish this feat we combined three key ingredients:</p> <p><b>Privacy:</b> The sanctuary is located next to the San Isabel National Forest far from pavement and people.</p> <p><b>Space:</b> Each wolf gets plenty of room to run, sleep and hide in a large enclosure full of diverse terrain.</p> <p><b>Food:</b> Wolves live to eat and “wolfing down your food” comes to life every few days. The wolves are fed raw meat on a feast and famine schedule.</p> | <p>Living &amp; Building</p> <p><b>Buildings:</b> Passive solar designs are crafted from recycled and local materials.</p> <p><b>Solar Electricity:</b> The refuge &amp; farm generate their own electricity from solar panels and wind mills that charge storage batteries.</p> <p><b>Gravity Water System:</b> A solar electric pump fills a storage tank with crystal clear well water.</p> <p><b>Greenhouse:</b> At 9300’ elevation a simple greenhouse supplies staff with fresh salads and veggies.</p> <p><b>Bio-Diesel:</b> A solar-powered processor converts used veggie oil into fuel.</p> | <p>Built &amp; Operated by Caring Volunteers</p> <p><b>Community Life:</b> Wolves attract many diverse people who have a common goal—they simply want to help and in return gain a personal experience.</p> <p><b>2 Hours or Two Weeks:</b> Bring your own tent &amp; food and camp near the wolves. Volunteer on projects as your time &amp; energy allows.</p> <p><b>Two Months+:</b> We provide a tipi and food. You work as a staff assistant to feed wolves, lead education tours, support construction and maintenance tasks.</p> <p><b>Six months+:</b> We provide a sleeping room, food, transportation and some expenses.</p> | <p>A Costly Endeavor</p> <p>The success of keeping wolves alive and healthy in captivity is greatly enhanced with a lot of space and privacy from people. M:W has successfully secured nearly 200 acres of property (including farm). Friends have secured an additional 240 acres for future conservation. To achieve this feat we placed ourselves deep in debt (over \$500,000). With support from many people we have now reduced this debt to \$200,000. Once our debt is paid in full we anticipate securing more property as funds allow. Our payments are over \$1000/month. Donations are tax deductible.</p> |

**A quote from a  
4th Grade Classroom**

*I forget what I hear,*

*I remember what I see,*

*I understand what I touch*

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## MISSION:WOLF & WILD WOLVES

In the 1980’s the reality of wild wolf recovery in the United States seemed like an impossible mission. As the Mission:Wolf refuge evolved so did our public outreach efforts. In 1987 we were working in the southwest with the Mexican Wolf. And by 1989 we were in Yellowstone National Park to offer rangers and biologists a chance to learn about wolves firsthand.

Soon we were in Washington, DC with live wolves working with politicians and bureaucrats. At that time there were still less than 2000 wild wolves in the lower 48 states and most of them were in one state—Minnesota. As resistance to the return of wolves to the Rocky Mountains grew so did our outreach efforts.

It has been a privilege to witness the return of wild wolves to twelve states. Today there are more than 5000 and some may be taken off of the Endangered Species List in specific areas.

Our goal is to see captive wolf facilities like M:W become obsolete as wild wolves continue to recover in new areas. Please support habitat conservation and the protection offered by the **Endangered Species Act**.



## VOLUNTEERS—THE MORE YOU GIVE THE MORE YOU RECEIVE.

Years ago some excited visitors asked the question “what can I do to help?” We said then that if you were a wolf stuck in captivity, the answer is simple:

A big home with privacy, companionship and lots of raw meat.



With enthusiasm people offered to help build fences and cut up carcasses for feeding. The next visitor asked how do they sign-up to volunteer?

We simply answered: “just bring your tent, food, gloves and boots.” Soon there were so many volunteers that volunteers were needed to coordinate and teach others. Twenty years later the refuge still operates with a full time volunteer staff that continues to find new ways to improve our work. The old saying is so true— the more you give, the more you receive.

The refuge will host numerous youth group work camps all summer, including our 18th year of hosting international students participating in a world peace program with *Service Civil International*.



Mission:Wolf staff and 2006 SCI International Workcamp participants flash a smile.

## CARETAKER OF THE YEAR

Each year many people inspire the staff and directors of M:W as they leave their mark working at the refuge or supporting the wolf program. Out of the hundreds of volunteers we’ve had the pleasure to work with, we continually notice that one or two people truly stand out in their dedication to help. We are honored to recognize these individuals as people who will always be remembered for their generosity and passion at M:W.

### 2006 Carol Kennedy

Carol provides the stability our membership program has needed for years. As the M:W Membership Director, Carol spends at least one day a week in our cramped office taking care of merchandise orders and correspondence with our members.

Carol’s efforts with the Wolf Caretakers helps us keep members up to date and brings in much needed support to care for the wolves. It also allows our staff to spend more time working with the wolves and kid’s groups. Don’t be surprised to find Carol at the end of a knife preparing food for the wolves.

As a retired Air Force Emergency Room nurse, she has a vast array of talents and a dependability that is unmatched.



## WOLF CARETAKER EXTRAORDINAIRE



Irene LaRusso and Piper

Irene LaRusso became involved with Mission:Wolf years ago after attending one of our educational programs in Greenwich, CT. The program generated lots of support for the local bird rehab organization but left the wolf bus short on funds. Irene was inspired by our work and recognized our need for funding too. A year later she formed her own group that she calls the *Friends of Mission:Wolf*.

For several years, Irene, with the help of her housemate Alice, has hosted one of our most successful annual events, allowing us to reach a wide array of people in and around New York City. Irene’s events have single-handedly earned more support for the wolves at Mission:Wolf than anyone else we know.

Thanks to Irene and Alice, we now have numerous friends and wolf caretakers who not only support the refuge but who have also opened their lives and homes to care for people living and working at M:W. Moreover, they have connected the Wolf Bus Program with foundation support that has become vital in keeping the wolf program alive financially.

