










WOLF CHRONICLE



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From the Editor

Dear Members

I hope you have been enjoying the sunshine! The Trust is buzzing with activity and it's been great to see so many of you already at our wolf walks and the new Wolfie Art day. We are gearing up for our first Open Day of the year - hopefully you'll all come to help celebrate the wolves' birthdays and watch them tuck in to their special cakes!

We've got an action-packed edition for you this month - as 22nd April was Earth Day we thought it would provide us with a great 'conservation theme'. To date the Trust has donated over £173,000 to charities and conservation projects worldwide who are working hard to save the wolf. I get asked by so many members



how they can get a job with wolves when they grow up so this edition will see the start of our 'Day in the Life of' series. Each story will follow the daily routine of different people working in conservation, whether they are students, volunteers, wolf keepers and many others.

This edition also sees the launch of the brand-new Kids Den website. We've been working hard to make this more interesting and engaging for you guys, adding exclusive areas for our Junior Members. Find out about the new features on page 5.

Don't forget the Joan Paddick Photography Awards are still open so send in your entries to be in with a chance to win a children's wolf walk, photography morning and maybe even a signed copy of Jim & Jamie Dutcher's *Living With Wolves* book! Happy snapping!

Danny

Assistant Education Officer / Assistant Wolf Keeper



News



Spring has finally sprung, and it seemed to take it's time getting here! Due to the extended cold, the wolves have been holding onto their thick winter coats a little longer this year, but little tufts of shed under fur are now appearing in the enclosures.

However it isn't long before she decides she wants to return to Motomo and makes this quite clear. Like her sister, Mosi, Mai also celebrated her 7th birthday on 27th April and Motomo will be turning 5 on 19th May. The wolves will be getting some birthday cake at our next Open Day on Monday 27th May so why not come down and help them celebrate!?

Now we are out of the high-spirited breeding season, **Mosi** and **Torak** have started back on their enrichment walks with their favourite handlers which they are enjoying immensely. They celebrated their 7th birthdays on 22nd (Torak) and 27th April (Mosi) and are in the prime of their life. Mosi is still her mischievous, charismatic self, while Torak retains his aloof, regal demeanour.



Mosi & Torak

The **Beenham** and **Arctic** packs have entered into a time-share arrangement and swapped enclosures. The Beenhams now greet guests as they arrive on site, while the Arctics are enjoying the use of their private swimming pool! By rotating the packs, it provides the wolves with a change of scenery and new enrichment, stimulating their minds so they don't get bored.

Mai and **Motomo** are enjoying life and are often seen playing with each other in their enclosure. Mai is also coming out on enrichment walks with handlers who know her well and does love the attention.



Mai & Motomo

Nuka is a very handsome wolf, and a firm favourite with all who meet him. He is a big bundle of fun and is always eager to meet people. When handlers greet him in the enclosure he

Turn over for more!

News

sometimes gets carried away and doesn't realise his own strength but giving him a belly rub soon calms him down and sees him flopping onto his back. He celebrated his 2nd birthday, along with his sisters, on 3rd May and will be getting a slice of the wolfie birthday cake at the Open Day.



Tundra, Nuka & Tala

Arctics, looking for attention wherever he can find it, but he does have a naughty side. When an admirer's

Tala is an endearing wolf and is just as popular as her brother with all who meet her. She has accepted her place in the pack, and assumed the role of omega. Her inquisitive, sweet disposition made it difficult to watch as her sister Tundra dominated her during the breeding season but now the tensions have died down the pack have settled into their roles and continue to enjoy each other's company.

Tundra has secured her place as the dominant female of the Beenham Pack. Although her shy personality comes through when she is around those she doesn't know, she has no qualms asserting herself within her pack. She adores her brother Nuka and is often seen trotting alongside him, licking his muzzle.

Pukak remains his greedy self. Despite his lowly ranking within his pack, this seems to be forgotten at feeding time. He is the most inquisitive of the

guard is down, he sometimes tries to assert his authority.

Sikko is the princess of the pack, and adores attention from those she knows well. She is easy to distinguish from her brothers as she has retained her delicate feminine features. Sikko enjoys her ambles out with the public, and although she is sometimes tentative, her confidence is building.

