

Wolf Print

UK Wolf Conservation Trust Issue 50 Autumn Winter 2013



Seminar Reviews



Christmas gifts for all



Wolf news from the Trust and around the world





Editor's Letter

We have reached an important

milestone in the evolution of Wolf Print: this will be our 50th issue. I have worked with and

learnt from all its previous editors: Denise Taylor, Toni Shelbourne and Vicky Hughes. I would like to thank them for being such excellent role models – the magazine has always been a strong team effort and with Gillian at Business Pluspoint working her magic on design and layout, it is now something to be proud of: a good blend of relevant lupine news, research and even the arts. We are not afraid to tackle some of the more visceral or controversial aspects of the wolf world – it is all about what is relevant.

We should all feel proud that at our recent seminar (reviewed on pages 22 to 23), two of our speakers, Dr Cristina Eisenberg and Dr Doug Smith, praised Wolf Print. In that same weekend, I also talked to some of the brilliant and hardworking Trust volunteers. Wolf News is written by those who know (and love) our magnificent animals best and is not only an invaluable insight into the Trust but also a window on closely observed animal behaviour – those small, interesting things that makes each animal unique. Wolf Print hopefully is the culmination of practical knowledge and science, in a readable format. There are a number of diverse talents and skills at the Trust – with all of us working for a common goal: the conservation of the animal that is an iconic representation of what it is to be wild.

In this issue, there are write-ups on seminars near and far, an informative article on wolf communication and the winning entries for the Joan Paddick Wildlife Photography Awards (pages 4 to 6). More and more I am discovering people doing interesting things in the lupine world – particularly children's authors who can help shape young minds in a positive way, by avoiding tooth and claw clichés when depicting large predators.

I am honoured to be Editor. Now onwards and upwards!

Julia Bohanna

Julia Bohanna
Editor

WOLF PRINT Issue 50

Editor

Julia Bohanna

Tel: 0118 971 3330 Email: editor@ukwolf.org

Assistant Editor

Danny Kidby-Hunter

Editorial Team

Tara Armstrong

Angela Barrow

Pete Haswell

Lynn Kent

Tsa Palmer

Denise Taylor

Patrons

Martin 'Wolfie' Adams

David Clement-Davies

Cornelia 'Neil' Hutt

Desmond Morris

Marco Musiani

Michelle Paver

The UK Wolf Conservation Trust Directors

Nigel Bulmer

Anne Carter

Charles Hicks

Sue Hull

Linda Malliff

Tsa Palmer

Specialist Advisors

Alistair Bath

Garry Marvin

Kirsty Peake

Claudio Sillero

Denise Taylor

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Aims of the UK Wolf Conservation Trust

- To increase public awareness and knowledge of wild wolves and their place in the ecosystem.
- To provide opportunities for ethological and other research that may improve the lives of wolves both in captivity and in the wild.
- To provide wolf-related education programmes for young people and adults.
- To raise money to help fund wolf-related conservation projects around the world.

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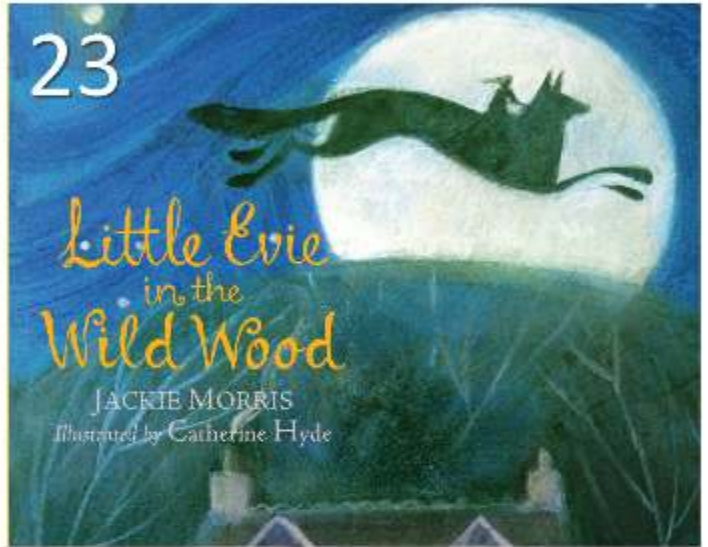
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The Joan Paddick Photography Awards 2013 – the winners

FOREWORD

Danny Kidby-Hunter, Competition Coordinator

The Joan Paddick Photography Awards were launched in February 2013 by the Trust – our very first photography competition – to pay tribute to one of its most dedicated volunteers. Joan, who sadly passed away in 2012, was known for her love of nature and the striking images she captured. We wanted to recognise the talents of those naturalists and aspiring photographers who also raise awareness of nature through breathtaking imagery.

We received well over 100 submissions across each of the categories and, with great difficulty, drew up a shortlist of 26. All images were judged anonymously. Although we obviously looked for aesthetic and technical qualities, great emphasis was placed on ethics, respect, exploration and capturing the essence of nature. The volume of entries and the standard of those entries was phenomenal.

We had hoped entrants would pave the way for the future of the competition. I think you will agree, they most certainly have...

THE JUDGES

Teresa Palmer (UKWCT Managing Director and co-founder), Danny Kidby-Hunter (UKWCT Wolf Keeper and Student Co-ordinator), Victoria Allison (Assistant Senior Handler), Jim Dutcher (award-winning wildlife filmmaker, photographer and conservationist), Jamie Dutcher (award-winning sound recordist, photographer and conservationist) and Bob Brind-Surch (naturalist and award-winning wildlife photographer).

To all of those who entered, on behalf of the judging panel, the UKWCT and the Paddick family, we thank you for supporting the Joan Paddick Photography Awards 2013. We hope you will continue to enjoy nature and look forward to seeing your images in 2014!



OVERALL WINNER: "Squabbling Starlings" by Rose Ravenscroft and WINNER 18+ category

"I took this photograph of two juvenile starlings squabbling late in the afternoon on 25 June 2012. I'd just put some food out on the bird table in my front garden at Freiston Shore, Lincolnshire. Within minutes a number of young starlings arrived and soon polished it all off."

Bob Brind-Surch: *"What really makes this one for me is not just the perfect composition, the sharp image and the great background, but the story...the photographer has managed to capture not just that moment but two very different individual attitudes in the birds. The behaviour captured is stunning."*

Danny Kidby-Hunter: *"Birds were a popular contender in this year's competition but this one stood out from the rest with its energetic content."*

Jim and Jamie Dutcher: *"We all agreed that this was a very difficult group to judge. We went for behaviour and*

composition rather than technical aspects, which in the end, was what really divides them. The behaviour is captured really well and we just kept coming back to it."



Puffins – Hannah Lewis

WINNER age 13–17 category

"Puffins at the puffin colony on the Isle of Staffa, Scotland.

Taken at 4.07pm, on 26 July 2013."

Bob Brind-Surch: *"The exposure is perfect – black and white is never easy but there is nothing under or over exposed and there is detail in the white and black feathers."*

Jim and Jamie Dutcher:

"There were more than just a few entries which were really impressive! We think the stage is set for a bigger showing next year."



Seal on Beach – Veda Kavanagh, **WINNER** – Wolf Team



"This was my first time to use my DSLR camera bought only days before my holiday to Hemsby near The Norfolk Broads. Locals had told me about a colony of seals that come yearly to breed nearby that due to the long winter were still around. I walked on the beach every day. On 11 May, my last day at around 1pm I got to see the best sights ever, a whole colony of seals."

Bob Brind-Surch:

"A superb sharp detailed photo. Seals are creatures of the wide open seas and only come out on a beach to bask or pup. It's very tempting to zoom in very close and exclude the surroundings. You have also nailed the focus and exposure perfectly."

Hungry Swallow Chicks – Isobel Sykes

WINNER age 6–12 category

"We have swallows nesting inside our garage. My dad lifted me up onto the beams and I sat all day watching the mum and dad feed the hungry chicks."

Bob Brind-Surch:

"This is a brilliant picture – well captured – well timed – well exposed and well composed. Getting both chicks with their beaks open was a real achievement and the jaunty angle really works well. An absolute masterpiece."

Danny Kidby-Hunter: *"[The competition] was not just about taking a nice photograph, but to capture a moment in time and unravel a story which would provoke feeling and emotion in the viewer."*



The Joan Paddick Photography Awards 2013 – the runners-up

Puffin Howling at the Sun – Alastair Wilson

RUNNER-UP 18+ category

“Atlantic Puffin howling at the setting sun. Hermaness National Nature Reserve, Unst, Shetland, on 29 June 2009 at 22:24hrs.”

Danny Kidby-Hunter:

“This was a sensational image. Puffins are often viewed as quirky little characters and what I love about this is how the photographer has depicted the animal in a more noble and gracious light.”



Male Broad-bodied Chaser Dragonfly – Clive Longbottom, **RUNNER-UP Wolf Team**

“Broad-bodied chaser at rest above a pond at Merriments Gardens, near Rye, Sussex, June 2013.”

Bob Brind-Surch: *“Dragonflies...have fantastic eyesight and can respond really quickly making approaching them very difficult. They are also active in the brightest of sunshine making exposure very tricky. A great photo of a very difficult subject.”*

The Brave Fox – Nicola Perry
RUNNER-UP age 13–17 category

“This photo was taken in Colchester in our back garden. As it came towards the end of the day me and my little brother saw this fox playing outside at the bottom of our garden. It was rolling around and watching us and wasn’t afraid of us at all!”

Bob Brind-Surch: *“Foxes are becoming so brave and accustomed to people in urban settings now but it’s always great to observe and photograph them. This one was well seen and clearly the photographer enjoyed the experience.”*



Starling and Caterpillar – Milly Pope, **RUNNER-UP age 6–12 category**

“On 15 May, in the morning, I saw a colourful starling perched on the arch where the bird feeders hang. I thought it was a great opportunity to take a picture of a pretty wet bird with a huge caterpillar in its beak. I use my Dad’s Nikon P521 camera when he’s not looking!”

Danny Kidby-Hunter: *“Sometimes hearing about the back story of how a photograph was taken is just as interesting as the image itself. I particularly love that Milly ‘borrows’ her dad’s camera when he’s not looking!”*



Reflections – Pui Hang Miles
HIGHLY COMMENDED

Danny Kidby-Hunter: *“This was one of my favourite images of the competition. You really could turn it upside-down and almost not know which way is which – almost.”*



Teresa Palmer: *“I was extremely impressed with both the number and the high quality of those entries in our competition in memory of Joan. Joan would, I know, have so appreciated the competition and would have loved to have been part of it all. The annual competition is a lasting legacy to a special wolf volunteer.”*

Trust News

Wolf Awareness Week 2013

In celebration of Wolf Awareness Week, the Trust ran a full schedule of events, from children's creative writing workshops to seminars with world-renowned speakers.

To kick-start the celebrations, children's writers Michelle Paver, author of *The Chronicles of Ancient Darkness*, and Piers Torday, author of *The Last Wild*, took children through the process of creating a gripping story at our creative writing workshops.

Wednesday saw professional wildlife photographer, Bob Brind-Surch teaching photography students the tricks of the trade and showing them how to capture creative wildlife images.

On Thursday we held our last Open Day of the year and people were given the opportunity to visit and enjoy a day observing the wolves.

On Friday avid photographers spent the day photographing and learning about our wolves. They then joined Tala and Nuka on a walk which allowed them to get up close and personal.

We ended the week-long celebrations with our two seminars, which saw wolf experts from around the world. Speakers included Dr Doug Smith, Dr Cristina Eisenburg, Paul



A busy day in the Trust's shop for speaker and author Doug Smith

Lister and Will Burrard-Lucas. (For Julia Bohanna's write-up on the seminar please see pages 20–21.)

Thank you to all those who supported us by attending the events and we hope to see you again soon!

Work Experience: Casting Tracks

Since spotting a huge wolf print left behind from a walk with Mosi, Mai and Torak in 2007, I've wanted to try to examine and 'capture' a Trust wolf track.



2013: When I arrived for a work experience placement, my experiments with plaster, mud and perfume began!

On a metre-long stretch of muddy track near the fence inside the Arctic enclosure, I dampened/loosened the earth with a trowel and water then smoothed it over like wet cement. I sprinkled around interesting scents like coffee, perfume etc, to convince the wolves to walk across.

The Arctic Pack, who had been shut out, returned. Later that day, the pack was shut out again and left behind were seven clear paw prints.

Initially, I simply mixed one part plaster to one part water, tapped the mixing container to remove the air bubbles, then poured the mix straight on a few of the tracks where it overflowed a little, all the while watched intently by Massak, Pukak and Sikko from the other side of the fence.