Irene provides all of the staff at M:W with inspiration to keep pushing our limits and is an example to others of how one individual can make a difference. In addition to the enormous amounts of time Irene offers to help she uses her own funds to cover the program set-up costs. We send a big howling “Thank You” from all of us at M:W.

## GENE'S KITCHEN—A SOLAR-POWERED BUILDING CRAFTED FROM RECYCLED MATERIALS BY VOLUNTEERS OF ALL AGES.



*Our sustainable community building is at present receiving the finishing touches. This unique structure has been built using local resources and donated & recycled materials.*

*Numerous volunteers have added their own touch and have crafted a useful and needed shelter. This radiant-floor-heated community building contains a large kitchen, dining area, greenhouse, staff & visitor bathrooms, and a loft viewing area.*

Newly completed tasks this year include the installation of many kitchen fixtures, including custom built cabinets (courtesy of Solar Wood), a polished con-



Photo by Jonathan Dimuzio

crete countertop and a commercial grade stove & hood.

Tiles imprinted with pictures of past M:W wolves have been fitted above the kitchen sink. Aspen tongue & groove woodwork has also been completed throughout the loft and vaulted ceilings, giving the building a natural, spacious feeling.

The recent installation of a prestigious water boiler (courtesy of Metro Solar), provides year 'round hot water for the wolves and staff.

This facility, with the presence of a 365/24/7 water supply with hot showers & flushing toilets in the winter, creates a new era at M:W and an end to our fragrant outhouse.

Still to be completed are the tiling across the main floor, the spiral wooden staircase, bookshelves, stools & countertop, a variety of railings, greenhouse planters and the main seating area.

The accomplishment of this copious amount of work is due to the dedication and hard work of many volunteers and companies.

*We wish to thank you all.*

## SUMMER WOLF WORKCAMPS

Once again the Mission:Wolf staff is preparing to accommodate another hard-working summer of wildlife education. Each year, we're graced with numerous folks who contribute their time, energy and skills operating the refuge and implementing creative projects to maintain and improve our sustainability.

We have dreamed for years that we would have a 20-acre playpen for the wolves. After its fifth year of construction, with the help of numerous groups, the primary fence is up and work continues on upper and ground mesh. The endurance of many individuals to work in high temperatures on steep slopes with little oxygen (9300' elevation) has put us closer to our overall goal. More materials

(\$15,000+) are needed to provide volunteers the opportunity to complete the playpen this year.

We have also begun the construction of a horse barn and fence to aid in our care of the many horses that we come across. The barn will include a geriatric wolf care area and an improved veterinary operation room. A staff housing loft, solar-powered water well and septic system will complete this new structure.

We would like to thank all of the work camps for their hard work and dedication last summer. M:W looks forward to another summer of memorable "hands-on -learning" experiences.



Student volunteers prepare to feed the wolves.

Photo by Natalie Garrett

## NEW ARRIVALS



Lovable Leo



Bradley plays innocent



Rocky rolls over for belly rubs

Many dog shelters have a policy that requires them to euthanize wolf-dogs. When Leo was received at the Denver Dumb Friends League he was in poor shape with tremendous fractures in his hip and rear leg. After recovery from intensive surgery he was labelled as a Husky/wolf-dog and was to be put down. His lovable personality and playful antics won the hearts of everyone and led him to find a home at M:W.

As a puppy, Rocky was found outside of a casino in Las Vegas by a dog rescue center. They classified him as a wolf-dog and he was transported to M:W. After many observations we believed that he had little to no wolf in him and he was therefore transferred to the Aspen Animal Shelter where he was recently adopted by the owner. If you're interested in animals like Rocky, please contact the Aspen Animal Shelter.

As a pup, Daisy was found wandering outside a Virginia store. A family rescued her and raised her as a pet. As she matured she showed many undeniable wolf characteristics and was unsuitable to keep with a family and children. A responsible owner flew Daisy from Washington, DC to Denver. Once at M:W we attempted to place her next to Merlin—a male wolf in need of companionship. They did not display much interest in each other so we are working to see if

she and Aspen are more compatible. As a four-year old, it has taken her months to adjust to refuge life, and Daisy seems to like people more than the other wolves. At first her confusion was obvious as she paced nervously when the wolves howled. Now she gets excited and lets out a squeaky howl of her own.



Daisy the Wolf-Dog

## FAREWELL TO WHISPER

APRIL, 1993 ~ JULY, 2006



Please join us in celebrating **Whisper's** life. She was born a black and silver wolf in the spring of 1993. She spent her adult years living with her mate, Aspen, and shared one of the largest enclosures in the

sanctuary, full of large trees, steep hills and a small water spring.

Whisper & Aspen spent most of their days lounging under a huge old Ponderosa Pine with a view of the parking area where they could keep up with all the human activities.

Whisper was a strong-willed and feisty female and would get testy with the female staff, yet she was shy around most strangers.

At the ripe age of thirteen (or about two full wolf lifetimes in the wild!), Whisper passed quietly during the night of July 22nd, 2006, of natural causes.

*Her memory will remain in our hearts forever.*

### The Crimson Fund

**Mission:Wolf** is reaching maturity as an organization, and so are many of our resident wolf friends.

**Currently over 75% of our residents are 12+ years old and considered geriatrics.**

**Contributions of cash and medical supplies will be dispersed from a fund established in the honor of **Crimzon**, a former M:W resident.**

**The Crimson Fund is used for the future care of all wolves living at **Mission:Wolf**.**

## MONEY USE: WHERE WE GET IT AND HOW WE USE IT

One of the primary goals in the development of the refuge has been to create a sustainable facility that operates on solar energy and volunteers so that our limited funds are available for education and growth.

The final touches are being put on our new community building that, when complete, will greatly reduce the refuge needs of wood and propane. To operate the wolf program we have managed to get the most out of our bus (six nationwide tours) and have created a bio-diesel processor to reduce fuel costs.