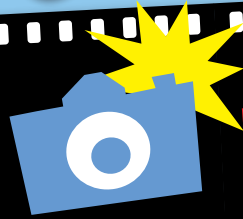
Massak is the tallest Arctic, and is in competition with Torak as the largest wolf on site. He is the most aloof of his pack, choosing to stand back and observe situations before committing himself. This is typical 'dominant wolf' behaviour as, in the wild, lower ranking wolves would go and investigate first.



Sikko, Massak & Pukak



Competition



THE UK WOLF CONSERVATION TRUST PRESENTS

THE JOAN PADDICK PHOTOGRAPHY AWARDS 2013

WIN!

An **exclusive UKWCT photo morning and a walk with our ambassador wolves!***

This year's theme for the competition is **British wildlife.**



Red kite photo: Anne Carter Seal pup photo: Danny Kidby-Hunter

*Terms & conditions apply. See www.ukwct.org.uk/index.php?page=photo-competition for details.

GUEST JUDGES



Jim & Jamie Dutcher, wildlife filmmakers and wolf conservationists.
www.livingwithwolves.org

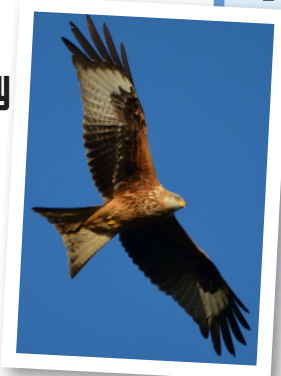


Bob Brind-Surch, wildlife photographer.
www.naturesphotos.co.uk

CHILDREN'S CATEGORIES

- The 6 - 12 years category (age as at 5th August 2013)
- The 13 - 17 yrs category (age as at 5th August 2013)

There's still time to enter! For more details and to download the application form, visit our website at www.ukwolf.org.



The competition will run from **Monday 4th February to Monday 5th August 2013.**



WE'D LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU AT ukwolfconservationtrust@googlemail.com





News

KID'S DEN WEBSITE RELAUNCHES WITH NEW LOOK!



We are excited to announce the launch of our new, improved Kids' Den. Along with a new look we have included some features that we hope will make visiting the Den a quicker, easier and more interactive experience.

To make sure you get the most out of the new website, we have assigned you a new wolfie guide, Alo! He's the new Kids' Den mascot and will guide you through your new website and teach you all there is to know about wolves!

Take a look around - you can have fun learning about wolves, read reviews, follow updates, view photos and artwork created by you, play games, view Wolf Chronicle interactively and even create your own wolf! There will be quizzes, competitions and much more! There is exclusive content for our Wolf Cub members which can be accessed with your password. If there was a Wolf Chronicle article



We spent some time with the great **Sir David Attenborough** recently! You can read all about it in **Kid's Den** - just click on **Sir David's** name on the site.

you enjoyed, you'll now be able to log on to the members' section to read even more on the subject! Want to get involved? If you're under 12 and would like to contribute to Kids' Den or Wolf Chronicle, we'd love to hear from you!

This is just the beginning. There's lots more exciting stuff lined up for the future so keep coming back to check out what's new! Log on to start exploring! www.ukwct.org.uk/index.php?page=kidsden

WE'D LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU AT ukwolfconservationtrust@googlemail.com



Reviews

WOLF and DOG

by Sylvia Vanden Heede.

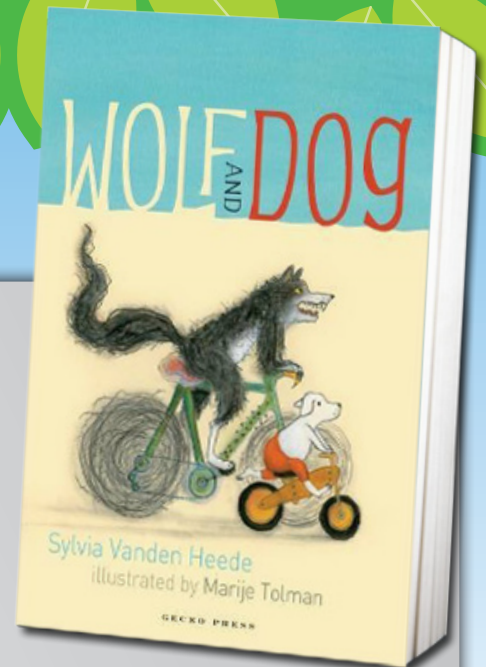
This is a delightful children's book with a rather unusual format and deliciously wicked illustrations. I didn't have any appropriately aged children to try it out on, but that's ok because I'm pretty juvenile myself and I LOVED it!

