

# WOLF PRINT

The UK Wolf Conservation Trust

Issue 59 | Autumn/Winter 2016



## Wolves, Water and Wildlife

How lupines affect our landscape

## A Right Royale Conundrum

Should scientists intervene on Isle Royale?

## Speak for Wolves Seminar

Voices raised for species in need

NEWS



EVENTS



RESEARCH



MEDIA AND ARTS



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by Calum O'Flaherty

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Butlers Farm, Beenham, Reading, RG7 5NT.  
Tel: 0118 971 3330, fax: 0118 971 0522, email:  
ukwct@ukwolf.org, website: www.ukwolf.org

#### Editor

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

#### Assistant Editor

Francesca Macilroy

#### Editorial Team

Wendy Brooker, Mike Collins, Nikki Davies, Sue Fine,  
Pete Haswell, Jessica Jacobs, Cammie Kavanagh,  
Lynn Kent, Pete Morgan-Lucas, Lara Palmer, Johnny  
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- 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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## Issue 59 | Autumn/Winter 2016



## Editor's Letter

Every issue of Wolf Print has a theme, albeit a loose one. It would be forcing things, and depriving ourselves of some fascinating articles though, to be too prescriptive. This issue is 'water' and it's a wonderfully apt theme for the wolf's world, in so many ways. How does the wolf benefit our landscape, including rivers? How did the wolves on Isle Royale arrive there and should scientists intervene as the population vanishes? What myths are there about wolves and water? The connection is so much more than alliterative but as lecturer at Bangor University and friend to the Trust Pete Haswell states in his dissertation, we should be careful about making generalisations. Every landscape is different and of course, unique in its needs and the way it changes over many generations. That's science, fact and logic, which should be important weapons in the fight against ignorance and hatred, in any sphere.

As we come into winter, our wolves will be thicker-coated in preparation for the chill. Wolves often find ice, when it forms, great fun. After all, it has crunch, you can roll it around and then quench your thirst on it. A wolfy win-win!

However, it's not all winning for canis lupus. A calamitous cull in Norway is planned and you can read the details in our Wolves of the World section. There is also an update on

the red wolf situation. Very recent news, which came as something as a surprise, is that Romania has banned all trophy hunting of brown bears, wolves, lynx and wild cats.

Hope over hatred surely must be a lupophile's mantra. As Dave Mech once said, *'If the wolf is to survive, the wolf haters must be outnumbered. They must be outshouted, out financed, and out voted. Their narrow and biased attitude must be outweighed by an attitude based on an understanding of natural processes.'*

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all the people that make Wolf Print the magazine it is: my lovely Assistant Editor Fran, our patient wizard of a Magazine Designer, Brandon and all the contributors and advisors who work really hard to make Wolf Print, not only informative, but a labour of love. It is always a joy to work with Tsa and the Trust team, a reminder that someone can operate and survive as a lone wolf, but being snuggled into a strong, unified pack is invariably better.

We wish you all a gorgeous Christmas and New Year, where good things will happen for animal and human alike.

*Julia Bohanna*

**Julia Bohanna**, Editor





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Text and photographs by Francesca Macilroy, except where stated

## Honey, honey – update on the Trust's bees

In the last edition of Wolf Print we introduced our new Buckfast honey bees. After Mike Collins, Wolf Keeper, and Pat Melton, Senior Handler, had carefully settled them into their new home, the bees were left alone. Bees are relatively easy to look after and only need to be checked approximately every seven to ten days. During one of these checks, Mike and Pat were unable to find our resident queen bee. There is no real way of knowing what happened to her; perhaps she didn't like the brood or was a 'dud' bee. So we had to buy a new queen for the hive.

Before long, things settled down and the bees went back to work and

doing what bees do best...making honey. It was wonderful to watch them hurry backwards and forwards on their flight path and buzz about among the flowers.

One afternoon, Mike came into the office excitedly telling the office staff that we finally had honey and it was just about to be collected. He was soon back with a wooden board and glorious honey pouring out from the honeycomb. What the honey lacked in quantity (approximately the size of a jam jar) it didn't lack in taste! The rich, sweet taste was heaven on earth and it blew my mind how these tiny creatures managed to produce something so wonderful!

This was the first batch of honey from our bees and we weren't expecting there to be too much first time round. However, they will produce more and more in the coming months.



## Discovery day

The Trust started its newest event "Wolf Discovery Day" earlier this year in March, run by Mike Collins. It focuses more on the educational aspects of wolf conservation, as well as teaching about wolf behaviour and pack structure. It also includes a telemetry workshop, where Mike shows visitors how to use the equipment and have a go at trying to find the radio

collar which he has hidden somewhere in our surrounding fields.

The event has been a huge success, receiving positive feedback from visitors on the day. They not only enjoy learning about wolves but also love the hands-on experience of learning what a wolf needs to keep healthy, helping to prepare and give the wolves their enrichment, then getting the opportunity to feed them.



The day ends with a PowerPoint presentation about the varied projects that the Trust helps to support worldwide, which the visitors really enjoy as they like seeing how their money is being spent. In his presentation, Mike also covers what needs to happen if wolves and humans are to coexist together in the future. Due to its success the event will be continuing in 2017.



## Kestrel rescue

On 15th August, while conducting a wildlife survey, the work experience students discovered a kestrel that had landed in one of our water troughs situated at the top of our field. Their first thought was to come and report it to Mike Collins our site manager, as the bird appeared to be in some distress. The kestrel could not get out of the trough because the water level had dropped due to the lack of rain and high levels of evaporation from the hot summer days. Also, the water trough had high sides. Generally birds of prey do not function well if they get wet.