Our biggest financial burdens continue to be insurance and monthly land payments (with interest). We feel that the wolf caretaker program feeds the wolves; the sale of merchandise buys materials; income from donated art makes land payments; program fees operate the wolf bus; and donations are our life blood.

The resources required to operate a small fleet of vehicles to feed the wolves and offer nationwide education continues to grow and is often funded by credit cards or bank loans. Thanks to many generous people our overall debt has decreased by over 50% in the last few years. Once the refuge is free of land & truck payments our only overhead will be insurance & our daily supplies.

It is our belief that as individuals and foundations understand our importance and effectiveness, they will join us in helping to secure land and in supporting our educational efforts nationwide. A big "thank-you" to Nancy & Jerry at Sangre Solutions accounting firm in Westcliffe for a great job in keeping the wolves' books up to date.



Hurricane strength winds ripped through Colorado on June 6th, taking down our biggest, newest and nicest guest tipi and severely damaging another staff tipi. We also lost over 30 Aspen trees in the wolf enclosures, causing severe fence damage. Luckily, no wolves were injured. Currently, our greatest need is **tipi poles & tipi canvasses**, both new & used.

## MESSAGE AND INVITATION TO ALL WOLF CARETAKERS

**Greetings** from your Membership Coordinator. Hi, I'm Carol Kennedy. I moved here to Westcliffe two years ago after retiring from nursing. I have been volunteering at M:W once or twice a week for two years and have seen all the seasons come and go. Once again, we managed to get through another Colorado winter. Our refuge sits here in the Rocky Mountains at 9300 feet and this winter was VERY snowy.

We had several small snows in November and then on December 18th our first of the BIG storms hit. By Christmas we had three of these large snow storms. Along with the snow we had major winds that kept the roads drifted shut with six to eight feet drifts. For six weeks I could not get into the refuge, except by snowmobile. On one trip in, I became stuck in a drift that was above the top of the window of my Ford pick-up truck.

After digging snow for an hour and then walking ½ mile back to the refuge, I needed the staff to pull me out with another truck. Our neighbor to the south allowed us to travel through their ranch for easier access in both the snow and mud. Yes, after the snow melted came the mud. And then, even more mud. It was as bad as the snow. At long last, both have dried up and things are back to *almost normal*.



The wolves loved the snow and were frequently seen romping about with their mates. Their heavy winter coats were perfect for our weather. The staff, on the other hand, didn't get to play as much. They all spent much of their time carrying fresh water to the wolves daily. It was a hard winter for the local livestock and many didn't survive, so our meat selection was increased, and we had fun serving up banquets for the wolves. We are now happy to see the spring come and are

already getting ready for the summer groups to arrive.

*...But We Need YOUR HELP!*

Our goal this year is to **double our membership**. You can help by giving a membership to a friend or perhaps an application for membership to all of your friends (please see page 15). As many of you know, all of the donations go to the care and feeding of the 30+ beautiful wolves and wolf-dog mixes that live here at Mission:Wolf. We feed about 1000 pounds of meat a week, so the term "wolfing it down" fits perfectly. With your help, we cannot only provide the food, but also enclosures, medical care and many other wolf needs.

**BECOME A WOLF CARETAKER !**

Carol Kennedy, Volunteer Membership Coordinator

**Mission:Wolf Thanks!**

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 years. There are many more than we can possibly name and we trust that you know how much we appreciate your support. M:W could not accomplish what it does without the help of so many generous people. We send our heartfelt 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. *It is only due to the people of Colorado* who donate their deceased livestock and freezer meat that the wolves can thrive. Special thanks to those who provide the financial means that allow all of the projects *and our dreams* to become realities. The continual generosity that M:W receives reminds us that people truly care about wolves and wildlife.

A Big **Thank You** from the Directors\* & Staff of Mission:Wolf to:

*Bob & Carol Allison, AlphaOmega Foundation, Matthew & Tara Ash, Aspen Academy, Audobon, Paul Barickman, Kristina Bauerreiss, Bark Busters, Shauna Baron, Helen Bartlett, Baton Rouge YMCA, Steve Beights\*, Kathy Bennett, Blue Mountain Stone, Jenna Bothner, Adriane Bredenberg, Brooke Family, Tamas Brooks Christman\*, Tracy Brooks\*, Pam Brown, Wayne Cadden, Canon City Group, Marco Chiodarolio, The Chop Shop, CSU, Jan Conway, CMB, CRAMRA, CU Wildlife Initiative, Curtis Family, Defenders of Wildlife, Jane & Harry Denkers, Christopher & Jonathan DiMuzio, Lynn Donaldson, Andrew Earley, Cari Ellinghaus, Brian Evans, Jan Fennell, John Frushell, Roger Gano, Dara Garretson, Natalie Garrett, Grandview HS, Graver MS, Kelly Grennan, Dr. Bill Hancock, Heart Play, Helix, Kevin Honness\*, Hough Electric, Adam Katrick, Carol & Bob Kennedy, David & Julie Kreutzer\*, Matthias Langley, Irene LaRusso, Inge Lauwers, Jason Lawrence, Daniel Lazarek, Dr. Lenny & River, Court Lewis, Camille Lierre, Aaron & Nicole Martinez, Matt's Eagle Scout Troop, Jennifer McCarthy, Rachael Messiter, Metro Solar, Monarch Center, Don Mount, Dr. Karl Musgrave, Charles Musy, Abby Nelson, George Newell, Shirley & Ron Nickerson, Donna Nives, Patagonia, Josh Pironti, Poag Mahones, The Post, Pikes Peak College, Pizza Express, Pueblo Circle Program, Pueblo Mt. Camp, Red Empress Foundation, Tim Reed, Rick's Center, RoadLessTraveled, Royal Marble, Paul & Linda Schutt, Jeff Schwartz\*, SCI/IVS, Science Disco, Andrew Sechrist, Essie Snell, Solar Solutions, Solar Wood, Stacey Sonnenshein, Michael & Sara Stenson\*, Dave Stout, Stucco by Al, Simone & Kim, Sunflower Natural Foods, Synovus, Telluride Academy, Bill Tezak Family, Bob Thomason, Kevin Thorne, Tub Doctor, Valley Ace Hardware, Valley Pipeworks, Jonathan Viel, Dennis Weber, Kent Weber\*, WSM, Annie White, Alex Weir, Randy & Sarah Woods\*, Alice Victor, Chase Zellner, Tom Zieber, to name a few...*