It is written almost in the style of verse by a successful, well regarded Dutch author and makes much of rhyming and word play. Fortunately the English translation works very well. In addition, it neatly makes the point that wolf and dog are closely related, in this case, cousins. I particularly like the fact that

although the close relationship is noted, there is considerable emphasis on the fact that Dog has a "Boss" whereas Wolf is "wild". In this case Wolf is also rather uncouth! So you see, the book also has educational value!

It really is a book to be enjoyed by anybody from 3 years and up, both for the stories and the glorious illustrations by Marije Tolman. I can thoroughly recommend it.

Sue Hull, Trust Director



The Last Wild

by Piers Torday

This book is about a 12 year old boy called Kester, who is locked up in Spectrum Hall, the most 'boring school in the world' It is on an island run by Sewlyn Stone, who owns Facto, the only company remaining in the world.

The book is set after a deadly disease has killed hundreds of animals. As a result humans have fled the mainland for the island. When a flock of excitable pigeons invade his room at Spectrum Hall, Kester discovers his life is about

to change forever. During his adventure to save the last animals, Kester meets some unique characters, from an excitable wolf pup to a Great Stag.

This gripping, inventive book is bound to keep any child spellbound. *The Last Wild* manages to be both thought-provoking and a real page turner.

One aspect I was unsure of was how the wolf pack were first portrayed. It seems to mirror the current conflict going on between wolves and humans but the author has flipped the roles so humans are the ones being persecuted. It is an ideal read for children 9+ who are able to keep up with a fast paced storyline.

Tara Armstrong





A Day in The Life of...

a Work Experience student



So many of you have asked us how you can get to work with wolves or in conservation when you're older. Well, *Wolf Chronicle* is here to help! We'll be running a series of features on people who already work in the field and they will give you an idea of what is involved with their job.

First up is **Emma Holt** who has been doing work experience at the Trust. She is studying for a BSc in Animal Management and Applied Science at Sparsholt College and says "no establishment in my opinion is as committed and as dedicated to contributing to the conservation of animals as the UKWCT is." Her favourite wolf is Torak as "he was the first wolf I'd ever met face to face."

SPECIAL WOLF CONSERVATION EDITION



Monday - Photography Day

- 🐾 Listened to induction for photo day.
- 🐾 Food preparation - weighed out meat selection for each wolf.
- 🐾 Helped with photography day by throwing meat over the fence to feed wolves / encourage them into better positions.
- 🐾 Cleaned Beenham pack kennels (Nuka, Tala, Tundra).
- 🐾 Watched information talk.
- 🐾 Went on wolf walk with public and talked to them about wolves.
- 🐾 Set out food and scent trail for Arctic pack.
- 🐾 Cleaned food preparation room and washed up food buckets.



Butchering a deer for the wolves' dinner - yum!



Goats Madge and Lily out for a walk.

Tuesday

- 🐾 Goat feeding in the morning. Let them out and walked them for an hour.
- 🐾 Wild bird feeding - topping up the Trust bird tables.
- 🐾 Site maintenance which includes trench digging (to help water drain from enclosures) and wood chip spreading.
- 🐾 Food preparation.
- 🐾 Meat fridge cleaning and food room cleaning.
- 🐾 Hand feeding the wolves.
- 🐾 Supervised socialisation with the Beenham pack (Nuka, Tala, Tundra).



Emma gets some quality Tala time!

Turn over for more!



WE'D LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU AT ukwolfconservationtrust@googlemail.com



Wednesday - Children's Wolf Easter Egg Hunt

- Goat feeding in the morning. Let them out and walked them for an hour.
- Deep cleaned goat shed.
- Kennel cleaning (Artics, Beenhams/Motomo/Mai).
- Helped to prepare wolf enrichment.
- Helping out with the kids Easter event.
- Wolf walk.
- Helped set egg trail for wolves enrichment.
- Helped set up a chocolate egg hunt for the children.
- Food preparation for Thursday.
- Food room cleaning.