Later, I began using inch-high rings cut from plastic milk cartons (see left) encasing the prints to make solid, square tracks. I then covered them all with protective plastic bin bags, held down by rocks and logs and left them overnight to set.

The next morning, some of casts without a container cracked on being dug out of the ground. The hard plastic casing seemed a better option.

One batch failed to set in the Beenham's enclosure. With no plaster



left to cast Nuka's huge muddy print, I dug it up and let it dry. Variations were interesting: marks of fur between the pads, specific claw length and even a three-toed print from Tala's back paw. I learnt that you should:

- Add plaster to water, rather than vice versa
- Remember that casts are fragile
- Test out the quality of the plaster on a small project first
- Use a container to make fragmentation less likely
- Not use bin bags as a liner

Helen Hobin

Trust News



Torak, by Tara Armstrong

Howl'oween

The wolves have been enjoying some fantastic enrichment activities recently.

September saw them enjoying juicy watermelons and during the October half term, the wolves chowed down on some specially prepared pumpkins!

To celebrate Halloween, some of our young supporters gutted pumpkins and then carved out some great wolfy designs before stuffing the insides with hot dogs, tuna, black pudding and cheese! The wolves loved working out how to rip open the pumpkins to get to all of the meaty treats inside!



Mosi, by Danny Kidby-Hunter

DONATION NEWS

The UK Wolf Conservation Trust donated to the following wolf projects in October 2013.

- £1,000 to Balkani Wildlife Society in Bulgaria
- £4,000 to Chisty Les Biological Station in Russia
- £2,000 to the Red Wolf Coalition in the USA



Photo by
Vladimir
Bologov



facebook

Did you know that you can follow us on Facebook? With nearly 7,000 followers and daily updates, it's the best way to keep up to date with what is happening at the Trust as well as out in the wolf community. You'll find lots of fun facts, news of events, special offers and great photos.

Like us at
<https://www.facebook.com/UKWolfTrust>



REISSWOLF SUPPORTS 'NUKA' AT THE UK WOLF CONSERVATION TRUST

PRESS RELEASE

REISSWOLF LONDON LTD (RWL), one of the UK's market-leading secure, confidential document destruction specialists, is sponsoring a two-year-old-male wolf named 'Nuka' at the UK Wolf Conservation Trust (UKWCT) as part of its ongoing strategy to support community and organisational programmes.

RWL chose to support the UKWCT on the strength of its global awareness-raising, educational focus and its non-profit-making status. The Trust, through its international network of contacts, works with schools, colleges and universities throughout the UK and dedicates its time supporting projects and creating awareness, improving the lives of wild wolves globally.

Owners Roger and Tsa Palmer formed the Trust on their land in a sleepy Berkshire village in 1995. Prior to this, they had kept a private collection of wolves for many years. Ever since, Tsa and her committed team of volunteers have worked tirelessly with their ten ambassador wolves that really are the showcase of the Trust.

Nuka, a grey wolf, born on 3rd May 2011 is one of the ambassador wolves at the Trust and is of a playful nature, making him a very endearing and interesting character to be around. He lives with his sisters Tala and Tundra and is a real crowd-pleaser who loves attention.

RWL, established in Germany in 1995, provides a secure data destruction service trading in 27 countries with 95 partners/branches. Priding itself in old-fashioned values of trust, security and exceptional customer service, RWL provides a range of container options from sacks to secure aluminium bins that can be exchanged on a schedule or ad hoc basis.



Nuka, by Danny Kidby-Hunter

All material collected is shred within 24 hrs to BSIA Level 6 and shipped to a UK paper mill where it is recycled into paper hygiene products, providing a zero landfill solution.

Through its sponsorship, RWL aims to encourage the community to not only recycle confidential waste paper, but also all paper media, cardboard, textiles, plastics and WEEE (waste electrical and electronic equipment). The collection of such items will enable RWL to raise funds to promote wolf conservation and support worldwide wolf-related projects.

Commenting on the launch of its recent project, Managing Director, Gary Tait explains: "It's great to be part of such a worthy trust. We look forward to following Nuka's progress and supporting the various projects that the UKWCT are involved with. We are totally committed to improving our corporate social responsibility wherever possible and through the UKWCT project we will be able to continue to implement our zero-to-landfill programme."

Reisswolf London Ltd
01525 379405, www.rw-london.co.uk

The Joan Paddick Photography Awards 2013 – Winners' Day

On 12th October the winners of our Joan Paddick Photography Awards attended their private photography day here at the Trust.

The winners were presented their prizes and certificates by Trust officials and then they and their guests spent the morning

photographing our ambassador wolves. The Paddick family also attended the day to meet and congratulate the winners on their winning images. In the afternoon the winners and their guests joined the Beenham Pack on their weekend walk and some were even honoured with a few friendly licks from Nuka and Tala!





DIRECTOR'

ANOTHER YEAR AT THE TRUST DRAWS TO A CLOSE.

The wolves have all enjoyed the warm summer weather, lazing in their enclosures. The new pond in the top enclosure was certainly a good investment, as on the hottest days, the Arctic pack happily splashed and played in it, much to the visitors' delight.

We have had three very busy open days this year, with around 2,000 visitors on each day. Although this has obviously been successful in financial terms and for getting publicity and increasing awareness of the Trust, I feel that we have been victims of our own success. These open days have now grown too busy for us to be able to talk to visitors in a meaningful way about the wolves and about the work the Trust is doing in supporting projects and wolf conservation. We have had a couple of negative reviews on Tripadvisor about our open days (but a great many good ones) where visitors have in a snapshot visit reported that we are like a zoo. We are fundamentally very different from zoos and other institutions in that our wolves have special relationships with handlers and it is reciprocated. There are crucial differences between the aims that underpin the UKWCT and those of other institutions: everything we do with the wolves is based on a fine balance between creating the greatest good for wolves as a species, getting the most amount of publicity for, awareness of, education about and raising funds for wolves and wolf projects worldwide, whilst on the other hand caring for and giving our own wolves the best quality of life possible. Of course, this is a continual juggling act and thus sometimes needs tweaking.

However, the ultimate goals of the Trust and its role and successes remain strong and, although it is sad to see negative criticism, we see that:

1. The Tripadvisor 5-star rating and a 'Certificate of Excellence 2013' for the Trust is phenomenally impressive
2. Negative feedback can be useful
3. Some people give negative feedback without being able to judge fairly, or using the wrong and unhelpful criteria that no animals should be in captivity ever. The wolves in captivity really have to be the necessary result of a greater project of conservation and education (and our wolves are very happy and cared for anyway). I do not think they understand that captive wolves and humans have a very tightrope relationship consisting of respect, reverence, playfulness and friendship. We want anyone who visits to see and understand how the volunteers have strong relationships with the wolves and how it is reciprocated.

S LETTER



NEW FOR 2014

Instead of having three large open days, we have decided that visitors will now be able to drop in without prior booking every Wednesday. From 8 January, between 11am and 4 pm, volunteers and work experience students will welcome visitors to the Trust to show and talk about our wolves. There will be an opportunity to watch a new DVD in the Education Room about the work of the Trust and the projects we support, as well as time to have a leisurely picnic if the weather is nice or a browse in the shop. We feel most importantly of all that the wolves will be relaxed with smaller amounts of visitors and there will be better photographic opportunities. We have had so many requests from people to visit the Trust that we feel this should accommodate those wanting to bring guests and family. We will continue to have school and college groups and run wolf keeper and photographic days on other days of the week. However, these Wednesday visiting days mean we will no longer be offering visiting memberships.

LOOKING FORWARD

The wolves have a lot to look forward to in the Christmas season ahead. Firstly, there is the sold-out Christmas Cracker event in December, when they will have their favourite treats such as hot dogs and cheese wrapped as crackers for them to undo and eat. There is also a new event – Howling Christmas – on Friday, 20th December (see page 35).

We look forward to seeing you in 2014 and hope you have a very Happy Christmas and New Year.

Tsa Palmer, Director

GOODBYE

This year has seen two key members of the Trust leave, which is always sad. I would like to thank both Clive Readings and Vicky Allison in all they have done for the wolves and the development of the Trust.

In 2004, Clive stepped in after my husband Roger's untimely death, to take the position of Wolf Keeper and Site Manager. Clive had recently retired from the Fire Service and had been a volunteer at the Trust since 2002. So it was a complete career change for him, as he had no background in animal care as such. However, his passion for the wolves was obvious.

In Clive's nine-year tenure working at the Trust he looked after 17 wolves.

His deep commitment to the wolves and his high standard of care was evident for all to see and commented on by many visitors. The highlight of his time here was the night of the birth of Tundra, Tala and Nuka, when he and I were anxiously on duty and witnessed the births first hand. The subsequent hand-raising of the cubs and also the earlier arrival of Torak, Mosi and Mai were busy and particularly fulfilling days for him.

Clive did an enormous amount in the development of the site. In 2004, the building we now proudly use as the Visitors' Centre and shop, was an untidy barn which Clive transformed by painting it and fitting the shelves and display cabinets. The facilities on site, with the Education Room and photographic areas for the visitors, have improved beyond recognition. The wolves have also benefited from new platforms and ponds to better their enrichment. We wish him well.

Vicky came to the Trust in 2005 as a work experience student while studying Animal Behaviour at

Wiltshire College and undertook a dissertation "Do wolves self medicate?" by providing each of the wolf enclosures with troughs containing planted herbs, to see if the wolves would eat them.

She obtained a first class mark in the dissertation and concluded that wolves do self-medicate, which was fascinating. In 2006 when Torak, Mosi and Mai arrived she was very involved in their upbringing and had a natural rapport with them. In 2008 Vicky joined the Trust staff as Assistant Education Officer and was promoted to Education Officer and Editor of Wolf Print when Toni Shelbourne left in 2011. Her daughter Megan was now two years old, so Vicky reduced her hours to combine the job with childcare. Megan started full time school this September, so Vicky has decided to take a part time job as Lecturer at Wiltshire College, which fits with Megan's school term times. We are always at our busiest here at the Trust in the school holidays!

AND WELCOME

We will miss both Clive and Vicky and hope they continue to come and visit the wolves. To replace them both we have Danny Kidby-Hunter, Wolf Keeper and Student Co-ordinator and Tara Armstrong, who joined the staff in February this year and is currently Conservation Coordinator.

Both Danny and Tara are hugely enthusiastic about their additional responsibilities and brimming with new ideas...so watch this space!

Finally, we welcome Julia Bohanna as the new editor of Wolf Print. Julia has been involved with the magazine in one way or another since its launch 15 years ago in 1998.



Update on the Trust Wolves

Our six youngest wolves are now rising three years old and reaching maturity. In the wild, wolves at this age leave their family in their third year in the breeding season to find a mate. Maturity in wolves always brings increased tension in the pack. In captivity this development makes managing wolves much more difficult. When our female European sisters Lunca and Latea reached this age and also more recently Mosi and Mai, these siblings became very aggressive to each other in order to see who was the dominant wolf. In the case of Mosi and Mai, Mosi repeatedly tried to dominate and attack Mai – resulting in injury and us having to separate the girls and find another companion for Mai. Fearing history will repeat itself, we have tried to pre-empt this behaviour by having Tundra and Tala spayed and Nuka castrated next spring. Thus we hope that the Beenham

pack will continue to be able to live together. We spayed Sikko and castrated Massak and Pukak last year to pre-empt hormone-related aggression between the two males, which has so far been successful. However, as our wolves mature, they will undoubtedly become more assertive in their behaviour in meeting visitors and, mindful of the wolves' welfare and health and safety, we have taken the decision that the wolves will no longer do meet-and-greets on their walks. Visitors will be able to spend more time on their walks watching the behaviour and interaction of the Beenham and Arctic packs. The wolves will, I am sure, intermingle with visitors at some points during the walks as well as come up to people of their own accord and there will still be great photographic opportunities.

Tsa Palmer

TUNDRA (below) has kept her place as dominant female in the pack but is still very shy when out with the public. However, on a couple of occasions she has come close enough to someone to give them a good sniff and then retires to her usual place, a few metres away from the main group, where she can keep an eye on what is happening. Another event that often emboldens Tundra is if she thinks her sister Tala is not behaving as she should. This could mean anything from howling without permission, to making too much fuss of Nuka!

Angela Barrow



Both Tundra and Tala were spayed in August this year, in line with our neutering policy. Nuka was castrated last year. Tundra took longer than her sister to recover fully from the general anaesthetic and wobbled around on unsteady legs, sitting down every so often looking thoroughly confused that her legs would not behave as they should. Wolves are very tough and the following day both the girls were back to normal and clamouring to get back into the main enclosure with their brother, after being in the holding area overnight to sleep it off.