**MISSION:WOLF WISH LIST:** Donations of daily supplies help keep operating expenses low. These items are always in demand ~ high quality dog kibble, stainless steel pails and bowls, working gas range, veterinary items (including vitamins), 8' chain link fence, 2" steel pipe fence posts, double strand fence wire, 9x12 or larger envelopes, postage stamps, HP 94,95/Canon 40,41 printer ink, laptop computers, flash sticks & 1Gb or more RAM for newsletter computer, Adobe In-Design® /Quark® software, house plants w/hanging planters, **Tipis & Tipi Canvases, Solar Batteries & Solar Panels, Hybrid Vehicles, Mercedes, Subaru** and other Diesels for Bio-Diesel use.

*In 1905, the poet Jean Marie Rilke moved to Meudon, France to take a job as the secretary of the world-renowned sculptor, Auguste Rodin. When Rilke told Rodin that he had not been writing lately, Rodin's advice was to go to the zoo and look at an animal until he truly saw it. Here is the result, translated by Robert Bly:*

**RESOURCE CONTACTS**

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>Defenders of Wildlife</b><br>www.defenders.org                     | <b>Coalition to Restore the Eastern Wolf</b><br>www.restore.org/Wildlife/wolf.html |
| <b>National Wildlife Federation</b><br>www.nwf.org                    | <b>Mexican Wolf Coalition</b><br>www.wolf.org/wolves/learn/learn.asp               |
| <b>Wildlands Project</b><br>www.twp.org                               | <b>Southern Rockies Ecosystem Project</b><br>www.restoretherockies.org             |
| <b>Center for Biodiversity</b><br>www.biologicaldiversity.org         | <b>Sinapu</b><br>www.sinapu.org  |
| <b>Predator Conservation Alliance</b><br>www.predatorconservation.org | <b>U S Fish and Wildlife Service</b><br>www.fws.gov                                |

From seeing the bars, his seeing is so exhausted that it no longer holds anything anymore. To him the world is bars, a hundred thousand bars, and behind the bars, nothing.

The lithe swinging of that rhythmical easy stride which circles down to the tiniest hub is like a dance of energy around a point in which a great will stands stunned and numb.

**WILDFIRE AWARENESS & EVACUATION**

Although we have received large amounts of snow this year, the region is still experiencing a severe drought. Ground-water levels are low and we anticipate another **high-level** wildfire season. We have thus prepared an evacuation plan, just in case. However, the reality of sedating and evacuating 30 canines in time is unlikely. We therefore wish to acquire a reliable & running 4x4 fire truck & 5000 gal water storage tank to protect the refuge & wolves. (\$50k+).

Only at times the curtains of the pupil rise without a sound . . . then a shape enters, slips through the tightened silence of the shoulders, reaches the heart, and dies.

# M:W Ambassadors

Guinness



Rami



Sabre

**MISSION: WOLF & Sinapu**  
 Test on wolf reintroduction...  
 in Rob Edward, Carr...  
 Director of Sinapu. Al...  
 Kent Webber of MS...  
 actually meeting so...  
 from the sanctuary...  
 April 16 at 7pm...  
 Memorial Center (UM...  
 laughtered to distinc...  
 early American. W...  
 are consider...  
 should be requir...  
 e wolf to lick your face...  
 of the University...

## On campus



Eli Luzzo-Herald Journal

Rami, a 10-year-old gray wolf, greets a group of people Monday night on the USU campus. The group Mission Wolf brought four wolves to the valley to help educate people.

## Wild about wolves

Colorado advocate lobbies for reintroduction of the animals into Utah's habitat in the next few years

By Joe Rowley  
 Staff writer

Several hundred off-toe howlers filled an auditorium at Utah State University last night in an attempt to get a response out of the four wolves out of the room. Weber brought the 10-year-old Rami with her three adopted pups on Monday as part of a tour to the public about the reintroduction animals. They are only four of the wolves that live at Weber's ranch in Southern Colorado. "We're hoping in after two years of education, we hope...



Maggie

## Wolves Tour Schools With



...una began life as a pet, but proved...  
 ...re is inappropriate for the breed. T...  
 ...ah schools to educate youngsters...  
 ...mits, Weber said, but sellers...  
 ...nd buyers often claim the animal...  
 ...is part dog to get by the...

## Live wolves use

By LARRY WILSON  
 Star-Gazette  
 wilson@stargazette.com



REBECCA TOWNS/Star-Gazette

Maggie, a yearling wolf, is introduced to the crowd at the Tanglewood Nature Center on Saturday in a program to teach people to respect the animals.

Ed Herman of Corning...  
 frightened when a 62-pound wolf...  
 in his face Saturday and began...  
 his nose and his glasses.  
 "It wasn't scary," Herman...  
 was very affectionate. I got the...  
 she was just saying hello."  
 Herman and his wife, Joann...  
 among more than 100 people...  
 an up-close look at three wolf...  
 urday afternoon at Tanglewo...  
 uthers Center.

The appearance by Mission...  
 an educational program based...  
 ver Cliff, Colo., featured 10-ye...  
 gray wolf Rami and yearlings...  
 and Maggie.

Rami, who circled the room...  
 showed particular interest in...  
 pet owners, has met more th...  
 quarter-million people, said he...  
 dler, Kent Weber.