Treat filled eggs for the wolves.



Tala and Nuka pose on a log while out on a walk.

Thursday - Wolf Keeper Day

- Goat feeding in the morning. Let them out.
- Helped out with the 'keeper for a day' experience.
- Kennel cleaning / disinfecting.
- Enrichment wolf walk with the Beenham pack.
- Feeding (deer/beef/chicken/raw eggs).
- Helped prepare enrichment by making a straw deer for the wolves.
- Retrieved camera trap to check photos.
- Wild bird feeding.
- Walk with Beenham pack (keeper for a day walk).
- Cleaned up food prep room after experience day then locked up.

DID YOU KNOW?

A wolf can eat around 9kg in 1 sitting? That's the equivalent of eating 80 hamburgers!



Friday - Big Clean Up Day

- Goat feeding in the morning. Let them out.
- Cleaning day: Sweep/h Hoover/mop/wipe down observation room, shop, toilets, Education room, volunteer Porta-cabin.
- Empty all bins on site.
- Clean and disinfect: Food preparation room, meat fridges, bowls/buckets, doors, handles, taps and switches.
- Food preparation and get out meat to defrost for the weekend.
- Feeding wolves (beef/chicken).
- Started making new signs for nature trail.
- Feed wild birds.
- Cleaned food room and volunteer Porta-cabin.



Making a fake deer for the wolves' enrichment - it's a mucky job!



The camera trap reveals this badger.



Meeting the wolves on one of the event walks.

Feature

The Red Wolf

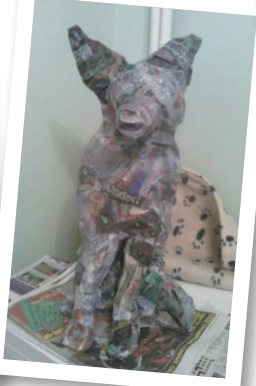
We just had to feature 11 year old Megan Neilson's amazing artwork which was part of her project on the endangered Red Wolf - well done, Megan!

"At The Mountbatten School, in Romsey, Southampton, year 7 were asked to do a science project for homework about endangered animals. I chose the Red Wolf. I made a poster full of facts and a model of a Red Wolf."

Step by step of how I made my model...



● I used chicken wire to mould the body.



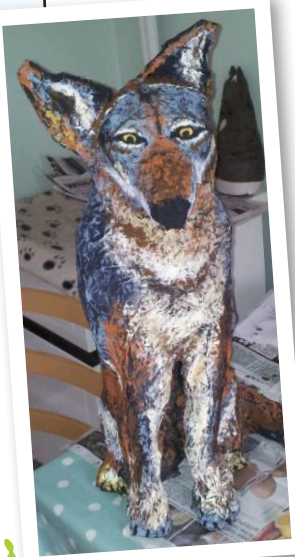
● I covered it in paper mache.



● I painted it all over in a dark grey base colour.

● Finally I added the detail.

Being a member of the Wolf Trust and having visited/walked with your wolves on many occasions, it was you and my love of wolves that inspired me to choose The Red Wolf as my topic.



DID YOU KNOW?

Between 2008 and 2012, the UKWCT donated **£10,000** to the Red Wolf Coalition, supporting their conservation efforts.

The Red Wolf is critically endangered and found only in North Carolina, USA. By the 1980s they were declared extinct in the wild but thanks to conservation efforts they are slowly making a comeback.

There is still debate amongst scientists and conservationists whether or not the Red Wolf should be regarded as a sub species of the grey wolf, or a separate wolf species altogether.

As technology and research methods progress, more discoveries are being made all of the time.

SPECIAL WOLF CONSERVATION EDITION



Wolf Facts

SPECIAL WOLF CONSERVATION EDITION



Getting to know the Ethiopian Wolf

Deborah Duguid Farrant tells you all about this very rare and beautiful wolf.