Mike, who has previous experience working at different centres with various birds of prey, knew how to



handle the bird safely without injuring the kestrel or himself. Using a towel to wrap him up, he brought him back on site and placed him in our indoor tortoise pen. Mike used the heat lamp to help warm him up, as well as leaving some small pieces of meat for him to eat. After leaving the kestrel to recover on its own for a while Mike returned and helped feed the kestrel, by hand, some more small pieces of meat.

On first inspection the bird looked exhausted, and was also very cold. Mike at first didn't think he would survive but still he wanted to give it a fighting chance. However, having warmed up and able to take down some food, the bird made a quick



recovery and Mike was then able to release him back into the wild where he belongs. You can see the release video taken on the day on the Trust's Facebook page.

## Cub and Scout visits for 100 year anniversary

This year The Scout Association ([www.scouts.org.uk](http://www.scouts.org.uk)) celebrated their 100 year anniversary. The cubs and scouts took part in local and national activities. Many of the local groups around Reading decided to celebrate their anniversary by visiting the Trust. They were given a PowerPoint presentation by our senior handlers Craig and Katharine and even got to enjoy seeing the wolves come right up to the fence. They especially loved Mosi who never failed to give the scouts a great howling session, which in turn started all the other wolves off for a group howl! We look forward to seeing them back for another visit soon.



## Michelle Paver returns

On 19th August Michelle Paver returned to the Trust for her ever-popular creative writing workshops. Young aspiring authors listened to a talk on how she became an author and what gave her inspiration for her writing. Michelle also gave tips and ideas on how the children could develop their own stories. One of the highlights was going on a wolf

walk with our Canadian wolf Mai, and observing how she explored her surroundings. At the end of the day Michelle read through the children's stories and gave them feedback on what aspects she found most interesting or exciting. Finally the children had the chance to meet the *Chronicles of Darkness* writer one-to-one and get their books signed.

## DONATIONS GIVEN IN THE LAST QUARTER

Iberian Wolf Research Team

**£2,000**

Project Group Lobo

**£2,000**

Red Wolf Coalition

**£2,000**

CanOvis Livestock Guarding  
Dog Research, France

**£3,000**

Ethiopian Wolf Conservation Programme

**£5,000**

TOTAL

**£14,000**





Nuka and Tala by Patrick Marshall

# Wolves and water

Like the majority of domestic dogs, their ancestor the wolf likes water. They like to play in it, lie in it to keep cool and even swim just for fun. In the wild, a wolf will readily follow their prey into water and their webbed feet enable them to swim well.

A wolf's den is always located near to a good source of water (the mother needs more water than normal in order to make milk). In all good zoos, the wolf enclosure will have some type of water feature. All our wolf enclosures at the Trust have water troughs situated by their fences for ease of refilling and to give visitors endless entertainment watching the wolves jumping in and out and sometimes dragging each other into them! In the summer, standing chest high in the water helps to keep the wolves cool and in the winter the ice gives them something else to chew on and play with.

The pond in the bottom enclosure was built in 2008. Here in Beenham we have clay soil, so this pond is completely natural using the clay compacted by puddling. There is nothing complicated about puddling clay; it is just messy work. Puddling simply means compacting the clay in order

to completely squeeze out trapped air in the soil, leaving a densely packed material which forms a watertight barrier. This used to be achieved by herding sheep backwards and forwards over the clay. Instead of sheep, we had our work experience students, dressed up in wellington boots and messy clothes! Stamping their feet over the area, they all achieved a pretty good

pond with a lovely waterfall (Nuka, Tundra and Tala can often be seen climbing the waterfall and drinking out of the top of it!) but it leaks a little and has to be frequently topped up. The advantage of being clay is that it provides a natural area around the bank edge for land-living wildlife and a natural habitat for pond life with many species of plants.



Torak by Mike Collins





Torak by Mike Collins

When we came to build the second pond in 2012, this time in the top enclosure, it was decided that we would use a liner for the bottom of the pond as our clay pond was not 100% watertight. The pond was dug about six feet deep and then the liner was laid out on the bottom of the now large hole. The liner was then covered with around a foot of soil to disguise it. All was well for about a year with the pond working wonderfully; the water level and waterfall were perfect! However, come the spring of the second year, the Beenhams had noticed a great deal of tadpoles hatching and moving in the pond and inevitably decided to play/destroy them! Whilst digging out the tadpoles they soon discovered the plastic pond lining. Well that was it. The lining was ripped in many places along the edge of the pond!

The Beenhams sadly can no longer be trusted in this enclosure so our sensible wolves Torak and Mosi live here most of the time. Torak particularly really appreciates the water and is often seen in the summer months going into it (it also gets him away from Mosi). Recently when out on an enrichment walk on a hot summer's day, Torak, on seeing the pond situated at the bottom of the Trust, went straight in it and sat down



Kodiak in pond by Melanie Readings

wallowing like a hippo, covering his undercarriage with cooling mud!

All the wolves, while out on their walks, enjoy going in this pond as well as into the River Bourne, which we have appropriately called Wolf Creek! The pond not only helps cool the wolves down but it also holds exciting enrichment. Nuka is the quickest to spot any nesting duck in the reeds, sitting quietly hidden on top of her eggs in the springtime and has been known to eat a couple of eggs before the handlers could pull him back!

The enclosure ponds are also used when we create food trails for the wolves, often hiding fresh dead fish

for them to find and seeing which wolf will be the quickest to get it! Yet there is so much living wildlife in the form of tadpoles, frogs, toads and beetles galore, the wolves venture into their ponds on a regular basis, which makes great behaviour-watching and great photographic opportunities.

We always hope for a cold, snowy winter where perhaps the ponds might become skating rinks for the wolves! Maybe it will happen this year and we will get some great shots, which we will share with you.