Peaches

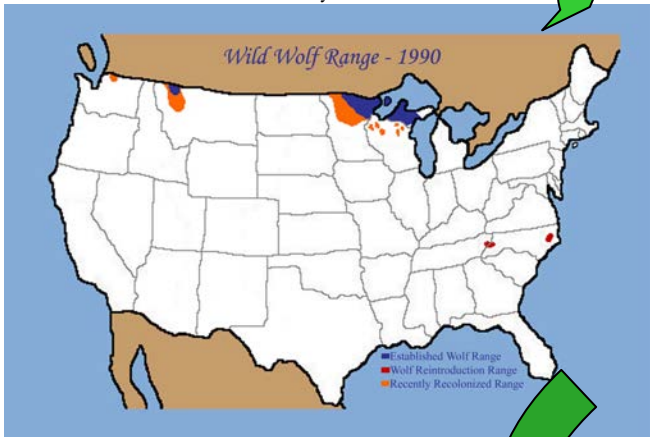




When the **Endangered Species Act** was introduced in **1973**, wild wolves in North America numbered a mere **500—1000** in a total of just two states:

Minnesota and Michigan.

The US Fish & Wildlife Service states: “Before the arrival of European settlers, wolves ranged widely across the continent, from coast to coast and from Canada to Mexico...Wolves play an important role as predators in the ecosystem they inhabit. They feed primarily on large mammals, such as deer and elk, removing sick and injured animals from the populations...as the country was settled, native prey species declined and the numbers of domestic animals increased. As wolves increasingly turned to livestock for prey, government agencies and private citizens undertook large-scale predator control programs, with wolves hunted nearly to extinction.”



Two years before wild gray wolves were eventually reintroduced into Yellowstone Nat'l Park and central Idaho in 1996, **Colorado State University** conducted a research project funded by the **US Fish & Wildlife Service**.

The purpose of the '94 study was to determine the public's attitudes toward restoration of the gray wolf in Colorado, which would help bring back the balance to the *trophic cascade*\*.

**Results showed that over 70% of Coloradoans support the restoration of wolves in Colorado.**

Yet, over 10 years later, Colorado remains one of the only western states that has yet to recover this important and highly intelligent ecosystem component.

Please support the recovery of gray wolves in Colorado by contacting your local and state representatives.

*You* can help restore the ecological balance both in Colorado and throughout the US. For more information on how you can help, please visit [missionwolf.com](http://missionwolf.com)

# Wild Wolf Range



By 1990, wild *gray* wolf populations in North America were recovering in a total of four states:

- **Minnesota~1521**
- **Montana~48**
- **Wisconsin~34**
- **Michigan~21**

according to the Int'l Wolf Center's "Gray Wolf Population Trends in the Contiguous United States" 2006 report. *Red* wolf recovery was also underway in North Carolina's Alligator River Nat'l Wildlife Refuge with 100 red wolves comprising 20 packs. Most ironically perhaps, as bureaucrats argued endlessly on how to reintroduce a few wolves back into Yellowstone, **48** wild Canadian *gray* wolves had already quietly slipped back into the NW corner of Montana on their own.



\* The term "trophic" refers to various levels of the food chain. A small stream that flows over a waterfall, dividing over and over again as it flows over ledges and rocks describes a scattering of water into many "cascades." The "trophic cascade" is a different perspective for looking at the traditional food chain of building an ecosystem from the bottom up, beginning with plant life. A large carnivore at the top of the food chain works like the small stream, and through hunting and competition with other species, helps to restore natural balance to the entire ecosystem.

# 1970 ~ Present



Today, nearly 5000 wild gray wolves roam the contiguous US in freedom:

Minnesota~3020

Central Idaho~525

Michigan~430

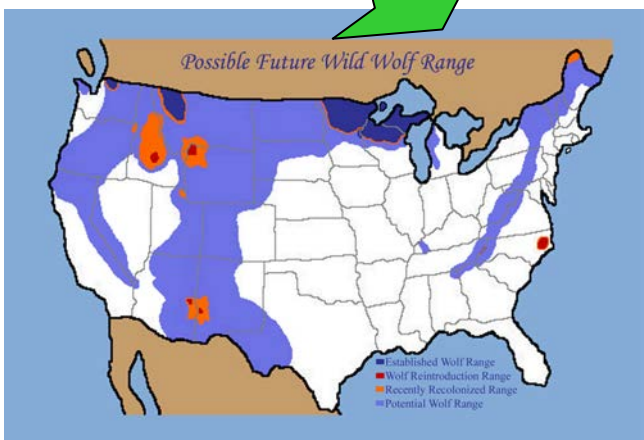
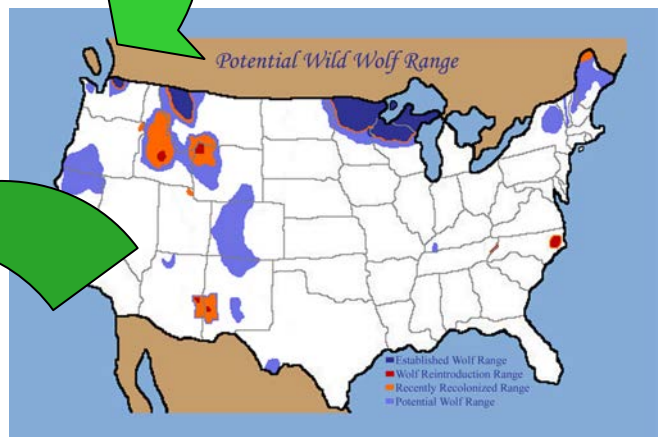
Wisconsin~425

Yellowstone (Idaho)~294

Montana~93

Arizona~15

New Mexico~14



A simple part of the cascade has been demonstrated with the reintroduction of wolves in Yellowstone. With wolves present again, deer and elk herds are moved and scattered frequently. This not only strengthens the herd but the movement is also vital to young tree survival. As elk run from wolves, they allow baby trees to grow and aerate the ground with their hooves. This provides more shade for grasses to grow and thus yields more water retention in the ground. The result is cooler water for fish because wolves chase elk. Wolves also reduce coyote numbers dramatically, which provides more food for raptors and other small carnivores. The list goes on...and on.