TALA (above, right) seems to accept her place as subordinate female with relatively good grace. But if Tala thinks she can get away with something, like eating Tundra's food, she will give it a try, even though it inevitably means a telling off from her sister. Tala will often start games of chase in the enclosure, encouraging her siblings to run after her.

These games also have the potential to end in a beating-up from Tundra, but if Nuka thinks Tundra has overstepped the mark he will protect Tala. Tala is fairly reserved in her dealings with the public but always affectionate to people she knows. When being sedated on site for her operation, Tala fought the sedative all the way and took a long time to go to sleep. She was also the first to get the

anaesthetic out of her system. While her sister was giving a good impression of a drunken sailor, Tala was bright, alert and pleased to see the human who came to check on her. The wolf's powers of recovery are astounding. In

the wild wolves have to be fit and ready to hunt, to protect themselves and their pack. This instinct to survive is hard-wired in a wolf's brain, even in captivity.

NUKA (pictured left) will soon be a fully mature, stunningly beautiful, male wolf. But with maturity comes confidence and he will sometimes give a quiet growl if he is not completely happy with any given situation. Much like a human teenager – not yet sure of his place in the world but metaphorically flexing his muscles to find out. The transformation will soon be complete and he will be a force to be reckoned with. Nuka has become quite a good mediator in the squabbles between his sisters and will put them in their respective places with growls, nips and lots of posturing, just as a wolf should do.



Tala, by Tony Mearman



Nuka, by Anne Carter

MAI and MOTOMO

MAI and **MOTOMO** have swapped enclosures with Mosi and Torak. Moving Motomo (right) around is not an easy task, as he is our only unsocialised wolf and cannot simply be collared up and taken out on a lead! Some intensive planning is required but, as always with wily wolves, plan A does not always work so we try plan B, and then plan C... Eventually Motomo consented to move through an adjoining gate into the desired enclosure, to be reunited with his mate Mai who had already been put in there. The resulting joyful reunion instigated by Motomo fell somewhat flat because Mai was more interested in fence running with the Arctics. That done however, Mai welcomed her mate briefly and then set about the important task of over-marking the scents left by her sister Mosi, who is also her arch enemy.



Motomo, by Tony Mearman



Mai, by Danny Kidby-Hunter

In her own mind, Mai (left) is now the Queen of the Wolf Trust since the sad loss of Duma in 2012. Mai is a confident, mature female, sure of her status. She demands respect. She still loves to come out on a walk with her favourite handlers and will rush onto the yard, squeaking with excitement, when they appear with her collar and lead. Mai is a joy to take out on her private enrichment walks; she is into everything – scenting, scraping, howling and moving at a great pace. Of course Motomo must sniff her all over when she returns to the enclosure, to find out where she's been and who has been touching her.

Motomo gets bolder every year it seems. He is no longer afraid of the humans on site and is happy to lie on the mound with Mai, just behind the fence. He regards it as a great game to pounce up to the boundary if a handler is fussing Mai through the fence. It's not such a game for the handler as Motomo makes no sound as he moves and the sudden appearance of a large wolf staring at you intently with golden eyes less than a metre away is sure to give you pause for thought!

MOSI and TORAK

MOSI and **TORAK** also love to come out on their private enrichment walks. Torak is very excited when he sees his special handlers walking towards his enclosure and rushes down to the gate to be ready for collaring up. If handlers walk past the gate and head for a different enclosure, Torak gets very cross and pulls madly at the fence with his teeth. It is difficult not to attribute human characteristics to this behaviour; he is so obviously disappointed and quite put out! Torak is looking magnificent in his summer coat and will only appear more so as he grows his warm winter undercoat in the coming weeks.



Torak, by Danny Kidby-Hunter

MOSI (foreground, right) is a little dynamo on her walks and marches her handlers along at a great speed, giving them a good work-out. There is no time to stop ... every smell leads on to a more exciting one all along her walk and each smell must be dealt with, either by rolling in it or over-marking. Mosi never fails to entertain: when she has a hessian sack soaked in tea or coffee and filled with straw from the goats' pen, she delights everyone with her antics, rolling on it, throwing it into the air and shaking it madly. It doesn't take her long to tear into the sack and get the straw out, perhaps checking that there isn't a goat hiding in there?

TORAK (left) is probably our tallest wolf, still looking magnificent at seven years old. During the summer when he had shed his undercoat he looked sleek, well-muscled and drew your attention, much the same as a rather fancy sports car! He adores his enrichment walks with his special handlers and runs happily to the gate and onto the yard to be collared up. He is a joy to take out, walking quietly but enjoying every sight, sound and



Mosi (foreground), by Darren Prescott

scent to the maximum. Torak likes his food and eats well; however, there is one particular type of food that he feels should receive attention other than eating. Paunch is the lining of an animal's stomach and is very good for the wolves, providing all sorts of nutrients that they would get from a kill in the wild. It also has a very strong smell. Torak is in ecstasy when given a large piece of paunch. First he shakes it vigorously then rolls in it; his chin gets a good rub on the paunch then he throws himself on the smelly stuff, wriggling like mad to make sure the scent reaches the entirety of his body. The rapturous expression on his face is very amusing but his devoted handlers tend to give him a wide berth for a while after this!

MASSAK, PUKAK and SIKKO

The Arctics – Massak, Pukak and Sikko – have moved house into the bottom enclosure. They still have a pond to play in and they take full advantage of it, even in the colder weather.

MASSAK is still the dominant male, despite half-hearted attempts from Pukak to challenge him. He is not quite as tall as Torak but much more heavily built, so he looks bigger overall. Massak can make himself look even bigger than he is by posturing and raising his hackles and tail to the maximum. He dwarfs Pukak during their squabbles, which is a feat in itself; Pukak is not a small wolf. Most of the time Massak is an easy-going sort of chap, still a bit wary of people he doesn't know but is getting more confident as he matures. He loves to play chase with his siblings and the pure athleticism of these wolves is wonderful to see as they race around the enclosure, jumping piles of logs and skirting their pond. They can turn on a sixpence but at this point in the game, Massak seems to be entirely composed of legs which don't always do as he wants. He knows that having back legs up around his ears is not conducive to speed and has to think hard to get them working in the right order. He is a magnificent wolf, with a playful side and a sense of humour.

SIKKO, nicknamed "Squeako," because she continually does so, is still very much the princess of the pack. With two much bigger brothers to stand up to, she has learned that she can't really compete on the size front so uses feminine wiles to get what she wants. It doesn't always work. Sikko is very affectionate to handlers but quite often gets pushed out of the way by her jealous brothers. Really the only way to ensure that Sikko gets her quota of attention is to have one handler fussing each of the wolves separately. Sikko loves the pond and can actually swim in the deepest part, which she enjoys immensely. As she emerges from the pond her coat is completely flattened against her body, making her look very sleek. After a quick head-to-toe shake, the wonderful Arctic coat is back to its full glory. Arctic wolves can survive in temperatures of -70°C ; they need excellent protection against the extreme cold. The insulation properties of their thick undercoat are outstanding and the long guard hairs that lay over the top will keep out the wettest rain, sleet and snow. Sikko had a wonderful time in the snow last winter, let's hope we get some more this year.



— Massak and Sikko, by Danny Kidby-Hunter



Pukak, by Pat Melton

PUKAK (left) can be a wolf with attitude. On the other hand, he can be affectionate and ingratiating. He is a wolf who is a bit unsure of his place in the pack but he would definitely like to have a higher status. He has never fully submitted to Massak but neither has he managed to overturn him and take over. If Pukak perceives a weakness, in a human or a sibling, he will try to exploit it. Of course all our wolves will do this: it is natural wolf survival behaviour, but Pukak makes it more obvious than most. Pukak has always loved his food, anything will do as long as it's edible. He even tries to steal Massak's food and Massak has to pull out all the stops to tell him off with growls and impressive displays of body language. Pukak takes this with a bad grace and, if a wolf could sulk, Pukak does. Pukak is the clown of the pack and does everything he can to make himself popular with his handlers – and he has succeeded. He is always the first to come and greet people and, if you let him, he will make a point of sitting in your lap. However endearing this may look it is actually a sign of dominance and handlers must take care not to encourage him. Apart from Motomo, all our wolves are socialised which simply means that due to being hand-reared, they have lost their inherent fear of humans. However, they retain the hard-wired wild instinct of their native cousins and must be treated with respect. If so treated, they will return that respect. Pukak is no different.

Individual wolf updates by Angela Barrow

Lupine secrets unlocked by technology: howling wolves have 'accents'

For wolves, communication is vital. As social creatures that require interaction in order to function as a pack, they need to be able to convey information to one another clearly and successfully. There are many different ways that wolves can communicate and each method is used for different purposes. Information can be exchanged through olfactory means, using scent marking; visually, with body posture; by tactile methods, such as grooming, and verbally with sounds such as growling. However the biggest, most recent discovery about wolf communication has been about howling, which is surely one of the most iconic lupine attributes.

Tara Armstrong reports.



BBC NATURE (bbc.co.uk/nature/23263266) reported on the recent groundbreaking discovery of how much we can actually learn from a wolf's howl and how truly unique it is. A study has shown that the mystifying, famous noise that we all love to hear can now be connected to, and thus identify, individual wolves with 100% accuracy. In science such a high level of accuracy is almost unheard of and the fact that distinct individuals can be identified with this level of confidence, is a breakthrough for wolf conservation. Some people familiar with the howls of particular wolves (such as the handlers of our own wolves) would be able to recognise some individuals by how they sound. However new technology will allow the results of the analysis to give quantitative data, where the information can be recorded and further compared in a measurable way. By being able to gather information about howls in this form, scientists will also be able to identify wild wolves, with which they would be unlikely to be familiar, giving huge advancements in the field of wolf conservation.

The discovery was made after a team at Nottingham Trent University, led by Holly Root-Gutteridge,* developed a computer programme which investigated the howl data recordings collected from wild and captive Eastern grey wolves (*Canis lupus lycaon*). The programme is unique as it allows the volume and pitch of a howl to be analysed, whereas previously only the pitch had been able to be examined. Being able to compare the extra factor of the volume (or amplitude) of each of the recordings, it is then able to highlight the distinct differences between each of the wolf's howls, which is what makes them unique to that individual. The software means that the howls become more like a vocal signature or a fingerprint, where no two wolves can produce a howl quite the same.

Wolves often roam over large home ranges, meaning that the distances they can, and do travel can be vast, even over short periods of time. They can keep a steady pace of five miles per hour for extremely long periods, which means that just a day's worth of travelling can

take them a great distance from their last location. Wolves' impressive feats of stamina, adaptability and the compulsion to follow prey means that it can be very hard to keep track of them visually. As a result it has become a necessity to radio collar lead wolves in a pack in order to relocate them but also to have a chance to keep pace, to record the relevant data that scientists need from them. However, the discovery of the individuality of wolf howls opens up a variety of new options when it comes to keeping track of the animals, as the new technology gives scientists a way to monitor individuals in the wild by sound alone.

Howling is a major part of wolf communication and as a result wolves howl for a variety of different reasons. Some howls are designed to seek information, such as when locating a lost pack mate. Others are intended to give information, such as sharing the success of a hunted kill or to protect their territory from a rival pack. Howling is a way for wolves to communicate over a long distance where the intended target

is unlikely to be in sight, much like a version of our telephone calls. Now we will be able to tap into these conversations to gather information for ourselves. Wolf howls can be heard over large distances. In forests they can be heard around six miles away and in vast, open tundra as far as ten miles, which makes them a very appealing survey method for presence-absence studies. Being able to identify which wolf is actually howling, as well as how many are howling, can provide the researchers with a lot of information. For example if the howls of some wolves in a particular area were replaced by a set of new wolf howls, it could suggest that the previous wolves had been removed from their territory. This could be caused by the new wolves replacing them or various other reasons. However, for wolves themselves, their howls have a requirement to be fully informative. With no means to give visual and olfactory information over long distances it is possible that howling has evolved to share details such as the identity of an individual and to which pack it belongs.

Before this technology was discovered howling was not considered a very accurate survey method because so much of it was down to guesswork. For example: how many wolves were howling and were they the same wolves as the night before? However, now these mysterious factors are no longer down to assumption alone: a 97% accuracy can be achieved even when identifying individuals calling in a pack “chorus” howl. When the researchers investigated further, subspecies and pack accents were also analysed, which is any familiarity or “traits” in howls that were dependent on a wolf’s subspecies or pack. It was found that subspecies accents could be identified with a 90% accuracy, and pack accents with around 75-100% accuracy. This could lead to scientists being able to work out which subspecies a howling wolf was, as well what pack they could be a part of or even descended from, giving a whole host of information from a howl alone.