A very Happy Christmas to you all.

**Tsa Palmer**





# Updates on Mosi and Torak

After a last bout of warm weather, autumn is making itself felt at the Trust. The nights are drawing in, the days are cooler and the wolves are taking on a fuzzy appearance as their new winter coats begin to grow.

**W**olves' coats can repel most weather but even they look a bit fed up when caught in a torrential downpour. Not that water gets through to their skin, as anyone who has been near a wolf shaking off the rain can attest. The coat can hold a lot of liquid and many a handler has ended up soaked while the wolf is relatively dry!

Mosi and Torak are well and their winter coats are coming on nicely even though it seems Mosi only lost her last one very recently. She and Mai are always the last wolves to moult although their coats come back in at the same time as the other wolves. At ten years old, Mosi and Torak are well into middle age, not

that you would know it watching them. Although Torak has exhibited signs of arthritis, this has been controlled by medication. Recently he was taken off his pills and has shown no ill effects. We monitor our wolves very closely and can treat them at the first sign of discomfort. Mosi likes to spend a lot of the day relaxing on the platform close to the front of the enclosure – not only does this keep her off the colder ground, she can have a good view of anything that's going on around the site.

Two of the enclosures have large ponds in them for the wolves' enrichment and also to provide an environment for wildlife. They are full of frog spawn in the spring and we often see frogs in the



Torak by Francesca Macilroy



Mosi by Mike Collins



Mosi by Scott Macilroy





Torak by Paul Price

enclosures. The wolves do catch them occasionally but they don't seem to taste very nice! It's always a delight to watch Torak when he comes back from an enrichment walk when it comes to the pond. Once released back into his territory, he will gambol about like a lamb, often ending up splashing about in the water. Mosi isn't quite as keen on that as Torak but when she does venture in, it's always amusing to watch her keeping her tail well out of the water like a swimmer who doesn't want to get their hair wet. Wolves are very good swimmers, helped by their webbed feet and buoyant coats, and most of them enjoy a dip. Ours will get in their water troughs for a splash at any time of the year and playing with the ice formed on the top is a favourite winter game.

Mosi and Torak remain extremely popular with visitors and, as the first wolves they see, are always willing to greet people when they arrive at the Trust. You may even get a howl from Mosi!

**Nikki Davies**





# A Fishy Tale

Photographs by Mike Collins

The Arctics have the fastest growing claws of any grey wolf sub species, having evolved to deal with their niche environment. Arctic permafrost, a hard layer of substrate, is nearly always concrete hard and helps file down their claws. In ice and snow, longer claws help wolves grip into the substrate as they run. Our captive wolves are no exception but in balmy Beenham, we need enrichment ideas to counteract this.



Pukak with fish

**W**olves are primarily scent-based when exploring their habitat and will often dig the ground to get at a strong smell. We create a safe environment introducing scent-based enrichments, alongside a hard area to scratch on. The latter wears down and self-regulates claw length. We fill a 30cm chrome tube with scents/food items, place upright in the centre of a concreted base, moulded so it rises gently sloping over the tube lip, with clay at the bottom of the tube to allow for drainage, but deep enough to ensure the wolves can't dig it up/carry it off/access the item(s).

Within two minutes of the Arctics being back into the enclosure, Massak, Pukak and Sikko had scratched at the tube's scent items.

Our Arctics will continue to be monitored for claw length throughout the coming months to see if this regular new enrichment makes a significant difference.

Arctic wolves also have a *countercurrent heat exchanger* in their paws, another element evolution has created to allow their paws to stay at a lower temperature than their body's core. As their blood enters their paws it 'heats up' and avoids

heat loss at the extremities. Because heat loss is reduced, their paws never 'stick' to the icy frozen tundra. Arctics are not unique in this aspect; penguins also have this mechanism.

With the help of their webbed feet, wolves are excellent swimmers and have been recorded swimming up to 7.5 miles. Like penguins they also eat fish, where the similarity ends!

For wolves, when the salmon return to the rivers to spawn in the autumn it's an ideal opportunity not to miss, both nutritious and safer than facing hoofed prey. Unfortunately we don't have wild salmon leaping through streams at Beenham but we do have a trout farm nearby. One frosty winter's day it was  $-0^{\circ}\text{C}$ , so Mike our wolf keeper threw the wolves some whole frozen trout. Pukak guarded his fiercely.

At night our wolves retire to their sleeping quarters whose (trap) door is always open to their enclosure. Their bedding area is a three foot solid concrete raised bed



Massak

shrewn with hay. If they get thirsty in the night there's always a bucket of water at their bedside supplied by the daytime room service. What more could a wolf want? Apparently, having a dead trout as a bedtime buddy! At least, as far as Pukak was concerned.

The next morning, Mike found that Pukak had neatly tucked his fish up in the corner of the bed under hay! I don't know about 'Pooh' bear but after a night with his prize - definitely a stinky Pukak!

**Suzanne Fine**



Sikko





# Mai and Motomo updates

Mai by Trevor Goddard

Mai's springtime pseudopregnancy is now a distant memory, she and Motomo have been enjoying their favourite places to watch the world go by: their enclosure mound or the edge of the trees at the top of their enclosure, where they can often both be seen sitting or lying a few feet from each other. They get a good view across the site and – of highest importance – comings and goings in the food shed!

**A**s well as fence-running with the Arctics in the next enclosure, Mai and Motomo enjoy playing together – generally Mai starts a game by gently poking at Motomo with her paw – it may take several pokes but they usually then chase round the enclosure for a few minutes of rough-and-tumble, head to the water trough for a drink then return to the edge of the trees, or the mound, for a rest.