The map to the left illustrates where wild wolves live today while the map below illustrates the *potential* wolf recovery range that currently exists in the lower 48 states. As communities and developers become more aware that by preserving and enhancing biological diversity their people will live healthier and fuller lives, they will also recognize the need to conserve corridors for wildlife migration. Although we have much more to learn, we are finally able to understand the integral role wolves play in generating a *trophic cascade\**, a cascade that sends the food chain into a self-sustaining ecosystem that has existed for thousands of years.

*What does the future hold in store for this most intelligent and compassionate creature?*

Each phone call, letter, email or donation contributes to the *possible* restoration of this noble species. The map at left represents a future opportunity that exists; a future where communities understand the necessity to co-exist with our brothers and sisters as the Native American Indians did, with both respect and equanimity.

We may even choose to remove a few human-created barriers and developments that continue to disrupt wild diversity in the many natural migration corridors..

Should this one day occur after decades of persecution, perhaps the wolves will in turn join us in celebration of our mutual understanding and long overdue healing of our own ecosystem with a long overdue community howl...

## WHO WATCHES WHOM?

### A NEED TO RECOGNIZE BEHAVIORAL PROBLEMS BETWEEN PEOPLE AND ANIMALS

Many people are unaware that humans can learn and understand the body postures that animals communicate with to assure their basic survival. This loss of knowledge produces fear that often results in chaos and injury for both humans and animals.

Hundreds of homeless animal shelters and rescues could be eliminated and suffering reduced if people learned to exhibit a natural and instinctual way to behave around animals—both domestic and wild.

To assure survival, all creatures have adapted survival mechanisms unique to their own species and environment to assure survival. There are many animal-wise people who have adapted *their own* behavior techniques to mimic or stimulate a predictable response from a specific animal. Some people understand these responses and reactions and are able to use mimicry to talk with many different species.

These people are often referred to as “*whisperers*” or “*animal communi-*



Gizmo watches the camera

to *cators.*” Both dog and horse trainers continue to develop different *listening* and *whispering* techniques to teach people how to talk with animals. Primate caretakers, as well as elephant, dolphin and other mammal trainers are exploring ways to improve their abilities to interpret and converse with animals in a primal and peaceful way.

As people learn to be sensitive and aware of an animal’s mood, it becomes instinctual for them to talk with their body and convey messages or directions in a clear manner. By anticipating and challenging an animal’s movement with precise timing and mimicry, a human is able to move, direct, stop or calm most any animal.

We trust this information will stimulate you to research *whispering* on your own. Animals possess a wide variety of personalities and require a wide array of communication techniques.

One of our ultimate goals is to resolve conflict-based trauma between people and animals.

## “WOLFHORSE” ~ INTERCONNECTED LIVES

Who would ever think that wolves and horses have anything in common? After all, why would they? One is a predator and the other is dinner, or prey. I intend to demonstrate that at a basic level they are more similar than one may expect. My new book will delve more deeply into this idea, but here is an insight into the world of working with wolves and horses in similar ways.



Egyptian Arabian horses are one of the most ancient of the horse breeds in the world. Their behavior and structure is one based on survival. Like the wolf is to our domestic dog so is the relationship of this ancient breed to many of our domestic horses of today.

For nearly twenty years, Kent has presented live wolves to the public for education. I work hands-on, leading the wolves while Kent directs the audience. We transport, exercise and handle wolves in demanding public and media venues nationwide. It is not an easy job to work with wolves in any situation, let alone bringing them into large audiences, in noisy human structures, and out in the moving population.

For years I also studied horse behavior and while learning to apply it to my own horses I have learned instinctual postures that I now use with wolves. My understanding of behavior continues to influence my methods and has radically changed how I work with these intelligent animals.

This was an exciting discovery for me, the interconnected oneness

between wolves and horses. I never planned to practice horsemanship techniques on wolves until two special gray wolves named Raven and Magpie came along. They were four months old and quite timid of people when we received them. They responded dramatically to the body posturing, mimicry, pressure/release timing and intent that I used to calm them—the same behavior I practice with my horses.

Years later, having logged countless miles walking and running behind these animals, I’ve begun to achieve a stronger level of true connection with them than I had ever imagined possible. This now allows me to freely travel with the wolves in a safer, easier and more comfortable manner. After many personal experiences with both wolves and horses, I am so inspired that I am driven to write it down and share it with others.

A truly connected and natural way of working with animals is being discovered, and a time is coming when a deeper understanding of animals will enrich our lives more than we have ever known. My dream is to see that our work contributes to this mutual understanding.

By Tracy Ane Brooks



Kent enjoys his morning coffee on the Pagosa River while Magpie enjoys a morning howl.

## WE ALL DO IT—FIGHT OR FLIGHT PREDATOR OR PREY—IT'S SURVIVAL

Wolves and Horses, two opposing species, predator and prey, wild and domestic, both evolved to excel in opposite behaviors: one to hunt & fight and the other to run in flight.

For two decades, we've worked with dogs, wolves, and horses on a daily basis. We've observed many other trainers work with animals as well and believe that at a basic level, regardless of how different the species, we all possess equal levels of fight or flight instincts. Our root foundation is one and the same. For many years, we've repeatedly seen fight and flight within the foundation of both species—wolf and horse. Although predator and prey respond to opposite survival instincts they are both quadrupeds. All quadrupeds (creatures with four limbs) have an instinctual and intui-

tive ability to communicate between species with basic body posture. Humans have become so dependent on written and oral communication that many are oblivious to basic body posture. This silent communication has been largely lost.