There are currently three recognised species of wolf - *Canis lupus* (Grey wolf, which has 17 known sub species), *Canis rufus* (Red wolf) and *Canis simensis* (Ethiopian wolf). We are going to get to know about the Ethiopian wolf which is critically endangered as there are less than 500 of them in the world. All of them can be found on the Bale and Simian Mountains in Ethiopia. There are none in captivity as the Ethiopian government feels that they can be looked after better in their natural environment.

How big is the Ethiopian wolf? It weighs 24 to 42lbs (11 to 19kg). They are 2½ to 3 feet (84 to 100cms) long (head/body), their tail is 10½ to 15½ inches (27 to 40cms) and they are 1½ to 2 inches (53 to 62cms) tall to their shoulders.

What do they look like? They have a slender snout, large ears, chestnut fur with a white to gingery undercoat and their chin, chest, inside of their ears and their underbellies are white. Young wolves are a greyish

colour and the females go slightly yellow during the breeding season.

What do they eat? Their favourite food is the giant mole rat; which, along with three species of grass rat, is their main diet. They tend to hunt alone unlike other wolf species who hunt mostly in packs.

Do they live in packs? Yes, a pack is usually made up of 3 to 13 wolves. The males tend to stay with their birth pack and it is the females that leave and find new pack mates. The highest ranking female mates with a male from another pack nearby to lessen the risk of inbreeding (having cubs with brothers, uncles or their dad) as this would cause deformities.

When do they have their cubs? The highest ranking female gives birth to a litter of three to six

DID YOU KNOW?

Ethiopian wolves are rarer than pandas!



Turn over for more!

cubs in her den sometime between October and December.

🐾 Why are they at risk? Humans encroaching on their territory and changing the landscape to farm land, separating the packs, causes problems for the wolves because it creates less choice for mating and keeping their cubs healthy. The loss of habitat means less food for the rats which in turn could lead to starvation for the wolves. Their biggest threats, however, are rabies and distemper, potentially dangerous viruses found in canines. The diseases are spread not only by infected wolves, but also by the local feral (wild) dog population. Breeding with feral dogs is another threat.

🐾 Is anything being done to help the Ethiopian wolf? Each year scientists

vaccinate the local dog population and a large amount of the wolf population against rabies and distemper. Without vaccination, the scientists feel that over 300 of the estimated 490 wolves in existence would die if there were a major rabies outbreak. They also sterilise some of the feral dogs. This stops them having puppies.

For more information about the Ethiopian Wolf and how you can help go to: www.ethiopianwolfproject.com



You can now buy your very own Ethiopian wolf from the Wolf Trust store!

https://ukwct.org.uk/shop/ecom/index.php?action=ecom.pdetails&mode=ethiopian_wolf

Quiz

The Mexican Wolf

The Mexican wolf is the rarest and most genetically distinct subspecies of the grey wolf. See how much you know about them!



- 1 Where in the world would you find Mexican wolves?
- 2 Where were Mexican wolves once found?
- 3 Mexican wolves live in which of the following habitats?
a) woods, grasslands and shrublands; b) low deserts; c) wetlands; d) polar regions
- 4 What is the scientific (Latin) name for Mexican wolves?
- 5 What do Mexican wolves eat?
- 6 What colour are Mexican wolves?
- 7 How many breeding pairs are there thought to be currently living in the wild?
- 8 How do Mexican wolves differ to their northern cousins?
- 9 What does 'critically endangered' mean?
- 10 Why is the Mexican wolf critically endangered?

DID YOU KNOW?
The UKWCT has donated £2000 to the Mexican Wolf Fund to help in their conservation efforts.

Read the Discover page on the Kids' Den to find out the answers. Remember to check back to the member's section in a few weeks to find out how many you got right!

WE'D LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU AT ukwolfconservationtrust@googlemail.com

Feature

SPECIAL
WOLF
CONSERVATION
EDITION



Conservation in Motion: Yellowstone, Return of a Legend

Wolf Chronicle editor Danny takes us on a personal journey looking at the reintroduction of wolves to Yellowstone National Park in the USA.

alongside him. He had heard of the UK Wolf Conservation Trust and as a 'thank you' for the work we do in helping the wolf, he awarded us 'Wolf Ambassador badges'.