Tundra howling, by Danny Kidby-Hunter

Holly Root-Gutteridge has also collected data from our own wolves at the UKWCT in a study which is still currently in progress. Holly first got involved with the UKWCT four years ago when she came to one of our ‘Howl Night’ events and she has visited the Trust many times since, even getting engaged here last year. Her new study compares subspecies other than the Eastern grey wolves and data from our present and past wolves was used to help draw some interesting results. Both sets of sisters used (Mosi and Mai; Lunca and Latea) had more similar howls than any other individuals, which suggests that pack accents are at least somewhat down to genetics and can also be retained over time periods.

As science progresses and discoveries similar to this one are made, further opportunities are created to learn more about wolves as a whole, which will in turn allow us to help and conserve them even more effectively. The more methods that are available for data to be collected, the more information we can gather to further help us to understand and support this incredible creature.

Tara Arnstong
UKWCT Conservation Co-ordinator,

**Holly Root-Gutteridge was previously a research student at the Trust, as part of her PhD studies at Nottingham Trent University.*



Photo: Vladimir Bologov

Surviving in human-dominated

A report from the SloWolf Project of Slovenia conference “Wolf Conservation in Human Dominated Landscapes” by Danny Kidby-Hunter, UKWCT Wolf Keeper and Student Co-ordinator.

Few species evoke stronger emotions than the wolf. To some they are the essence of wilderness: the spirit of all that is wild. To others they provoke such an intense hatred; fear that has been distorted through the centuries and been passed down through the generations.

We have persecuted wolves with such extreme prejudice for so long, that somewhere along the way myth and reality combine, blurring the lines, leaving behind only contorted and fragmented myths, perceived as whole truths.

It was from Europe that these manipulations of reality were born and allowed to manifest over the years. It was the European settlers who took these beliefs with them when they set out to conquer the New World. Before the first pilgrims first set foot on American soil, the indigenous people tended the land and the wolf was revered as spiritual guide, teacher and ‘brother.’

In the modern world, the perception of the wolf is still firmly rooted in mythology and the fear of the unknown. It would, however, be unrealistic to refuse to accept that some views are based on genuine encounters and conflicts within the farming community.

This stems from clashes created by the wolf’s opportunistic nature.

Despite this, it would seem that opinion in Europe is drastically making a U-turn and awareness for conservation is growing. Ironically, the very source of the perceptions of ferocity is now where the world should look to, as we push forward in conservation.

It is currently estimated that 12,000 wolves live divided amongst 10 populations within 34 countries throughout Europe. With the human population reaching almost 500 million, inevitable conflicts between wolves and humans arise. It is impractical to expect farmers and breeders, whose livelihood depends on their livestock, to simply accept the consequences of sharing their home with such an opportunistic predator. Solutions need to be implemented to minimise the damages a wolf pack can have on livestock and to encourage coexistence.

Wolf experts meet up in Slovenia

The *Wolf Conservation in Human Dominated Landscape Conference* was held on 25th – 27th September in Postojna, a small town in the heart of wolf habitat.

The conference was hosted by the SloWolf Project of Slovenia, bringing together some of the best wolf experts and biologists from around the world to share their ideas and solutions. “By sharing knowledge and experience, we can considerably increase effectiveness of wolf conservation, improve cooperation, and promote transition from country-based management towards management at the level of population.”

Forging links with wolf conservationists

Separated by the channel, it is often easy to feel disconnected and far removed from the troubles of Europe on our little Island here in the UK. To gain a better understanding of the situation in Europe regarding the ‘wolf issue,’ my colleague, Tara Armstrong, and I travelled to Slovenia to represent the UK Wolf Conservation Trust and forge links with those working to save the wolf.



landscapes

Over the course of two days, delegates listened to the talks of some 30 speakers and participated in workshops on population monitoring data-collection and sustainable hunting. The French researchers also treated us to rare video footage captured on a Starlight camera of the interactions of wolves and dogs. Without this new and highly exclusive technology, this would have previously been impossible.

On the third day, delegates were given the opportunity to have a guided tour into wolf, bear and lynx territory. This proved very popular and delegates were treated to traces of these elusive predators' presence in the discovery of scat and tracks (see right).

Leading wolf-advocates speak

The EU Commissioner, Dr Janez Potocnik and Minister for Agriculture and the Environment, Mr Dejan Zidan, welcomed delegates and introduced the SloWolf organisation. John D Linnell of the Norwegian Institute for Nature Research opened the conference and discussed the controversy surrounding the notion of 'rewilding Europe' and posed the question of whether it was possible to turn controversy into coexistence. He explored the notions of the four perceptions of wolves: the

historical wolf, the biological wolf – the specimen of science, the symbolic wolf – of values and ideology, and the political wolf – the representation of power, influence and control.

We heard from numerous leading wolf advocates throughout the weekend, including UKWCT-sponsored supporter, Josip Kusak. Josip is a conservationist, research manager and veterinarian in Croatia and was presenting results from his studies of areas used by wolves, lynx and cervids in the Croatian mountains of Gorski kotar.

A reoccurring topic from the speakers was the use of 'wolf damage prevention.' This includes the use of livestock guarding dogs, fladry, night enclosures and shepherds. French biologist Jean-Marc Landry shared with us his new venture in researching methods to deter wolves from returning to a flock. Although guarding dogs can have short-term success rates, they are not always effective. Wolves often return to the same flock. A long-term solution is needed. The dogs may prevent some attacks on livestock and chase wolves away, but they do not 'teach' the wolf that they should not return. The wolf must associate livestock with danger or 'off limits' so they teach future generations of the pack to stay away. The dogs do not seem to be doing this. There have even been accounts of dogs hiding amongst the flock when a wolf appears!

Jean-Marc explained his ideas of repellent collars for livestock, which could detect acute stress in the animal in the presence of a predator. Other methods included triggers to repel the wolves and condition them to not return. His project, entitled 'Daphnis

Project,' was an extremely interesting study and we look forward to hearing more about it in the coming months.

The problem the wolf is facing is that there is now a sense of a 'wolf war,' where politicians now seek to use the species to serve their own agenda. Often used as a pawn in their own corrupt game of chess, politicians use the wolf to incite hysteria for their own personal gain, preying on fears and insecurities, which further intensifies the plight of the wolf.

Coexistence is the key

The prominent message carried throughout the seminar seemed to be that the key to conservation was coexistence which is about tolerance and acceptance. Coexistence is a two way street and completely 'converting' opponents is not always a realistic approach. Understanding different points of view is crucial, and that includes that of wolf antagonists.

Thankfully, perceptions in Europe are changing and because of this, the wolf is slowly making a comeback. They are crossing borders and now returning to territories from which wolves have been absent from for over 100 years. Migrating from a population in Poland, wolves are now re-establishing themselves in Saxony, a place from where wolves had disappeared by 1904. It is hoped these transient individuals from neighbouring countries will continue on their journeys and further populate the rest of Europe.

In conclusion, we must allow the wolf to be a wolf – neither angel nor demon – but simply a predator striving to survive.

Danny Kidby-Hunter



The UKWCT Annual Seminar: Conservation in Action

Julia Bohanna, Wolf Print editor, brings us this report



Above and right: seminar speakers hard at work signing copies of their books for fans

outside – as if in mourning. As a landowner, he has done what he can: in an area that was previously only 5% forest, Alladale is now 15% forest.

Paul Lister knows that with his past as a businessman manufacturing furniture, he was always part of the arboreal depletion problem. Now, like a form of ecological restorative justice, he wants to be part of the solution. He is passionate about Romania and educational projects there. In the 80s as ‘a businessman wanting what he could



Dr Cristina Eisenberg

What but the wolf's tooth whittled so fine the fleet limbs of the antelope? – Robinson Jeffers

Trophic cascades were the subject of conservation biologist **Dr Cristina Eisenberg's** talk. In *The Wolf's Tooth: Keystone Predators, Trophic Cascades, and Biodiversity*, she explained the effects of removing or reintroducing large predators to an ecosystem. Cristina became a scientist in an interesting way. She lives in a log cabin in Montana near the Canadian border and nearly two decades ago it was not an area known for wolves. When she saw the animals chasing elk, she reported it, only to be told that she had seen ‘big dogs.’ Not then a scientist – she tracked the animals and could smell the ‘sweet, earthy woody scent’ of the wolves that had passed. Later, she observed the nervous elk behaviour when there were predators in the vicinity. The animals grazed less and the previously depleted meadow subsequently sprang back to life, with luxuriant shrubs.

We were reminded of Aldo Leopold and Sir Charles Elton – both ecologists from different continents. Cristina quoted from Leopold who when in Mexico, where there were plenty of wolves and bears, described it as ‘the only place I have seen that isn't sick.’

Cristina commented on the archaic practice of calling her a ‘lady biologist.’ Although she humbly stated that she is a ‘beginner scientist’ this is clearly a serious-minded explorer for truth. She is a hunter and a country dweller, which helps her standing with the hunting fraternity. Clearly, some people are patronising towards indigenous populations. Local people interested in feeding their families found lectures on the benefits of veganism (as a group did recently) ludicrous. There is more sway in empathy, people management and practical solutions. The wolf is seen as a nuisance, whereas its presence ‘touches everything in the food web.’ Evidence is invaluable but it is an ongoing, difficult process.

Paul Lister

If a man hasn't discovered something that he will die for, he isn't fit to live - Martin Luther King

The weekend's Trust seminar in our brilliant home venue, kicked off with **Paul Lister**, who owns the Alladale Wilderness Estate in Scotland. Paul refuted the ill-informed assertion that he wants to reintroduce wolves to The Highlands. Reintroduction – where wolves run free – has never been his intention. He would love to hear a wolf howl in the Scottish countryside, but it would involve enclosures and more land acquisition.

Wolves and forest are emblematic of the wild and Paul is firmly focused on his reforestation project at Alladale, as well as various other ecological challenges and his collaboration with The European Nature Trust. He has planted 850,000 native local seed-sourced trees on his estate.

While Paul explained that we have no ‘real wild nature left’ the wolves howled

get,’ the Romanians often refused the scale of his requests to protect their forest, their wild spaces. It took him a while to realise his true calling did not lie in sawdust and timber: ‘I was not an entrepreneur businessman but more of an ecologist/activist.’

We were shown an introduction to a film about the Carpathian Mountain Range, a ‘medieval landscape...where lynx prowl ghost-like...and 45% of all European large predators reside.’

Back in Scotland, smaller projects on the estate draw less media attention but continue quietly and productively. Paul has been instrumental in restoring peat bogs and encouraging others to do the same. Boar, he says, would dig up bracken and heather that clog the land, allowing it to breathe. One of Paul's neighbours is also involved in his own tree planting. A feasibility study of Alladale is now being done – to show the benefits in ecology, employment and tourism. After a decade, there are signs: trees and shelter = more insect life = more bird and fish life. A clear indication of a trophic cascade in action.

Right: Doug Smith introduces the history of wolves in Yellowstone National Park

Visual evidence of the wolf in action was most powerful: in places where they proliferate, there is less damage from elk stripping bark from trees. Willow grows strong. Wolf populations control and sustain herbivore populations and even other large carnivores: numerous creatures feed on a wolf kill, including the bears in Yellowstone Park.

Dr Doug Smith

The mountains are a part of me, I'm fellow to the trees – Robert Service

Dr Doug Smith (right) admitted that premature grey hair arrived courtesy of his work in Yellowstone Park, studying and managing the effects of the 1995 reintroduction. Darting wolves from the air is dangerous but aerial observation and radio collaring has given scientists invaluable insights.

Doug reminded us that 'people and personalities are important' in conservation. In 1926 when most predators had been extirpated in Yellowstone, park administrators liked bears and so kept them. We saw photographs of bears eating from a wolf kill – wolves are swift but the bear is stronger and able to step in, Johnny-come-lately style – to steal prey. He spoke too about the frustrations of having radio-collared animals legally shot the moment they leave the park. Some refer to the wolf as a 'land shark' and others talk about the wolf 'holding all the cards.' As Doug wryly pointed out, a gun is always the ace of spades.

Doug and Dave Mech have recently co-authored a book on the hunting habits of wolves, to be published in 2014 and reviewed in *Wolf Print*. Photographs



of wolves in hunting mode make the wolf a wild, natural thing. In Yellowstone, the wolves live wild and so illness, injury or just fate means that some do not survive, even when there are large litters. At times, wolf kills wolf. We even saw a photograph of a three-legged wolf. Yellowstone has enabled biologists to monitor pack sizes, dispersal habits and even the way wolves travel in the snow – in single file following the pattern of the previous walkers' footprints. Clearly Doug is an ethical and dedicated ambassador.