In late summer, we temporarily moved Mai and Motomo out of their enclosure to carry out essential maintenance and groundworks (a non-trivial task; Motomo is not human-socialised, so cannot be put on a lead). They were moved over into the Arctics' enclosure. The grass was cut, some of the rougher areas strimmed (we leave some areas unmaintained as cover for the wolves and as wildlife refuges), low-hanging tree branches cut back, water troughs emptied and power-washed, and fencing checked (particularly the section adjoining the Arctics' enclosure!). Wolf Keeper Mike and his team installed a new two-level platform. Meanwhile, Mai and Motomo were enjoying themselves scent-marking around their temporary enclosure and

unearthing bits of food that the Arctics had cached, unperturbed at being in a 'new' location.

Once the maintenance work was complete, Mai and Motomo returned to their normal enclosure and immediately investigated the new platform. Motomo was initially nervous but soon gained enough courage to go up to the supports and cock his leg against them. A day later Mai was seen happily standing on the lower level and considering whether to jump up to the upper level. Motomo seems to still be reluctant to use the platform much, preferring the mound, where he either sits and watches, or sprawls out sleeping. On one occasion while sleeping, he rolled over without realising how close to the edge he was – and then slowly slid on his back head-first down to the bottom, with all his legs waving in the air. At the bottom he got up, shook himself then looked round to discover he'd had an audience of about six visitors for his slide. If a wolf's face could show embarrassment...!

Enrichment activities have included food-filled watermelons, thrown



Mai by Richard Whitelock

over the fence where they exploded impressively, scattering treats everywhere, watching our two Hermann's Tortoises ambling around on the grass outside the enclosure, sacks filled with straw from the goat enclosure, and blood-ice lollies.

From September both Mai and Motomo have been re-growing their winter coats: Motomo's 'silverback' pattern has remained, and now with his bushy tail and thick mane of fur round his neck and shoulders he looks most impressive. Mai's fur has re-grown slightly lighter – her belly is now almost pure white, the rest of her still showing flecks of black through the grey. Both are fit and healthy and should now be looking forward to the coming of winter. It's some years since they've had much snow to play in.

**Pete Morgan-Lucas**



Motomo by Mike Collins



# Beenhams Update

The Beenhams have spent much of the relatively warm autumn doing what wolves are good at – being lazy! During the warmer parts of the day they would usually be seen relaxing at the edge of the copse in their enclosure – either stretched out asleep or lying and watching the world go by. By October they had all regrown their winter coats and looked most impressive.

**N**uka has started to develop the silvery neck-and-shoulders patterning of his father Motomo; Tala has gone greyer particularly on her belly but she is still no where near as white as Mai, her mother. Tundra has once again grown the elegant black 'ruff' round her neck and shoulders, which tapers down her front in a V-shape making her look stunning when she sits down.

The pack hierarchy has remained stable, with Tundra still being the dominant female, and is often seen quietly reminding Tala who's boss, by resting her head across Tala's back or shoulders, or sometimes putting a paw there. Occasionally this passive-dominance doesn't completely work and Tundra will press the point home rather more forcefully, with a raised, fluffed-up tail, raised hackles and a standing-tall stance. Sometimes Nuka joins in, which usually ends up in an "everyone chase Tala" session. Tala generally submits and then spends the next few minutes licking Tundra's

and Nuka's muzzles in a show of appeasement.

In early Autumn, Tundra developed a limp on her left foreleg; this, you may remember, is the leg that was injured when she was a cub and had to spend over a month with it in plaster. After observation by the vet a mild anti-inflammatory/painkiller was prescribed for a couple of weeks, during which time Tundra was not taken out on walks; this non-walking period was extended after her course of medication was ended and, after a couple of weeks further rest she was back to normal. Her left foreleg is always going to be a potential point of weakness so we will take care to adjust her exercise if there are any signs of the problem recurring. To help reduce the chance of any arthritis developing, Tundra receives a nutritional supplement containing Glucosamine, which is believed to promote the regeneration and strength of tendons and cartilage.

All three wolves continue to be very interested in any wildlife that happens



Tala by Mike Collins

to find its way into their enclosure; as well as catching pheasants and pigeons, on one occasion recently when returning from a walk they found a grey squirrel had foolishly entered the enclosure to steal nuts from one of the hazel bushes. A brief chase saw the squirrel running up one of the fence support-posts – but not high enough! Tala grabbed it and within seconds the score was Squirrel 0 Wolves 1. After a few minutes, both Nuka and Tala lost interest in it whereupon Tundra quietly picked it up and carried it off to the undergrowth, where she either ate it or cached it for later.

For 'enrichment', as well as the usual scent-doused hessian sacks we put in the enclosure, on hot days the wolves have had the chance to cool off when we feed them blood and sausage-enriched ice! They have also had treat-filled watermelons, although the treats are more welcome than the melon. At Halloween we once again did the traditional treat-filled pumpkins; it was interesting to see whether Tundra had the courage to open a pumpkin for herself, or repeat her usual behaviour of trying to steal the treats from her siblings' pumpkins!

Pete Morgan-Lucas



Nuka and Tundra by Pete Morgan-Lucas



Nuka by Pete Morgan-Lucas



# Understanding how humans affect food-webs and the impacts of large carnivores

When it comes to ecosystem services, large carnivores tend to impact food-webs through two main pathways: the impacts they have on their prey species (Wolf Print issue 46) and the interactions they have with smaller predators (issue 53).

To some extent in issue 53 I discussed the importance of how context dictates the type and strength of interactions between larger predators and smaller predators. In a recent scientific publication\* I reviewed the available literature of studies examining the interactions large carnivores have with other organisms and discussed how their impacts are affected by four main contexts: species assemblage, environmental productivity, landscape and predation risk. Throughout the paper I discussed the potential for human actions to alter context and the overall impacts large carnivores have upon ecosystems.