While wolves will run in flight as a defense mechanism, just the same as a horse, horses will fight—sometimes to the death. Most horses are of course exclusively herbivores, but one of our horses, Passion, has gone through stages of aggressive behavior. For a long time she would charge and roll any moving creature smaller than herself that she could get her hooves on. She killed chickens and even had an attempt on a dog who chased her and bit her in the belly.

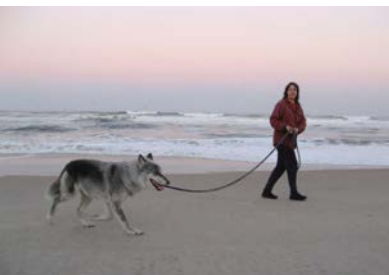
This is where nearly half a lifetime living with captive gray wolves and studying wild wolf behavior, as well as studying top dog trainers, has helped us comfortably apply the same principles back and forth from wolves to horses and back to wolves. Each animal is an individual, just like people, and its important to recognize that what works for one animal may need to be modified for the next.

By Tracy Ane Brooks & Kent Weber



## THE LUNGE CIRCLE

In order to better serve wild wolf education, we strive to deliver presentations with wolves that demonstrate calmness and confidence, allowing the wolves to behave as naturally as possible; yet we also need the ability to keep up with them. It is no easy job working with wolves in the public, and traveling long distances requires sacrifice on both humans and animals.



The lunge is helpful to the handler and provides clear leadership. Note how both horse & wolf strides are in time with the leader, Tracy.



Wolves are naturally shy animals; they typically avoid or run away from scary objects just as horses do. Running wolves are much more powerful than a dog on a leash. If they decide to change direction, the handler has no control and often lands hard on the ground. Similar to a thousand pound horse that has no training and decides to drag a person, there is no stopping it. However, by using simple body posture, a person can direct the motion in a controlled and productive way that allows the animal to release its need for explosive physical movement that is manageable and does not endanger people or the animal.

For years, horse trainers have used a technique known as the *lunge*. It is the simple act of controlling a horse's movement in a repetitious circling motion in which the trainer decides when the horse is to stop, start, run, trot, walk and turn. Although this can be achieved with a lead rope, it is possible to accomplish the same results by using body posture for communication. This allows the animals to work out their fear of objects and develops a trusting bond between the person and the animal, allowing the animal to view the human as a worthy leader.

While exercising wolves during transportation, Tracy developed a modified *lunge* technique as a method that allows the wolves to release their natural wild energy with great success. During a two mile walk by the handler, the wolves can often cover several miles on their own as they trot at a five to seven mile an hour pace. Before *lunge* work is successful, the handler needs to establish some basic communication signals and develop a truce between the animal and the

rope or leash. This truce now becomes a second form of communication as people learn to improve body posture signals and reinforce them with a gentle form of pressure & release on a lead rope.

This is similar to the training used to get a horse to accept a bit. The goal is to get the horse to listen with a fingertip touch that eliminates the rider's need to jerk the reins firmly and hurt the horse's mouth. With wolves, this also allows a communication technique that helps stop the wolf from jerking the handler and it's own neck in the process.



Maggie and Raven circle around Kent while exploring a river in New York. Maggie's pace is nearly twice that of Raven's as she circles around us both—note how Raven has learned to jump Maggie's lead as it passes her.



Jennifer McCarthy greets Sabretooth

People that are interested in wolves often own or like dogs too. Many dog trainers have discovered that there is a direct relation between wolf and dog behavior and use this understanding to train dogs more easily. This year we have had several dog trainers visit us to study the wolves to gain a better understanding of their cousins, the dogs.

Rachael Messiter came all the way from England and works with Jan Fennell-the Dog Listener. Ambassador wolf Magpie ventured to the annual Bark Busters Conference where Magpie lived it up as she walked into a room with 200 dog trainers and lovers. After the conference, over 40 Bark Buster trainers ventured down to M:W to observe the rest of the pack.

Jennifer McCarthy, "World Class Dog Trainer," also came to volunteer and study the wolves to learn how far the dog has evolved from them. Jennifer demonstrated how, through domestication, dogs have become more humanlike and less like the wolves. The M:W staff picked up training tips that help all of us work more consistently with the resident and rescue wolf-dogs. Jennifer donated her time and vehicle to transport Rocky to Aspen Animal Shelter. She also did some training to prepare him for a life in a home. All of these people have contributed time & money to help Mission:Wolf-Thanks!

[www.janfennellthedoglistener.com](http://www.janfennellthedoglistener.com)

[www.barkbusters.com](http://www.barkbusters.com)

[www.jmdogtraining.com](http://www.jmdogtraining.com)



Shirley Nickerson



Feeding 30+ hungry wolves at dinner time can be a daunting task. But thanks to people like Shirley, the task is made easier. Shirley collects old freezer meat from people and then stores it in her many freezers. On many occasions, she will drive her truckloads of meat from her home in Denver down to M:W. She also helps other carnivore sanctuaries in the state. Shirley's Carnivore Care Wagon is dedicated to the feeding and care of all of our captive wildlife. SCCW is a non profit 501©(3).

### Animal Lover Stolen From This Earth

Many knew Ron Nickerson for his love of cars. We at Mission: Wolf knew him for his love of animals. We first met Ron with his wife Shirley when she brought up some old freezer meet to help feed the wolves. Before long, Shirley was bringing us meat by the truckloads, and Ron was helping us with our mechanical needs. Ron and Shirley soon became part of the M:W family and even befriended many of our international volunteers, inviting them up to their home. Ron's love for the wolf was remarkable and they loved him back as well. Magpie loved his full beard as it surely reminded her of another wolf. Sadly, Ron was ripped from this world on May 11, 2006. He was shot at his shop Two Brothers Automotive in Englewood.