Will Burrard-Lucas

All stories are about wolves. All worth repeating, that is. Anything else is sentimental drivel. – Margaret Atwood

Will Burrard-Lucas' fine photographs of the handsome but endangered Ethiopian wolf (we reviewed his book in the last issue of *Wolf Print*) gave a lucid sense of place. The photographs of an almost alien landscape, the elegance and dignity of the animal, were remarkable. Will also

highlighted the conservation issues – feral dogs in villages spreading disease like distemper and rabies that requires a vaccination programme. He talked about the dedicated people like Claudio Sillero of the Ethiopian Wolf Project, while showing us entrancing slide after slide – including ones of Timothy Spall-like mole rats that pop from holes in the ground. Will

also explained the problems of ten hours with his vehicle stuck in viscous mud, or the once a week shower. This is difficult terrain at high altitude – so not for the faint-hearted.

As always with lupine seminars, there was plenty of cross-pollinated experience – particularly with people politics and how wild spaces benefit us all.

On both days, it was rain for the hard-working volunteers and those who went on the wolf walks with the Beenham Pack. But happy faces and comments like 'Awesome day' and 'I've travelled so far – I'm exhausted, but it was worth it,' made the weekend shine. The sun also made an appearance for photographs and outdoor chat.

It's a reminder too, as we listened to Doug's two boys howling at the wolves and the strong vocal response, that the iconic howl is symbolic of wilderness and wildness. The wolves had their voice again this year while other eloquent and informed global speakers also spoke on their behalf.

Julia Bohanna

Paul Lister and Alladale: www.alladale.co.uk
www.earthtimes.org/nature/wild-carpathia-filming-last-untouched-european-wilderness/1554/

Cristina Eisenberg:
livingwithwolves.org/wwd_a_c.eisenberg

Doug Smith: www.yellowstone.net

Will Burrard-Lucas: www.burrard-lucas.com



Above: Seminar speakers with UKWCT staff and volunteers

2013 International Wolf Symposium: Wolves and Humans

Kirsty Peake, UKWCT Specialist Advisor, reports from this conference

"I wish I could clone myself and go to every presentation." L David Mech (on seeing the programme)

Never have truer words been spoken. Everyone I spoke with was of the same opinion.

The symposium was split into two plenary events – *Debate about Wolf Recovery: Mexican Wolf Recovery: Moving from Recovery to State Management of Wolves*; and *Debate about Wolf Hunting/Trapping and Working Toward Consensus* – as well as 'break out' sessions with four running together:

- Wolf Management
- Wolf Ecology, Behaviour, Genetics
- Wolves and Environmental Education
- Wolf-Human interactions

If I were to give you a brief synopsis of everything I attended I would, most likely, fill this edition of Wolf Print. I will, therefore, attempt to give you an overview of this thoroughly successful and topical conference.

The plenary/panel sessions were exciting to attend. I must take this opportunity of congratulating the moderators/facilitators. With such a cross-section of beliefs in the panel it was always going to be stimulating. The panel participants must also be congratulated on 'keeping their cool' and were an excellent example to all of us who try, as wolf advocates, to put across our side of the argument calmly, coolly.

Focus on a debating session

Everything was so important but I will just pick out one that I feel deserves special mention, this being the emotive *Debate on Wolf Hunting/Trapping and Working Toward Consensus*.

UKWCT Specialist Advisor Dr Alistair Bath was moderator and facilitator and the debaters were:

Howard Goldman: Minnesota Senior State Director of the Humane Society of the US

Jim Hammill: Retired wildlife biologist for Michigan Department of Natural Resources

Gary Leistico: Attorney and general counsel to the National Trappers Association and the Minnesota Trappers Association

Paul Paquet: Adjunct Professor in Geography at the University of Victoria, BC, Canada

Discussion questions included:

Are there circumstances when wolves should definitely not be hunted or trapped?



Responses included:

- on tribal owned lands
- special parcels of land, i.e. national parks
- small populations
- corridors, i.e. to enable genetic diversity
- highly sensitive times of the year.

Break out sessions

Speaker: **Luigi Boitani**

Current wolf managements systems in Europe have not secured stability in the wolf-human relationship. Livestock depredation is a never-ending problem. 'Laissez faire' is not an acceptable approach, socially or ethically. Over 1,000 attacks in the south of France have cost the EU €5.6 million. Livestock prevention programmes should include: prevention, mitigation; predator control and research. Luigi explained the correct way that livestock guard dogs should be used, teamed with shepherds as protection and not for wolf attack. Another problem is always free-ranging dog-wolf hybridisation.

What level of wolf-human conflict can Europe tolerate? Where?

Croatia's Djuro Huber talked about the challenges in wolf management in Croatia after 17 years of protection. In 2010 there was a count of 230 and hunting was introduced. In 2013 the population had dropped to 177 and the hunting quota for the current season is zero.

Croatia has two views on the wolves: harmful vs noble.

If the wolf is seen as 'harmful' it is looked upon as a pest with no value. If it is 'noble' then it becomes a game trophy and therefore has value. The EU is happy that Croatia protects its wolves.

Speaker: **Josip Kusak**

This break-out session covered the distribution of activity and space use among wolves, ungulates and humans. 43.5% of Croatia is forested and therefore it is difficult to locate wolves. There are three main areas: high up in North Gorski which is heavily forested and has boar, red and roe deer. Lika is less forested and has just boar and roe deer. Dalmatia in the South is open and more populated by people and the prey is wild boar, sheep and goats. GPS collars were fitted to give information on activity as well as movement. On 15 wolves the collars, over a period of 3,743 days, recorded 1,048,272 activity readings. Data was analysed and in Dalmatia, which is quite populated, there was less night activity and more female wolves were active than males.

and Humans at the Crossroads

Conference held in Duluth, Minnesota, USA.

Are there circumstances when wolves should definitely be hunted or trapped?

Responses included:

- when wolves present a threat to another endangered species
- interspecific stress issues, i.e. disease such as rabies



- livestock
- public safety
- excessive reproduction

Awards

Pat Goodman, representing Wolf Park, presented their Eric Klinghammer award to Rolf Peterson for his work on the wolves of Isle Royale National Park over the last four decades.

The International Wolf Centre gave their 'Who Speaks for Wolf' awards to:

Laurie Lyman (left), for her outstanding work in educating and helping visitors in Yellowstone National Park. (www.yellowstonereports.com).

Jamie Mitchell (far left), a Native American, who does so much for wolves in striving to protect them.

Carter Neimeyer (right), a speaker at last year's UKWCT seminar, author of *Wolfer* and a strong supporter of wolf conservation.



Photo: Carter Neimeyer on being presented with one of three Eric Klinghammer awards.

Closing

L. Dave Mech closed the conference, giving the keynote address about his 55 year career in wolf research. His work has covered studying wolves in Isle Royale, NE Minnesota, Denali, Yellowstone and Ellesmere.

Kirsty Peake

Making Tracks

wolves in the media and the arts, brought to you by Julia Bohanna

FERAL – Searching for enchantment on the frontiers of rewilding

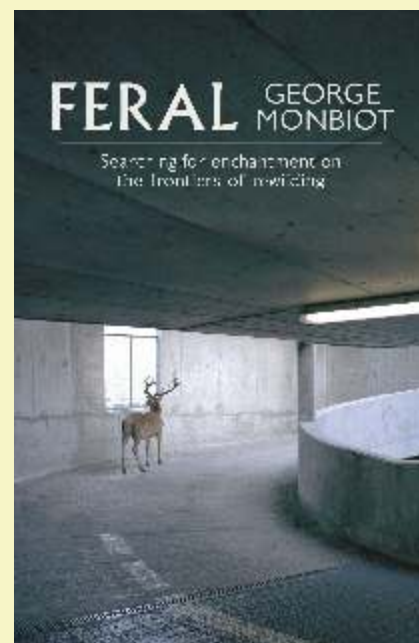
George Monbiot, HB, 336pp, Penguin
RRP £20 ISBN: 9781846147487

FERAL CHARTS the personal voyage of author, journalist and environmentalist, George Monbiot – into the world of the UK's rewilding movement. Rewilding, as a conservation term, has been steadily gaining traction since the late 1990s. Feral argues against mainstream conservation (which is supported by EU grants) of preserving ecosystems in their current state, or returning them to a previous state. Instead, rewilding, as a new conservation discourse, is based on letting nature run its own course, forging uncertain future wild ecosystems. Here the term self-willed

land is often used – land is left to find its own way, not controlled by people.

Monbiot describes how his journey stemmed from an overwhelming sense of boredom, a feeling of staleness and drudgery in life. However, encounters with wild nature and wild animals reignited a sense of excitement and wonder that had been missing. Monbiot argues that we have lost our way, our relationship with nature has waned and our landscapes have become dull and degraded. Crucially though, it is not only possible but also desirable to change this situation. From the Welsh coasts to the Cumbrian moors and the Scottish highlands and lowlands, there is wild nature to be found.

Monbiot says we still have far to go. The sheep he considers to be the single most ecologically destructive animal in



British history, continuing to prevent the recovery of our woodlands and our biodiversity. As a nation we favour the ploughed field or the well-trimmed lawn over the wild wood or boggy wetland. Monbiot argues that our

Making Tracks

wolves in the media and the arts, brought to you by Julia Bohanna

LITTLE EVIE IN THE WILD WOOD

Jackie Morris, illustrated by Catherine Hyde, HB, 40pp, Frances Lincoln Children's Books, www.franceslincoln.com
RRP £12.99, ISBN: 978-1-84780-371-9

THERE ARE no page numbers in this innovative children's book, nothing numbered or structured from the real world to intrude or mar the dreamlike natural landscape. The inspiration for the story itself may come from Red Riding Hood but it deviates as far from that story's intent as Evie does when she takes the darker pathway. There is indeed a wolf but the wolf is female, a very different role model from the stalker of children with big teeth and eyes that terrorises the old Grimm tale.

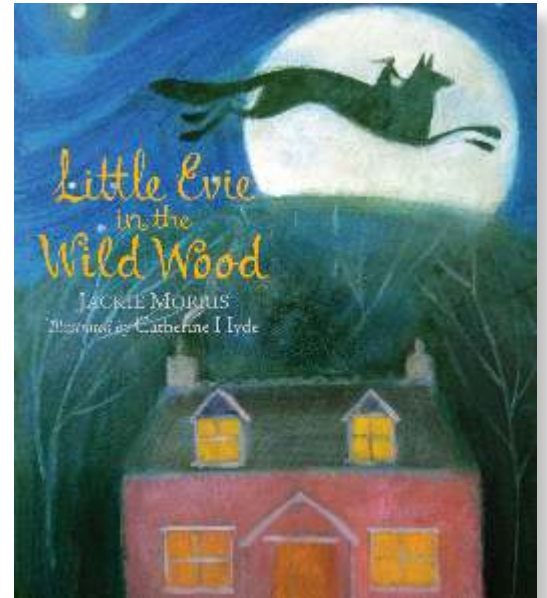
The ethereal quality of the story – which has at its heart the classic child lost in a forest scenario – is further helped by the dark impressionistic drawings that show us a beautiful world. You can almost smell the damp leaves underfoot, or hear the haunting hoot of the owl. The illustrations have a great sense of movement and things are half-seen – with all the magical and mystical power that suggests.

What is interesting about world-building here is the way that nature, in a superb twist of pathetic fallacy, unites to help a vulnerable human being, rather than present a threat to her. There is plenty of wildlife in the wood and you get a strong sense that it is to be

respected, that is will always be there despite the odd human intervention. Yes, Evie does meet the wolf and the wolf indeed is initially scary. It stands before the little child 'filling the world with wildness.' But Evie offers the creature food – 'seven tarts with bright jam' and from that point, a friendship is instantly formed. The rich poetic prose is exquisitely gentle throughout 'Little Evie stroked the wolf's velvet ears, leant against her side, listened to her breathing.'

The wolf is a protector and ultimately Evie's saviour, transporting her from the Wild Wood to rejoin her own human family. I became quite emotional reading this book – it has a rare nurturing quality, a generosity of spirit and the most wonderfully positive portrayal of the wolf I have seen for a very long time. How better to get children to sleep than to reassure them that the 'wild' world is a friend and that the wolf may be big, but it is not bad? Highly recommended.

Julia Bohanna



Jackie Morris is an artist and a writer. Her latest book is 'Song of the Golden Hare.' www.jackiemorris.co.uk

Catherine Hyde is a widely exhibited artist and has also written two previous picture books, *The Firebird* and *The Princess's Blanket*. www.catherinehyde.co.uk

◀ FERAL – Searching for enchantment on the frontiers of rewilding

beautiful rural lands are now ecologically degraded. What we need is a shift in core conservation ideals, away from the managed lands of grazing, to land that is left to run its own course. This is wild, self-willed land.