It is important not to generalise the impacts and benefits that large carnivores might provide from one scenario to the next but to recognise that each scenario is relatively unique. If we are to maintain healthy ecosystems and achieve desired management outcomes then we

must understand the complex interactions between organisms and the consequences of human actions as part of the food-web. It is all too often easy to forget that humans are a part of ecosystems. Many of us live a life very detached from nature and would consider ourselves separate from it. However, almost everything we do, from the food we consume, the clothes we buy, the energy that powers our homes and even the leisure activities we engage in all have an effect on the ecosystems from which we gain these resources.

Humans can generally be considered the most dominant resource users and landscape modifiers on the planet. As hunter-gatherers we likely had some influence on local species composition through harvesting mammal prey and competing with large carnivores. We may have even altered ecosystems on a small scale in order to favour those species we harvested and perhaps to improve hunting success. Since

our way of life changed, becoming more agricultural, urbanised and less nomadic, our numbers have grown and our modification of the natural world has increased dramatically. It is difficult for us to know exactly how humans used to interact with large carnivores but one thing that is certain is that things are no doubt very different in the modern age.

Humans harvest wild mammals as prey. In some contexts where this is done sustainably or where wild prey are abundant enough to support both human and large carnivore needs, this will have minimal effect on prey available to large carnivores. In other scenarios overharvesting may leave little prey available for large carnivores. The level of competition between humans and large carnivores will also depend on prey preferences. In places such as the UK where large carnivores no longer exist, human harvesting of mammalian herbivores becomes somewhat of a necessity

\* Haswell, P.M., Kusak, J. & Hayward, M.W., 2016. Large carnivore impacts are context-dependent. Food Webs. doi:10.1016/j.fooweb.2016.02.005



to prevent further environmental degradation that can result from their overabundance.

Humans also introduce both wild and domestic herbivores which will interact with large carnivores as well as other organisms in a different way to those species which have evolved as part of the ecosystem. These non-native species can compete with large carnivore prey, affecting large carnivore predation habits and survival rates. The introduction of competitive alien herbivores (e.g. domestic livestock) can also lead to apparent competition and increased predation of native species by elevated predator populations. Poor husbandry practices and high livestock predation rates could potentially either exacerbate or reduce large carnivore impacts on native species depending on context.



Wild and domestic herbivores forage and interact with vegetation communities in different ways, with domestic stock often causing greater degradation. Domestic livestock often aggregate more, and their limited ranging behaviour is exacerbated through herding and human directed foraging at convenient locations. This type of herbivory will likely result in limited impacts from large carnivores upon domestic grazing/ browsing pressure, with consequences being predominantly human driven. When livestock are free-ranging their response to predation risk is still different to that of wild herbivores, as well as being somewhat attenuated.

Different predators have varied impacts upon large herbivore communities and interact with prey in

different ways. Wolves hunt over long distances, lynx are ambush predators and humans may hunt in a myriad of ways (stationary, mobile, via trapping or with dogs etc...). Even within a species, hunting success and strength of impact upon prey species can be dependent on size, age, experience and social structure. The impact these varied hunting styles have upon the foraging behaviour and population densities of prey species will result in varied impacts to vegetation communities and other species within a food-web. The butterfly effect can play out strongly within ecosystems with changes at one level having consequences which ripple through the system. Often the impacts of multiple predators will have conflicting effects which may offer some stability, helping maintain a diverse matrix of habitat types or successional stages. Where human harvesting is overly dominant, this pressure may override the impacts of large carnivores and may be the dominant driver of shared prey behaviour.







Humans will often limit or boost predator populations directly as well as having indirect effects on their survival or behaviour. This in-turn has an effect on the interactions large carnivores have with other species. The most obvious being how humans often dictate the composition and densities of predator populations. It is often expected that large carnivores will affect the densities and behaviour of herbivores, yielding landscape wide effects on vegetation communities. This may however not always be the case if humans have altered the species assemblage or behaviour of large carnivore prey and the abundance or composition of predator communities themselves.

Humans can compete with large carnivores for food and alter prey accessibility by restricting landscape or time use but we do also provide supplemental food (e.g. livestock or garbage dumps and feeding at hunting sites). Humans often dictate the environmental productivity of

entire ecosystems through harvesting of resources or the modification of landscapes to suit our own needs. Where nutrients are less available and prey less abundant, carnivores may have a more dominant effect on prey densities or may cease to survive at all in extreme circumstances. Productive environments however may see little impacts upon prey densities from large carnivore predation. The bottom-up effects of nutrient availability are just as important as top-down effects from large carnivores in influencing ecosystem processes. Behavioural interactions between large carnivores and other organisms are likely to be important drivers of how nutrients are distributed across a landscape in most contexts, so how these interactions are altered and interact within a given scenario is worth understanding.

Humans dramatically modify landscapes, often dictating habitat structure (type, successional stage and species composition) as well

as levels of fragmentation and the existence of suitable habitat in the first place. Some human landscapes will be suitable for large carnivores (e.g. hunting allotments, sustainable forestry and military training areas), whereas others will be unsuitable or exclude them altogether (e.g. urban areas, agricultural/pastoral zones). We must also remember however that sometimes humans can have positive impacts (e.g. rewilded areas, nature reserves) and some wildlife species do rely on traditional human activities and disturbance (e.g. heathland grazing and coppice woodlands). Different species will have varied tolerance of human-modified landscapes. Unfortunately the larger a species is, the less likely it is to adapt to living in human-modified landscapes, the more vulnerable it is to lethal control and the more likely it is to come into conflict with people.