Why did we need to return wolves to the wilds of Yellowstone? Wolves were once common throughout North America but were almost eradicated by the mid-1930s. In the early 1990s conservationists campaigned to bring back the wolf to Yellowstone as, since their removal, the balance of

In June 2012 I travelled to Yellowstone National Park, famous for its geysers, waterfalls and abundant wildlife. But what is its real claim to fame? It is the home of the grey wolf.

Thanks to the reintroduction of wolves in 1995, Yellowstone National Park is one of the best places to see and hear wolves in their natural habitat. You always know when a wolf is close by. Wolf watchers gather on hillsides, and along the road with their spotting scopes, in the hope of catching a glimpse. Wolf watching involves a lot of waiting around!

While watching one of the Lamar Canyon Pack one evening we met Bill Wengeler, who was one of those responsible for returning wolves to Yellowstone. It was an honour to meet him and be out spotting wolves

nature had been disrupted. The increasing elk population was overgrazing the willow banks which affected the beaver and the lack of an apex predator (i.e. the wolf) saw a boom in the coyote population. This impacted on the mortality rate of red fox and pronghorn antelope which severely affected the park's ecosystem.

 In 1995 14 wolves were captured in Alberta, Canada and relocated to acclimatisation pens in the Lamar Valley of Yellowstone in a grand wolf restoration project.



Lamar Valley wolf watchers (below) and Danny's wolf ambassador badge.





Photos: Danny Kidby-Hunter


Turn over for more!


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 In 1996 an additional 17 wolves were brought to the project from British Columbia, Canada.

 By capturing individual wolves from different locations it provided a greater gene pool for the new Yellowstone population.


 By 1996 31 wolves were released into the park.

 By bringing back the wolf to Yellowstone National Park, other



Coyotes were becoming a problem in Yellowstone before wolf introduction.

struggling species like the beaver, red fox and pronghorn antelope made a comeback.

 The 1995 Yellowstone reintroduction

has been hailed as one of the most successful conservation programmes of our time.

To read more about the wolf reintroduction to Yellowstone and Danny's trip, log on to the Kids Den section at www.ukwolf.org.

Coyote photo: Danny Kidby-Hunter

Events

CHILDREN'S WOLF WALKS

● Monday 22nd July, Thursday 8th August and Wednesday 28th August 2013
11am - 2pm

£13 per person.

Maximum of 2 adults per booking.

Take a walk with UKWCT wolves. Includes a short talk and a tour of the centre.

WOLFY PICNIC

● Wednesday 31st July and Monday 12th August 2013
10am - 1pm

£15 per person (6 years +).

Maximum of 2 adults per booking.

Take a walk with the wolves then spend time making some special summer treats for them. Bring a picnic to enjoy whilst watching the wolves after the event.



WOLFY ART

● Monday 19th August 2013
11am - 3pm

£15 per child (6-12 years).

£13 per adult (max. 2 adults per booking).

Come and get creative and walk with wolves! Artist Susan Smith is here to create some wolfy artwork with you. Gather inspiration on a wolf walk then, while your parents enjoy some tea and coffee, you'll join Susan in the Education Centre to start your artwork. At lunch you'll meet up with your parents then take them to the Education Centre to add the finishing touches to your work. Packed lunch required.

Event photo: Julia Brown

Events

UKWCT OPEN DAY

● Monday 27th May 2013
11am - 5pm

Advance tickets

£8 - adults and non-members

£5 - members, children (3-11 years) and senior citizens. Children under three are free.

£24 - family ticket (2 adults and 2 children)

On the day at the gate

£10- adults and non-members

£5 - members, children (3-11 years) and senior citizens. Children under three are free.

£30 - family ticket (2 adults and 2 children)

Tickets are available via our online shop. Booking not required. Sorry, no dogs on site. The site is accessible for those with mobility scooters and wheelchairs.

We've plenty to see and do!

- Look around the Trust
- See our wolves
- Photography sessions from the platform and holding areas
- Ask the experts about living with wolves
- Listen to the wolves howling
- Hug a Husky
- Quirks Animal Roadshow



- Other animal exhibits
- Birds of prey flying demonstrations
- Archery
- Childrens' activities including face-painting, nature trail, pond dipping and bouncy castle
- Refreshments and picnic tables available

Motoro photo: Paul Tyrer Wolf costume photo: Tara Armstrong