Many books that try to tackle the topic of rewilding fall short, failing to critically engage some of the historic problems associated with the forced dispossession that is caused by creating many rewilded areas. Feral brings in many varied and in depth examples to stress that rewilding, although a force for good, must not occur through

coercion or imposition. Many books on the subject often underestimate the political and subtle aspects of conservation. While rewilding is idealistic, it must also be pragmatic and work with communities. This is a line that the debate on Scottish wolf reintroduction straddles and a topic Monbiot discusses in the chapter 'Bring Back the Wolf.'

My one criticism would be Monbiot's failure to investigate any rewilding in the context of urban environments. While global populations swell and the trend of urbanisation continues, it is not only of

interest, but importance, that the nature of cities and towns be considered too. Feral and its readers would benefit from ecological knowledge of the everyday urban spaces which most of us call home.

In conclusion, Feral is one of the most approachable, informative and engaging books I have read on rewilding. For anyone interested in the subject, and interested in conservation in general, Monbiot's Feral is an excellent choice.

Johnny Palmer

Alice

"An experimental short story inspired by randomly suggested music" – Sam Garrett

The pale moon winks through wispy clouds. Our car trundles down a country road beyond my control. The one in control here is Alice, who looks at me as I look at her. Is this love? No. This is purgatory; at least that's what several guardians have beaten into me over the years.

After a short while we lumber to a stop where an uninvited and eerie rapture of waves drag themselves distantly into our ears like – my upbringing. I don't know why Alice brought us here but I know what she has brought me to, and that is a state of numbness. Here sits the woman I am meant to love, the woman that sneaks out most nights thinking I was born yesterday; the woman who has clearly left a spare set of clothes on the back seat. I draw a harsh intake of air and remember what my mother had once told me about this place,

"Children playing on a beach. Children growing on a beach. Children missing on a beach." the words crackle from my mouth as I try to keep myself together. If she truly is cheating on me, then she has purposefully brought me to the worst place imaginable in order to *break* it to me.

"What?" She asks; her eyebrows rise as she lessens her grip on the wheel. I struggle to contain myself; lost in those lush blue eyes of hers. The very same opals that must have ensnared countless affairs...

"It's something my mother used to tell me, about my father..."

"...And the men who went missing nine years ago?" She asks with mocking interest. Well, at least I assume she is mocking.

"Right," I answer boldly, "Why are we here?" Alice sits back, unsure even herself. But she smiles.

"We're here for the moon." Further words wane to spill from behind those rouge lips as waves crash against the shore below. My temper flares; a momentary flicker of absolute rage but I turn away. I get out of the car and take in the sight of my father and his countless friends' demise. I leave the

door open for her to follow but in my wake leave behind a fiery hue in the form of the interior light. "I think I need to see someone." Alice lets out from inside the orange glare. I take this in, silently. And then – after a moment or three – lean inwards, pressing her for more information. "I, I used to dream of redemption when I was younger... but I still find it hard to stand the sight of most boys." I don't understand but I let her continue. "After what *they* had done... it wasn't a sad thing that *those* kids didn't live past fifteen..."

"What are you?" I breathe. "If you're talking about my Dad, he died in his thirties."

I wait for Alice's answer but her face scrunches up and she falls forward in misery. "Not internally," she sniffs. "I have been doing this for too long..." she whimpers, and after a few moments gradually climbs out of her seat and crawls towards me. I push away and despite the tears she escapes the vehicle, getting down on her hands and knees. With one lone ear she peculiarly presses her head against the ground and listens intently for any sounds. Or so I think, but after a long, drawn out breath she finally lifts her head; her features changed.

The woman who stares at me is not Alice. In all honesty, I'm not sure she is a woman. She has become a thing, a beast. Her incisors have grown so long they are now jutting out from her mouth and she screams out in gargling pain, "I did it – your father, and the others. It was me. It was always me." Her opal eyes grow frightening as her gaze locks onto mine. I am trapped within her glare until her shrill screaming begins again. She keels over and in one sharp, blurring movement her clothes tear as her muscles pulse and her bones break. Remarkably, Alice's nose begins to elongate and with a murmur she holds her now disfigured hand to her face. Her nails merge with her black varnish and crunch into paws. Long hairs sprout and thread together like fur, bristling in the sea's wind.



Photo: Nuka, by Danny Kidby-Hunter

I am lost for words. My legs give way. I fall down backwards; hard on my hands as a fully-fledged white wolf replaces Alice and licks its lips at the sight of me. Thoughts break into my mind through the haze of shock like sizzling fireworks. They mostly comprise of how much I hate this place. I don't care too much that it had taken my estranged father but now it has taken Alice, the girl I love – despite her absent nights and the newfound notion that she may well have been the person who had taken my father all those years ago.

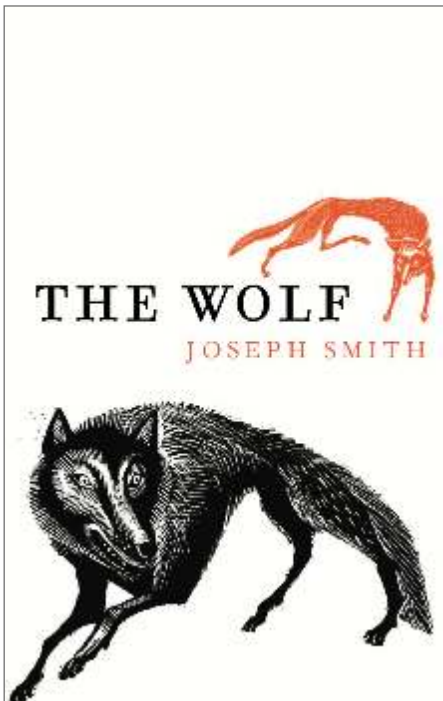
Then I return to my senses. A wolf is standing before me; a shark of the land. I flinch, expecting a striking blow from the glossy giant's paw or even the snap of its jaw. But instead, I am met with a low growl. A whimpering murmur as the wolf collapses calmly and neatly before me, resting its head on my outstretched legs. My sight lingers on the creature's awning eyes. Entranced, I wonder about *her* perception of me; we've both made mistakes and I accept who she is. She is human.

"Underneath this skin there's a human. Buried deep within there's a human. And despite everything I'm still human. But I think I'm dying here." – Elena Tonra

Sam Garrett is a student of Winchester University and the winner of a recent short story competition run by the university and the UK Wolf Conservation Trust.

The Wolf

Joseph Smith, Hardback, 160pp,
Jonathan Cape, ISBN 978-0224085199



*(Cover image used by permission of the
Random House Group Limited)*

THIS IS an extraordinary book, and one, I have to say, that I was not at all sure I was going to like. I'm not sure that "like" is the right word. It's an amazingly powerful book. It left me feeling quite odd, like I had been in a dream, but in my humble opinion it is definitely worth reading. It is an intriguing experience.

It is the tale of a young lone wolf in winter. Confident and bold, he is in danger of starving like so many young animals. Written in the words, or should I say the thoughts, of the wolf himself, it starts out with a prolonged hunt. This wolf is the essence of a predator and his philosophy of life and death are a constant theme running through the book. Not perhaps for the squeamish, there is realism in the way that the hunt unfolds, inspiration perhaps drawn from the author having watched documentaries of solitary wolves hunting in the wild. Eventually, the wolf comes across human habitation and all that entails, but it is his relationship with another canid that is the crux of the book.

Wolf

The wolf's howl consists of a single note with up to twelve related harmonics; it rises in sharp crescendo then breaks off abruptly.

You can hear it now, long and low,
alone,

as the moon clears

and the great unknown spreads out
in silvered folds,

the frozen lake a star-sprinkled glow,

stalagmite trees pointing north
like Inuit whalebone spears,

where the shadows seem to move
with something faint –

but there,

through the powder snow –

that percussion of panting

with padded feet.

~ Will Kemp

*This poem was previously published in a Cinnamon Press
Anthology (2010).*

*Will Kemp studied at Cambridge and UEA before working as
an environmental planner in Canada, Holland and New
Zealand. He won the Cinnamon Poetry Award in 2012 and
Envoi International Poetry Competition in 2010. His first
collection, Nocturnes, was published by Cinnamon Press. His
second collection, Lowland, is also published by Cinnamon.
www.wkemp.com*

Photo: Vladimir Bologov

I do not want to give anything away here, but suffice it to say that at this point the author dips into a more fantastical style which in some ways reminds me of some of the fantasy books written at the turn of the 20th century. Although we might feel that this wolf is tough enough to survive, as the tale unfolds and reveals the strange and silent magic of the subarctic winter and its inhabitants, things become increasingly uncertain.

Nobody should start to read this book thinking that it is a realistic account of how wolves see their world. Rather, it is a dark fantasy that never descends into sentimentality. I think that the word "stark" would describe it. But in no way should that put the reader off.

Sue Hull
Director, UKWCT

wolves of the world

625 WOLVES LEFT IN MONTANA... 6,000 HUNTING PERMITS ISSUED

Conservation groups are in an uproar over Montana's decision to issue over 6,000 permits to hunt the last 625 remaining wolves in the state. In addition to 6,000 permits, the state loosened regulations governing the hunting of the animals.

THIS YEAR, the fee for a licence to kill a wolf in the state of Montana was dropped to only \$19. Each hunter is allowed to kill up to five wolves, and the period in which they are hunted has been extended.

At the beginning of this year, there were only 625 wolves in Montana, a slight drop from the year before. If only 2.1% of hunters issued a permit this year reach their bag limit, the wolf will disappear from Montana altogether. As wolves are pack animals, a single hunter will likely be able to kill several wolves in a single trip.

In the 1990s, wolves in Montana were hunted to the point that Canadian wolves had to be brought in to supplement the numbers. State officials have decided to drive down the number of wolves in the state, though have not set a clear plan on the number where they would like the population's numbers.

In stark contrast, neighbouring Wyoming, which boasts roughly three



times the number of wolves as Montana in a much smaller state, has cut the number of wolves that may be killed before hunting is ceased in half to help make certain the population is protected from over-hunting.

digitaljournal.com/article/359034

Yellowstone wolves spur recovery of bears' berries



THE RETURN of wolves to Yellowstone National Park may be leading to an improvement in the diet of grizzly bears, a study suggests.

When wolves were eradicated from Yellowstone in the early 20th Century, the elk population boomed, devastating berry-shrubs relied upon by bears. A team from Oregon and Washington links the reintroduction of predatory wolves with a fall in over-browsing by elk. There is a consequent recovery in the availability of late-

summer berries, the favoured pre-hibernation food of the grizzly bear. The study indicates that the number of berries measured in bear droppings has doubled as elk numbers have decreased, following the wolves' return in the 1990s.

William Ripple, lead author, commented:

"Wild fruit is typically an important part of grizzly bear diet, especially in late summer when they are trying to gain weight as rapidly as possible before winter hibernation."

However, the reduction in elk may not be all good news. Yellowstone's northern elk population hit 19,000 in 1988, but last winter the herd was estimated to number just 3,900 animals. Elk calves are an important food source for grizzly bears in the spring and Dr Arthur Middleton of Yale

University suggests that the decline in elk may pose a threat to the grizzly bear rather than a benefit, since their other spring food source, cutthroat trout, is also in decline.

"This is an interesting paper and it is important that we understand the consequences of wolf recovery," Dr Middleton added. "But wolf re-introduction is not the only change that has occurred in recent years in Yellowstone. Bears eat elk and bear numbers have increased three or four times during this period."

In a further observation Dr Middleton said, "Bears and wolves together reduce elk numbers, and it may be that as elk numbers have declined some bears have sought out alternative foods such as berries, separate from any benefits of shrub re-growth. The latest results demonstrate that acknowledging the many inter-relationships between species and environments in these systems is key to understanding that complexity."

tiny.cc/qlur5w

As wolves return to the French Alps, it threatens a way of life



High in the thick grass meadows of the Southern French Alps, a modern parable of man and nature, sheep and wolf, is being written in a great quantity of blood.

With official encouragement, herders and farmers had hunted the gray wolf to extinction in France by the 1930s. Within a half-century, the animal had been made a protected species throughout Europe; the first wolves re-entered

seasons, the species' success has been due in no small part to the ample, easy pickings. Wolves have been slaughtering vast numbers of sheep here — at least 20,000 in just the past five years, according to an official count. The government has spent tens of millions of euros in efforts to staunch the attacks, but to little avail, and shepherds increasingly call the wolf an existential threat.

French territory from Italy in 1992, a small and delicate population at the outset. Much to the thrill of conservationists and European officials, they have thrived.

But to the exasperation of this region's shepherds, who for generations have scaled these hills with the

"They're killing shepherding as I know it," said Bernard Bruno, 47, who has lost at least a thousand sheep in recent years.