Landscape alterations can in-turn affect species persistence, their densities, the landscape associated risks they experience and consequently the ►





behavioural dynamics between species. Some habitats offer more risks than others, whether this be climatic risks (temperature, weather, humidity etc...), risk of starvation, costs of finding a mate and holding down territory, landscape dangers such as cliffs, rivers or roads and the associated risk of predation. In some landscapes it may be easier to evade or detect predation threats in than others. How humans alter landscapes will impact large carnivores as well as other organisms and the consequential trophic dynamics.



Interactions between species are rarely entirely consistent and are influenced by context, with humans often the dominant driver of context. If management and conservation goals are to be achieved then it is pivotal to understand how humans influence trophic interactions and how trophic interactions are affected by context. Trade-offs and management interventions can only be implemented successfully if the intricacies of food webs are properly understood. Both as individuals and as a global society it is important to not only consider but also to understand the consequences of our actions. We must all aim for a more sustainable existence, minimising the negative impacts we have on the natural world. As knowledge progresses and societal preference hopefully begins to swing more in the direction of sustainability there is hope that we may not only be able to maintain large carnivores in the modern era but the functions they provide as well.

**Pete Haswell**

The attractive rewilding concept of re-establishing self-sustaining ecosystems with minimal human disruption may help to maintain large carnivore interactions with other species, but is rarely a plausible scenario for such wide ranging species in areas where humans dominate the landscape. Rewilding may not always be pragmatic or necessarily a true reflection of the historic status quo. In Europe in particular, national parks are rarely large enough to house more than a handful of large carnivores but can still act as vital

source populations. Human habitation and land use within protected areas is however very common, with the needs of wildlife often coming a second to the pressures of leisure activities and tourism as well as agricultural use. It is quite clear that large carnivores in Europe are almost always going to live alongside human populations so achieving balance is a necessity. Understanding how humans influence trophic dynamics becomes very important and could help to better predict and steer landscape management to desired outcomes.

Pete Haswell, BSc Hons Environmental Science (Biodiversity and Conservation), works at Bangor University <http://conservation.bangor.ac.uk/PeteHaswell.php.en> and is collaborating with Professor Josip Kusak on a project the UKWCT supports in Croatia. You can read more about his work as well as find the publication mentioned on his website <http://petehaswellwolfresearch.wordpress.com/> or follow updates on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/PeteHaswellWolfResearch](http://www.facebook.com/PeteHaswellWolfResearch)





Photographs by Michelle Steinmeyer/Endangered Wolf Center, St. Louis, Mo.

# Speak for Wolves 2016 Meeting

## Mexican and Red Wolf Species Survival Plan August 1st-3rd, 2016

### **What was your role/connection with the Species Survival Plan (SSP) Meeting? Please tell us a little about your organisation.**

The Endangered Wolf Center spearheaded the effort to have the first ever joint Mexican and Red Wolf Species Survival Plan and co-hosted it with the Wolf Conservation Center, NY and Wolf Haven International, WA. These two Species Survival Plans have never met at the same time before, yet have done amazing work, independently for these two critically endangered species and sharing this information was tremendously helpful to furthering conservation efforts.

### **How appropriate to be so close to Yellowstone Park. Who attended from that venue?**

Doug Smith, the Project Leader for the Yellowstone Wolf Project gave the keynote speech at our Welcome Dinner on August 1st. Several of his researchers attended the meetings as well. Rick McIntyre, author, and wolf biologist for the Yellowstone Wolf Project, led a tour for the SSP Meeting attendees to see wolves in Lamar Valley on the day after the seminar.

**I looked through the programme, which looked enormously creative, informative and thought-provoking.**

The SSP meeting was a very thought-provoking with an informative line up of speakers. We had representatives from the US Fish and Wildlife Service, the IUCN, the Mexican and Red Wolf SSP coordinators, Defenders of Wildlife, geneticists, wildlife biologists, zoo professionals, researchers – all representing over 60 different organisations.

### **Please tell us how the education booths worked – they do sound like something that could be applied to a wider audience.**

Not applicable for this meeting. However, we did have presentations from the Mexican and red wolf SSP education advisors on new and innovative education initiatives.

### **There was a half day field trip. Did you attend?**

We had a tour of Yellowstone on August 4th that was a half day trip led by famed wolf biologist and author Rick McIntyre. We were able to see wolves in Lamar Valley, Yellowstone and it was AWESOME!

### **Did you leave the weekend feeling more hopeful and/or as if there is still a long way to go to communicate a message of conservation and education?**

SSP Meetings are very inspirational and reinvigorating. They help motivate people across the US and Mexico to help save the world's two most endangered wolves.

### **Regina H. Mossotti**

Director of Animal Care and Conservation  
Endangered Wolf Center  
[www.speakforwolves.org](http://www.speakforwolves.org)  
[endangeredwolfcenter.org](http://endangeredwolfcenter.org)





# Should They Stay or Should They Go?

## The future of wolves on Isle Royale

Isle Royale is a remote wilderness island situated in Lake Superior, Michigan. It has been home to wolf and moose for many years and subject to the longest known study (currently in its 58th year) of any predator-prey system in the world.

The wolf and moose population has often fluctuated throughout the years. For example the Isle Royale wolf population has previously typically ranged from 18 to 27 wolves, which are usually made up of three packs. The moose population has varied from between 700 to 1,200 moose. The Isle Royale wolf numbers have dramatically decreased in recent years. In late January to early March 2015, researchers carried out the

57th annual winter study of wolves and moose on the island. They found that between January 2014 and January 2015, the wolf population had decreased from nine to three, and there are currently believed to be only two wolves left, which is the lowest ever recorded since the studies began back in 1959. Unlike the wolves, the moose population had increased by 19% from 1,050 to 1,250 individuals (from January 2014 to 2015).