Maggie greets Ron Nickerson

Ron will be sadly missed by us two-legged and four-legged alike. Despite losing her husband, Shirley has battled on and still brings us truckloads of meat for the wolves.

## WAYS TO HELP MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN LIFE!

### LIVING IN BALANCE

Necessity as the mother of invention has proven itself true at the Mission:Wolf refuge. Due to our remote location we have had to design and implement basic systems of operation: water, electricity, heating, food production and waste disposal. These systems have been designed to contribute to the health and vitality of our natural surroundings. Healthy local environments are the backbone for a healthy planet.

For more information on how to LIVE IN BALANCE contact or visit M:W. For technical support and product information contact these other helpful sustainable living organizations or keyword "sustainable living" in your internet search engine:

Jade Mountain/Real Goods Broomfield, CO "Building A Sustainable World Since 1978"

[www.gaiam.com/realgoods](http://www.gaiam.com/realgoods)

Solar Solutions Ltd. Silver Cliff, CO "Renewable Energy Systems"

[www.solarsolutions.com](http://www.solarsolutions.com)

- Be sure your political representatives know that you support wolf recovery
- Help Mission:Wolf and become a Wolf Caretaker
- Demonstrate compassion *for all animals* (people too!)
- Teach others about wolves and replace fears with facts
- Help conserve wildlife habitat at *Wildlife Refuges & Nature Centers*

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?  
AN UPDATE ON VETERAN M:W VOLUNTEERS

**Joey Chase**

In the late '80s, Ambassador Wolf Shaman made numerous appearances across the southwest to support the return of the Mexican Wolf. Joey came to work with the wolves as part of an Arizona high school project with his teacher, who had met Shaman. Joey completed the project and after graduation came to volunteer at M:W. He ultimately spent around five years caring for the wolves, built a tiny cabin and helped

the refuge secure 35 acres of land. Today Joey can be found enjoying life with his wife and two boys in Florida. Joey was always a coffee connoisseur and dreamed of creating a coffee company long before the arrival of Starbucks. In 2006, Joey opened up the first Volcano Coffee Shop and has already established several franchises across Florida. Ambassador Wolf Magpie and the wolf bus made a stop at his first franchise store for a sample while on tour last November. For some great coffee, visit: [www.Volcano.com](http://www.Volcano.com)



Magpie rolls in the grass at Volcano Coffee Shop. Joey Chase, with son Clark, educates staff about wolves.

**BECOME A WOLF CARETAKER**

Besides the satisfaction of knowing the wolves are well fed and happy, a caretaker receives a **1 Year Membership**, including:

- 8x10 full color photo of your wolf
- Your wolf's biography
- A personalized certificate
- A Mission:Wolf logo sticker
- A subscription to the M:W newsletter

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Which wolf would you like to sponsor? (please circle)

- Aspen, Aurora, Beorn, Daisy, Druid, Ghostdancer, Gizmo, Guinness, Hina, Kawh, Kestral, Lily, Luna, Magpie, Merlin, Mowgli, Ned, Nyati, Obediah, Orion, Polar Bear, Rami, Rasta, Raven, Rogue, Sabretooth, Selway, Skinny, Soleil, Spirit, Tierra

- |           |                         |
|-----------|-------------------------|
| \$25.00   | Student/Senior          |
| \$40.00   | Individual              |
| \$100.00  | Family, Group or School |
| \$500.00  | Patron                  |
| \$1000.00 | Feed A Pack             |

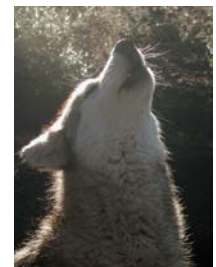
Please send cash or checks to: **Mission:Wolf PO Box 1211 Westcliffe, CO 81252**

For credit card orders and other gifts including shirts, totes, mugs and more, please visit our web store. 100% of all profits from the M:W on-line store support the refuge:

[www.missionwolf.com/store](http://www.missionwolf.com/store)

As a small sanctuary, we're not able to purchase and stock many gifts. Now, thanks to Cafepress.com, you can purchase hundreds of items with your favorite Mission:Wolf resident. 20% of all Cafepress profits go to M:W.

[www.cafepress.com/missionwolf](http://www.cafepress.com/missionwolf)



## EDUCATION ~ AMBASSADOR WOLF '07

The Wolf Bus, along with Ambassador Wolf Magpie, will make limited appearances across the northeast this fall.

After years of traveling and providing over one million people an experience with a wolf, we have started to limit our travel time. Several factors contribute to this decision. First and foremost, several of the resident wolves are now geriatric and benefit greatly by daily care from the people who raised them.

Secondly, important projects at the refuge require our energy and focus so we can continue to improve the facilities.



Kent, Shaman, Fred Rodgers, Benjamin Trevis, Courtesy of Family Communications Inc.

Thirdly, on December 13, 2006, Kent fell from a ladder and required the service of a flight for life helicopter. The fall resulted in a myriad of broken bones, a punctured lung and several weeks of complete immobilization.

A series of winter storms complicated the matter by snowing in the refuge and forcing the staff to commute food & supplies in sleds & snowmobiles. After a long winter, Kent is nearly healed and has been able to return to daily life just in time for a busy summer of youth groups and visitors.

The Wolf Bus will make limited travels in *Colorado only* this Spring. In October, due to popular demand, the wolf program will set out for a short tour of New England.

Please visit our web site for more details:

[www.missionwolf.com](http://www.missionwolf.com)



“To truly see the animal in yourself - you must first strip away all preconceived notions about what you think you know or have learned. To listen to animals is an experience in learning to listen to yourself. As we silently watch them and study their behavior, they teach us respect. In a natural and trusting way, animals are mirrors that we are just beginning to see. Most importantly these animals remind us of our own natural connection to the wild planet earth.”

- Tracy Ane Brooks

**MISSION:WOLF**  
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