"The wolf's return may symbolise environmental progress to some," said Mr Bruno, a stout, blue-eyed man who has spent 25 summers alone here with his flock and a walking stick. But to him, it has also imperiled "one of the last natural, ecological kinds of livestock farming."

French authorities spend millions each year to reimburse herders for lost animals and to subsidise the hulking Great Pyrenees guard dogs that now pad alongside many flocks. Despite the protestations of conservation groups, the government has also organised the shootings — "samplings," in official parlance — of a handful of wolves. Nothing seems to have worked, though: sheep and goat losses doubled in the past five years to nearly 6,000 in 2012.

tiny.cc/duor5w

WOLF TOURISM: So hot right now

Wildlife specialists and biologists in Wisconsin and Michigan have been howling for wolves ever since the canid made its return to those states in the late 1970s and 80s, respectively. But Brian Roell, wolf specialist with Michigan's Department of Natural Resources, says that in recent years he's been getting many more calls and requests from individuals who want to hear wolves howling, find their tracks and, hopefully even glimpse the elusive animals.

"The non-consumptive uses for wolves are growing," Roell says. As it happens, this November will mark the first wolf hunting season in Michigan since the animal was removed from the Endangered Species List (Wisconsin's first wolf hunt was last fall). Roell does not, however, think the spike in interest in wolf tourism (for lack of a better term) is correlated with the upcoming hunt. He just thinks wolves are increasingly

associated with the Upper Peninsula (U.P.) and they are on the minds of more travellers to the region.

"I'm getting more phone calls, emails and folks stopping by, saying things like 'I'd like to see wolf tracks.' So I say sure. I ask where they'll be camping and I try to narrow it down. If I have knowledge of a nearby pack or what roads they should use, I share that. I am the keeper of most of the wolf info so I have pretty good knowledge of the whole U.P." says Roell.

But for all those wanting to get closer to wolves, there are plenty who wish they would disappear. "People just don't understand wolves," says Roell, referring to the fear that many have of the animals. Through his experiences



Photo: Torak howling, by Tristan Findley

trapping, collaring and studying them, he says wolves exhibit fear of humans, not aggression. "The day a wolf bites someone in Michigan or Wisconsin is the day I hand in my resignation," he told us journalists back in August.

tiny.cc/sjpr5w

Why not come and listen to wolves howl at the Trust on one of our regular Howl Nights? See page 35 or visit www.ukwolf.org for details.

Tragedy strikes Mexican grey wolves again

IN THE wake of a new proposed rule from the Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) that would continue to hinder Mexican grey wolf recovery (the subspecies would remain listed, but with limited opportunity for necessary dispersal essential to recovery), Defenders of Wildlife received news that another of the world's most endangered wolves was shot and killed. The incident is under investigation, but the victim, alpha female 1108 (F1108), had been mothering a den of young pups so her pups are also assumed to be dead.

Nancy Gloman, Vice President of Field Conservation for Defenders of Wildlife, reports on the matter:

"This is a true tragedy. The Mexican gray wolf population cannot afford the loss of another individual, let alone a breeding female with pups. With an extremely small population of 75 individuals and only two breeding pairs among them, this wolf and her pups were another critical step towards the promise of recovery. We had high hopes for the release of F1108 and her mate in May, but after the male was quickly recaptured and with this latest

news of the female's killing, there have been zero successful releases in years.

"If the Mexican gray wolf is to have any chance at survival, the Fish and Wildlife Service must ramp up recovery efforts with a comprehensive plan that includes the release of many more wolves into the wild, and affords those that are released with protection outside of arbitrary lines on a map. Without being allowed to disperse, the wolves cannot establish the numbers and new populations necessary to win the fight against extinction.

"These wolves are a critical and iconic part of the Western landscape, and for them to remain as such, you need many more wolves across a broader area. If any good can come from this news, let it be a call to action for the Fish and Wildlife Service – give the Mexican gray wolf a real chance for recovery by releasing more breeding pairs and allowing them broader access to additional land."

tiny.cc/a6sr5w

Photo: Mexican Grey Wolf by Deb Della Piana



FIRST WOLF IN HOLLAND FOR 140 YEARS

IN JULY, the body of a female wolf was found by the roadside near the tiny village of Luttelgeest in Northern Holland. Scientists have dismissed allegations that the body was dumped as a joke and claim that the first wolf found in the Netherlands in over 140 years walked there freely from Eastern Europe. The last sighting of a wolf in the Netherlands was in 1869, but this was in the southeast of the country near Germany.

The Dutch Wildlife Health Centre (DWHC), in a statement after a press conference, disclosed that "the wolf died from a heavy blow to the head, apparently from being hit by a car."

In a joint statement with Naturalis Biodiversity Centre, the Alterra Research Institute and Wolven In Nederland (Wolves in the Netherlands), DWHC has revealed that the wolf was in good health, around one and a half years old and had just eaten some young beaver. The animal, according to Naturalis

Biodiversity Centre and the Alterra Research Institute, apparently originally came from "Eastern Europe, near the Russian border."

Wolven In Nederland and Alterra Research Institute also noted that the wolf had entered the Netherlands "by natural means" and lived here for some time, before being run over. They also observed that: "In any case the body showed no signs of having been

transported to the Netherlands. There were no signs it had been frozen. Furthermore there were no signs of wear on the fur, paws or claws that would suggest captivity."

Wolf droppings have also been found in the area where the animal was found, although they did not necessarily come from the dead wolf.

tiny.cc/a9tr5w

WOLF PUPS A GOOD SIGN FOR WOLVES ON ISLE ROYALE

THE WOLVES of Michigan's Isle Royale National Park have not been doing well, but there is some unexpected good news.

Earlier this year, researchers from Michigan Technological University who study the wolves reported there were just eight wolves left - and they reported they were unable to find any evidence of pups born to those wolves. But now, that has changed. Michigan Tech researcher Rolf Peterson heard two or three wolf pups in July.

"The pups born this year mean that the wolves have not completely lost all

genetic viability, but it doesn't mean they're about to recover, and it doesn't mean that they have somehow escaped from genetic problems," he says.

The National Park Service is in the process of figuring out what to do about the island's wolves. Park Superintendent Phyllis Green says the pups' birth might buy the NPS a little more time to make that decision, but of course it's something that will be discussed thoroughly.

tiny.cc/rjgyzw

Project update: Distribution of the wolf and threats to its survival in Nepal

Raju Acharya and Yadav Ghimirey

Friend of Nature (FON Nepal), www.fonnepal.org, facebook.com/groups/fonnepal/

Wolves in Nepal

Historically, Nepal has always provided refuge to the grey wolf (*Canis lupus*). However, six to seven years ago, genetic research revealed that the wolves found in the higher Himalayas of India were genetically different to the grey wolf and the Tibetan wolf (sub-species of the grey wolf). This new species was named as the Himalayan wolf *Canis himalayensis*. In 2012, other research in Nepal's Shey-Phoksundo National Park claimed that the wolf species found in the area is indeed the Himalayan wolf. The continuity of probable habitat and prey population across India and Nepal also makes this a fair possibility but IUCN's Wolf specialist group is yet to recognise these findings.

Methods of data collection

Data has been collected over five years (2009-2013). The primary method of collecting data was camera trapping, which was done in Makalu-Barun National Park, Annapurna Conservation Area and the districts of Chitwan and Humla district. However, wolf was not the target species during these attempts at camera capture, except in the Annapurna Conservation Area. In addition to consultation with experts and a literature review, secondary information was also collected from social networking sites – where queries were raised about the species' undocumented location records. Wildlife traders and focus groups were also interviewed, to explore the issues related to the distribution of the species and threats to its survival.

Distribution of the wolf

| SN | Wolf recorded location in Nepal | Means of verification |
|----|--|--|
| 1 | Annapurna Conservation Area | Video footage |
| 2 | Dhorpatan Hunting Reserve | Personal observation by Rishi Baral |
| 3 | Khaptad National Park | Personal communication with Baburam Bhattarai |
| 4 | Manaslu Conservation Area | Photographs provided by Angphuri Sherpa: IUCN's national red list series |
| 5 | Humla District | Pelt, direct observation, camera trap |
| 6 | She Phoksundo National Park (Dolpa district) | Personal observation by Samundra Ambuhang Subba |
| 7 | Kanchanjunga Conservation Area | IUCN's National Red List series: personal observation by Kamal Thapa |
| 8 | Bajhang District | Information from wildlife traders from Humla district |
| 9 | She Phoksundo National Park (Mugu district) | Information from wildlife traders from Humla district |

Whichever species it may be, Nepal's National Red List has reported that the wolf inhabits the protected areas of Annapurna Conservation Area, Shey-Phoksundo National Park, Kanchenjunga Conservation Area and Manaslu Conservation Area. Since most of the Himalayan region bordering Tibet has not been explored, there is a possibility that the wolf population in these areas is continuous from west to east. However, their present distribution is believed to be highly restricted.

Furthermore we also conducted camera trapping in different areas i.e. Makalu-Barun National Park (2009 and 2010), Annapurna Conservation Area (2011 and 2012), Chitwan (2012) and Humla district (2013). The duration of the trap nights for the above studies was 1184, 405, 312 and 199 nights respectively. Out of these study sites we were able to detect wolf presence only in the Upper Annapurna Conservation Area (Mustang) and the Humla District. These are quite striking findings, since the areas without wolf detection had an altitudinal range of below 3500 meters. There have been reports of wolves in Khaptad National Park, which lies in the western part of Nepal (Pers. Comm. Babu Ram Bhattarai)



Local people sharing an intense conversation about wolf conflict in the Himalayas

Threats

Major threats to the survival of the wolf include illegal hunting and trade, retaliatory killings because of livestock depredation and reduction in prey numbers. The human-wolf conflict is very high in most parts of its range, suggesting that this particular threat alone is sufficient to wipe this species from its habitat in some areas. The conflict situation in Humla is quite high, which is also the case in Dolpa and Mustang. Local beliefs also trigger negative actions towards a particular species, such as the killing of wolves during the month of Baisakh (13 April – 15 May). Approximately 20 wolves were killed in the Dolpa district in 2010 during that month. Furthermore, four wolves were also killed in the Humla district in 2012. Wolf parts are widely used for preparing traditional medicines, which is one of the most important reasons for its decline in Nepal. Additionally, they are widely traded to China, because of the high value of wolf body parts on the market. This is further proved by the five wolf pit traps recorded by just one village development committee in the Humla district.

*Right: Wolf parts ready for trade to China
Below: Wolf pit trap*

Nepal's diverse and extensive flora and fauna

Nepal not only has eight of the world's ten tallest mountains, but it also has diverse flora and fauna. It supports 651 species of butterflies (4.3%), 185 species of freshwater fish (2.2 %), 43 species of amphibians (1.1%), 100 species of reptiles (1.5%), 872 species of birds (8.5%) and 207 species of mammals (4.8%) mammals which is disproportionately large considering its shares of the global land which is a mere 0.1%. Nepal has already proved successful in implementing the participatory wildlife conservation, community forest, and landscape level conservation program. Nevertheless, limited research, poaching and trade of wildlife, and habitat destruction are halting the conservation journey of many wildlife species including the wolf. Unlike tigers, one-horned rhinos and Asiatic elephants wolves do not attract much attention from either the government or non-governmental sector.

Conservation Recommendations

Detailed study

There have been only a couple of studies on the status of the wolf in Nepal. The up-to-date information on the species in the country is mostly anecdotal. The first step to any conservation initiatives would be up-to-date information on the exact issue. For example, IUCN's National Red List series of Nepal has estimated a national population of about 30 to 50 wolves in the country. However, 10 to 20 must be living in the Humla

district alone at present, as per our observation. Detailed study on the species would initially bring extremely valuable information that could later be used to start effective and efficient conservation initiatives. Detailed study should also include comprehensive documentation of the threats to the species as well as livestock depredation.

Conservation activities

The wolf is an apex predator in any ecosystem, with its own importance. However, people living in the areas populated by wolves kill these animals in retaliation for livestock depredation or in search of some financial reward. It is important that the benefits of wolf conservation should be explained to local people with the help of posters, pamphlets, booklets, radio or through the mediums of skits and plays. A strictly

monitored compensation scheme should be applied wherever the animal is extremely endangered.

Policy and government official enhancement

The first step in conserving a species is the formation of appropriate policies that are wildlife-friendly. This will, in turn, depend upon the willpower of the government. These types of policies will prepare a sound basis on which government officials ►



Wolfy gifts



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UKWCT

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beanie embroidered with the

Wolf Trust Logo on the rim of hat. Lined with Thinsulate® insulation that traps and holds body heat. One size.