With the ever-decreasing wolf population, if wolves eventually become extinct on the island, should they be reintroduced? Without confirmation that the two remaining wolves on the island are a mating pair, there is no guarantee that there will be any more cubs. Without possible intervention, the wolves' future looks very bleak indeed. Although this gives a rather solemn perspective, we do not know what will happen in the future. Ice bridges may form again, and wolves may once again make their way onto the island. Should these wolves remain on the island before the ice bridges melt, then this could bring back a vital boost to the genetic diversity on the island.

As with many other cases of animal reintroduction, it is not always a simple path, and many aspects need to be taken into consideration. For example, what value would wolf reintroduction add here? Should we let nature take its course? Would it benefit the health of the ecosystem on Isle Royale? What about the value of science?

There is of course, a range of evidence to support the argument that a wolf

Rock Harbour Lighthouse, Isle Royale





reintroduction programme would have a variety of benefits and add value. Take the effect that wolf reintroduction has had on the landscape and wildlife in Yellowstone Park. Before they were reintroduced there, wolves had been absent for about 70 years and as a result the numbers of deer were in overabundance, as there was no top predator such as the wolf to hunt them. Much of the vegetation had almost been reduced to nothing. As wolves returned, the theory was that deer would have something to fear. This is known as the 'landscape of fear' hypothesis, where deer have to change their behaviour in order to survive by avoiding certain areas such as the valleys, which give the landscape a chance to recover. It is worth taking note that this however is still yet to be proven and research into this theory is still ongoing. Overabundance of ungulates is therefore potentially a real threat to the landscape.



North American Grey Wolf



Isle Royale Rocks

For example, Canada's Gros Morne National Park forests were degraded by 44% as a result of the loss of wolves.

As wolf numbers have decreased on Isle Royale we have seen an increase of moose, as there are simply not enough wolves to help keep the numbers down. As demonstrated previously, if the wolves completely disappear from the island then human intervention may be needed in order to prevent the moose from over grazing the vegetation.

Despite the benefits that a reintroduction may have on Isle

Royale, it is nowhere near the size of Yellowstone. There is also no guarantee that should wolves be reintroduced, that they would survive. Take, for example the reintroduction of the red wolf in the Great Smoky Mountains. For years the wolves struggled to find sufficient food in the vast landscape. Many wolves moved from the area to find enough food in order to survive.

Cornelia Hutt from the Red Wolf Coalition states:

*'The Great Smoky Mountain National Park reintroduction was indeed cancelled. Pup survival was low, and* ►





Chippewa Harbour, Isle Royale



North American Grey Wolf

*the wolves refused to stay in the high elevations of the old growth forest of the Park. They went to surrounding national forests where they were not authorised to be, but that's where prey was abundant.'*

Isle Royale is also unique in the way that it is a remote island and unless ice bridges are formed during the winter months, it is unlikely that other wolves would be able to make their way onto the island. Due to its remoteness, it means that the numbers of wolves and moose are purely determined by births

and deaths, rather than due to the animals migrating, as they are physically unable to get off the island unless they swim. Furthermore Isle Royale's situation is rare as it is one of the few, if not the only place, where wolves and moose interact without the presence of other top predators and prey. It is also very rare to find an environment where both wolves and moose are not hunted, or the land farmed.

Another aspect to take into consideration is that the wolves on Isle Royale are severely inbred, and this therefore, may be one of the contributing factors to the dwindling wolf population, although there is no direct evidence to suggest that inbreeding depression has an effect on the survival of wolves. There is however a possible alternative to inbreeding depression, the potential cause of the lack of breeding on Isle Royale. When the wolf population crashed to just a single breeding pair it is entirely possible that the wolves recognised each other as siblings and therefore may have prevented

the wolves from forming additional breeding pairs.

If wolves became extinct on Isle Royale and they were reintroduced, the likelihood is that the future wolves would too be subject to inbreeding eventually. If this were the case, then should we really consider reintroducing wolves, knowing that without genetic diversity the wolves would once again become inbred? On one hand, this could be prevented by reintroducing several unrelated breeding pairs. There is also the possibility of cross-fostering, where captive breed cubs are placed within wild populations, which in turn will help with the increase of genetic diversity as well as lowering the risk of inbreeding depression. Once again, there is no guarantee that the cubs would be accepted or even survive. Cross-fostering is just one of many human management techniques used in the attempt to increase genetic diversity in wild wolf population.

Of course, the wolves on Isle Royale have provided a wealth of data that scientists and researchers may not have had otherwise. We still don't know the full effect that inbreeding has on the wolf population. If the study were to continue, we could at least obtain more knowledge about inbred wolves, although some may argue against the scientific value that this may provide. In the wild, wolves usually disperse between two and three years old to join another pack or start their own. In those circumstances, inbreeding does not usually occur, as wolves leave in search of a mate in order to start their own pack. It is only in certain situations, where there is no other choice, wolves will inbreed for the survival of the pack. The wolves on Isle Royale most likely arrived on the island via ice bridges. When the ice bridges melted, the wolves were unable to escape from the island to find new breeding partners, so they were forced to inbreed.

**Francesca Macilroy**

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# Lessons From Yellowstone

## No Wolves, No Water

When we exterminated wolves from Yellowstone in the early 1900s, killing every last one, we de-watered the land. That's right - no wolves eventually meant fewer streams, creeks, marshes, and springs across western landscapes like Yellowstone where wolves had once thrived.