UKWCT WRISTBAND £2.00

Slightly stretchy, marbled wristband.

Embossed with 'UK WOLF

CONSERVATION

TRUST,' two paw prints and our website address. 12mm width x 205mm circumference approx.

Available in brown or grey.



WOLF TOY

KEYRING £3.75

This must be one of the cutest keyrings ever! The wolf sits 9cm high. Age 3+

- ▶ implement and enforce the guidelines provided by those policies. For example, the wolf is currently on the list of protected mammals in Nepal. Although this is encouraging, policies that deter poaching and are implemented strictly would help the wolf continue its role of natural predator in the area.

Workshop with monks

Our experience in Humla says that the local religious/spiritual leaders have an important role to play in the conservation of wildlife in that area. In Humla snow leopards and wolves have been hunted openly for many

years. However, in the last five years many Buddhist monks have visited the area in response to villagers' request to stop landslides. Villagers were then told that the hunting of wildlife was triggering the landslides, after which the use of stone-made traps has decreased. Conservation initiatives focusing on working together with religious institutions in these areas could be hugely beneficial.

Raju Acharya and Yadav Ghimirey
Friend of Nature (FON Nepal)
www.fonnepal.org
facebook.com/groups/fonnepal/

Acknowledgements

We would like to acknowledge the financial support of the UK Wolf Conservation Trust to conduct research in this area, as well as to our partner Mohammad bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund (Humla district) Snow Leopard Project. We are also grateful to the Friends of Nature for their logistic and other support in carrying out the research and the Annapurna Conservation Area Project for providing permission and other field support. Thank you also, for their support during the entire study period to: Mr. Bidhan Adhikary, Mr. Pasang Lama, Mr. Phunjo Lama, Mr. Mangal Lama, Miss Geraldine Werhan, Mr. Palzor Lama, Mr. Chhakka Bahadur Lama, Mr. Sonam Lama, Mr. Kunjo Chhiri Lama, Mr. Lal Prasad Gurung, Mr. Raj Kumar Gurung, Mr. Niranjana Dhungana. Mr. Yam Bahadur Gurung, Mr. Pranaya Bir Jung Rana, Ram Lama, Rinzin Phunjok Lama and Prem Raj Neupane. Also the local people of Mustang, Sankhuwasabha, Chitwan, Humla were incredible and made our stay in their respective areas enjoyable. Finally, to anyone who provided important information to us during our stay.

and souvenirs



UKWCT WOLF-TOPPER PENCIL £1.70

This UKWCT souvenir pencil – in a choice of black or silver coating – is topped with a decorative pewter wolf.

UKWCT BARREL-TOP PEN £2.00

Our UKWCT souvenir pen with pocket clip top features pictures of our wolves along with our website address and telephone number.



UKWCT 2014 WALL CALENDAR £8.50

- 13 stunning pictures of the Trust's ten wolves
- Includes Massak, Sikko and Pukak – the first Arctic wolves in the UK
- Size A4 opening to A3
- Punched hole for slotting onto picture hook
- Supplied with mailing envelope for you to send to a friend or relative



WOLF LUNCH BOX £5.00

Pack your lunch in style! A metal lunchbox with clasp and carrying handle, featuring a wolf running painted on one side with a space for your name on other, and a wolf's face on top and bottom. Size 18cm wide x 12.5cm height (excluding handle) x 7.5cm deep.



WOLF PENDANTS

Small £31 Medium £37

Pendants featuring individual portraits of all ten Trust wolves hand-painted by Wendy Sabine on agate within a silver mount. Choose your favourite when ordering! The pendants vary slightly in style and shape. Small size approx 1.5cm x 2.5cm Medium approx 2.5cm x 3.5cm. The silver-plated chain measures 44cm. Supplied gift-boxed.



UKWCT POCKET PALS £4.00 each

Pocket-sized notepads in a hard cover with magnetic closure. UKWCT logo. Approx 75 perforated sheets printed with a tint of the cover image. Available as *Handsome Wolf* (left) or *Wolf Holler*. Size 10cm x 7.5cm.



3D BOOKMARKS £2.25 each

3D bookmarks featuring wolves in snowy scenes. 15.5cm x 6cm. Assorted.



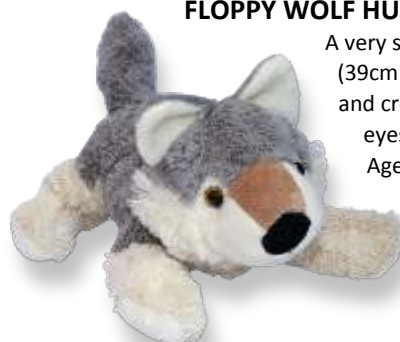
CAR FRESHENER £1.95

A UKWCT exclusive featuring the Trust's Duma. The double-sided freshener measures approximately 11cm x 6cm and has a delightful bouquet fragrance.



FLOPPY WOLF HUG'EM £9.75

A very soft and cuddly 28cm (39cm from nose to tail) grey and cream floppy wolf. Plastic eyes are firmly attached. Age 3+



ORDERING & DELIVERY
See overleaf for details

DRAWSTRING MEDICINE POUCH £9.99

Soft leather drawstring pouch featuring a suede wolf silhouette to the front plus: feathers – representing truth, bead seeds – for the symbol of life – and inside the pouch:



a stone – representing strength,
a twig – to drive away evil spirits,
a cloth – for cleansing and sage, for protection.

Pouch size excluding cord: 12cm x 9.5cm. This is not a toy.

more wolfy gifts and souvenirs



THE ETHIOPIAN WOLF – Hope at the Edge of Extinction **£32.50**

Jaymi Heimbuch brings the story of the Ethiopian Wolf to life in this heartfelt and well researched account of the earth's rarest canid. Together with stunning images by Rebecca Jackrel & Will Burrard-Lucas this honest account of the perils facing the wolves will help readers understand what a treasure the Ethiopian wolf is and how we must work together to save it. 152 pages, hardback, 35.5cm x 28cm.

SUMA COLLECTION® WOLF **£5**



Soft plush toy wolf. Surface washable. Size 15cm (nose to tail). Age 3+

WOLF HARMONY 3D NOTEBOOK **£2.60**

Spiral bound with plain white paper the cover features a wolf family in a snowy scene. 14.5cm x 10.5cm.



SILVER WOLF PAW PENDANT **£47**

A unique piece of jewellery commissioned by the Trust. The silver (7.78gms) pawprint pendant with 44cm enclosed silver chain is presented in a white organza drawstring gift bag. Pendant size approx. 2.2cm x 1.2cm.



'NIGHTWATCH' PAINTING BY NUMBERS **£5.30**

A wolf standing in a pine forest under a moonlight sky is the design for you to paint by numbers. Includes painting board with brush, 20 acrylic paints, paint organiser and instructions. Size 22cm x 30cm.



GLASS CHOPPING BOARD **£10**

A Tuftop® glass kitchen board featuring a pack of four wolves. Supplied boxed. Size 30cm x 23cm.

CAR STICKER **£1** Size 31cm x 10.5cm

WASHBAG **£9.99**

COSMETIC PURSE **£4.99**

These handmade and fully lined and padded zipped washbags and cosmetic purse feature wolfy fabric. The washbags - available in a choice of brown or blue - have a damp-proof lining and the cosmetic purse is lined with a plain, toning fabric.

Washbag size 26cm x 18cm x 7cm.

Cosmetic purse size 11.5cm x 9cm x 6cm.



ORDERING & DELIVERY

To view and order these and our other stationery, clothing, books, gifts and souvenirs, visit our online shop at www.ukwolf.org or call 0118 971 3330.

Please note: all UK orders are subject to a minimum P&P charge of £4.50. For overseas orders, please contact us.

Forthcoming events at the UK Wolf Conservation Trust

Howling Christmas



20th December, 3pm to 4.30pm, £10 pp

Come and join in with the wolves howling their Christmas carols as they get ready for the big day! You'll learn about how they communicate and why. Help to decorate the wolves' Christmas cake and then watch them eat it. Afterwards there will be great opportunities to hear all of the wolves howl their evening chorus and for you to have a go at howling, too!



WOLF VIEWING & BAT WALK

Saturdays 17th May, 19th July & 20th September

• £15 • Booking essential

- Tour the Trust and see our wolves up close
- Wolf photography opportunities and howling session
- Presentation by an expert on the life of bats in the UK
- Walk round the Trust at dusk to see long-eared bats flying

The Trust is home to many bats, many of which live in nesting boxes on trees



PREDATOR DAYS

16th March and 21st June, 10am to 4pm

The ultimate experience for animal and wildlife enthusiasts:

Spend a whole day with the world's most powerful and enthralling predators... wolves and raptors.

The morning includes a two-hour walk with wolves around the Trust in beautiful Berkshire countryside. There will be ample opportunities to photograph visitors meeting and interacting with the wolves, as well as handling and flying the birds of prey in the afternoon. There will be time to see and photograph all the wolves at the Trust including the UK's first Arctic wolves, which look magnificent in their thick white winter coats.

Our **Predator Day** is the only way in the UK to walk with wolves in the morning and fly a hawk in the afternoon.

£120 per person. Minimum age 16

Booking essential Please bring a packed lunch



Wolf Keeper Experience Days

10am–4pm, maximum 8 people per day. 2014 dates TBA

See behind the scenes at the Wolf Trust and shadow the keeper in tasks including cleaning out the wolf enclosures, preparing food and feeding the wolves. Get involved in our wolf enrichment programme, walk with wolves, meet a wolf, snap up great photo opportunities and receive a souvenir event certificate of your day.

Check our website for other dates, full details and to book

Friday Night is Howl Night!

28th February and 14th March at 7.00pm

Feel your backbone tingle and your ears vibrate with the sound. The evening starts with a presentation on wolf communication; you will then go on a tour of the centre and have the opportunity to let out a howl and see if the wolves respond!

£10 per person. Booking essential. (Don't forget to dress up warmly for an evening under the stars).



Further details at www.ukwolf.org or to book call 0118 971 3330



OPEN

NEW! UKWCT WOLF CENTRE 'VISIT WEDNESDAYS'

Open from 11am to 4pm

FROM 8TH JANUARY 2014, *Visit Wednesdays* give you the opportunity to come and see the Trust without pre-booking, unlike our other events.

You will be able to observe our ten very charismatic wolves from our three Arctics with their amazing white coats, to our enigmatic black Canadian wolves – enabling you to learn more about these misunderstood creatures.

There will be fantastic photographic views of the wolves in their large, natural-looking enclosures and you'll have access to the raised photographic platform on site.

If you're lucky you may even hear them howl!

We also have a gift shop for you to browse for books and souvenirs, picnic areas for warmer days and free parking.



ADMISSION: £8 Adults; **£5** Members, children (3-12) & OAPs; Children under 3: **FREE**. Tickets on the gate only. Sorry: no dogs on site.



Valentine Walk

Saturday, 15th February at 10am

What could be a more romantic gift for an animal lover than the chance to walk with wolves?

Spend your special time at the UK Wolf Conservation Trust in the company of one of the most family-oriented species.

It's breeding season for the wolves and they are very loyal and attentive to their mates at this special time of year for lovers.

£85 for two people.

Includes a gift. Booking essential.

Arctic Encounter

Saturday 8th February 2014, 10am to 2pm

Ever wanted to spend time with an Arctic Wolf? A half day in Berkshire includes:

- A presentation on Arctic wolves
- Photographic opportunities
- The chance to get up close and personal with our Arctic wolves in their enclosure
- Watch the wolves being fed
- Receive a memento of your visit

£150 per person, minimum age 18, booking essential.



Arctic Ambles

25th January, 23rd February, 8th March and 23rd March, 9am to 11am

Enjoy a walk with our magnificent Arctic Wolves and the wonderful photographic opportunities they provide.

View all of the Trust's wolves and spend time getting to know the handlers who work with these amazing animals.

Afterwards, there will be time to shop for a wolfy souvenir!

Maximum 8 people. Booking essential.
£60 per person, age 18+

Photograph all ten of the Trust's wolves, including our amazing Arctic trio.

Our photography workshops are held when the wolves are at their most charismatic. We start with a brief presentation setting the scene and giving you background information about the wolves and the Trust. You will then have time to photograph the wolves either in their enclosures or – on weekend dates only – out on a walk.

Open to photographers of all abilities and standards of equipment. Participants must be 18 years or older. Full details on the website.

Spaces are limited – so book early. **Check our website for full details, times and availability.**



Photography Days

Weekends – including Wolf Walk:
26th January & 15th March,
10am to 4pm: **£150pp**

Weekdays – without Wolf Walk:
4th February, 28th February,
10am to 3pm: **£80pp**