**T**he chain of effects went roughly like this: no wolves meant that many more elk crowded onto inviting river and stream banks where the grass is green and the livin' easy. A growing population of fat elk, in no danger of being turned into prey, gnawed down willow and aspen seedlings before they could mature. Willows are both food and building material for beavers. As the willows declined, so did beaver populations. When beavers build dams and ponds, they create wetland habitats for countless bugs, amphibians, fish, birds, and plants, as well as slowing the flow of water and distributing it over broad areas. The consequences

of their decline rippled across the land.

Meanwhile, as the land dried up, Yellowstone's overgrazed riverbanks eroded. Life-giving river water receded, leaving those banks barren. Spawning beds for fish were silted over. Amphibians lost precious shade where they could have sheltered and hidden. Yellowstone's web of life was fraying and becoming threadbare.

The unexpected relationship between absent wolves and absent water is just one example of how big, scary predators like grizzlies and mountain lions, often called "charismatic carnivores," regulate their ecosystems

from the top down. The results are especially relevant in an era of historic droughts and global warming, both of which are stressing already arid Western lands.

Wolf reintroduction wasn't a scheme designed to undermine vacationing elk hunters or harass ranchers who graze their cattle on public lands. It wasn't done to please some cabal of elitist, urban environmentalists eager to show rural rednecks who's the boss, though out here in the West that interpretation's held sway at many public meetings called to discuss wolf reintroduction.

Let's be clear then: the decision to put wolves back in Yellowstone was a bold experiment backed by the best conservation science available to restore a cherished American ecosystem that was coming apart at the seams.

**Chip Ward**

A full version of this article can be read here: <http://www.tomdispatch.com/archive/175301/>

Chip Ward (<http://chipwardessays.blogspot.co.uk>) is a political activist and author of *Canaries on the Rim: Living Downwind in the West* (Verso, 1999) and *Hope's Horizon: Three Visions for Healing the American Land* (Island/Shearwater, 2004).

This abridged version of his Yellowstone article is reproduced here with the author's full permission.



# An Unwelcome Mix: Wolf Hybridisation in Italy

Frightened and dishevelled, Ares the pup was found in a landfill. Alberta, too wild to be tamed, was cramped in a cage for 15 months, and Lara was nearly crippled by a gunshot. Until recently, their future was uncertain, and not only due to their history: they are wolf hybrids, a contentious issue in Italy. Wolf-dog crosses are nothing new, so why the controversy?

There are a handful of reasons. An endangered species could essentially be “bred” out of existence, and hybrids have no protected status. Wolves can also be blamed for attacks or shot in cases of mistaken identity, fuelling the fire for an increased hunting quota. Equally, resembling dogs allows hybrids to approach livestock more easily.

The problem has become acute enough in Italy to monitor wolf-dog crosses, as in project LIFE M.I.R.C.O-Lupo in the Emilia-Romagna region,

and investigate causes and solutions to hybridisation, as in Tuscany’s four-year project LIFE Ibriwolf.

LIFE M.I.R.C.O-Lupo, named after one of its first hybrids, sterilises and tracks wolf-dog crosses. LIFE Ibriwolf, which ran from 2011-2015, tried to assess the number of hybrids in the Maremma area and explore other practical solutions. Testing howls, non-invasive samples and camera-traps, they found that four of the five local packs included at least one wolf-dog cross. The problem of stray and



Photograph of Ares © Paola Fazzi



roaming dogs was also highlighted, with 66% of surveyed local people letting their dogs loose at night. Capturing and rehoming strays and sterilising hybrids helped reduce their numbers, but there were more than a few bumps in the road. Namely, few resources to track down the animals, and even hybrid identification proved difficult, with some laboratories





Maremma, Italy, where LIFE Ibrewolf tried to assess the number of hybrids

returning different results for the same sample. However, it has helped raise awareness and pave the way for more official legislation: at the time of writing, the Ministry of the Environment is revising its plan for wolf conservation. But where does this leave Ares, Alberta and Lara?

Thanks to a Change.org campaign, Alberta was transferred to *Centro*

*Tutela e Ricerca Fauna Esotica e Selvatica*, an animal rescue centre at Monte Adone, where Ares and Lara had already been placed.

After rehabilitation and sterilisation, Alberta will join them rolling in the grass and running through the trees in their enclosure. Like the UKWCT wolves, they and other captured wolf-dogs will act as “ambassadors” to raise

awareness in the wake of LIFE Ibrewolf and LIFE M.I.R.C.O-Lupo.

Even if they’re neither wolf nor dog, these hybrids now have a place to call home, and since both projects also affect canine welfare, there may be a more secure future for both sides of the family tree.

**Jessica Jacobs**

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# Wolves and Water in Myth and Folklore

Not all wolves of legend prowl the forest. You'll also find them near springs, lakes and even the ocean, but not in the way you'd expect.

For instance, in one 12th-century myth, a wolf helped create the Japanese spa town of Misasa Onsen. Samurai Samanosuke was on his way to pray when he saw a white wolf in distress, but after drawing back his bow, he relented and let it escape. The wolf was really a messenger of the mighty spirit Myouken Daibosatsu, who, as a reward for sparing its life, revealed a sacred spring. This still exists today, and in the town stands a statue of the wolf and samurai. Unfortunately, in Europe, wolves and water are linked by destruction rather than compassion.

More allegory than myth, the Dutch term *water-woolf* describes how wind-driven water destroys soft shorelines. In the 17th century there was a plan to mitigate it by turning Lake Haarlem into a network of dykes, and Jacob

Bartelz Vernis' project map, with a poem by Joost van den Vondel, included a drawing of the "land-lion" battling the "water-wolf". However, in the Native American Menomimi legend "Manabozho's Wolf Brother", water can be bad news for wolves too.

After finishing the tasks of the Great Spirit, Manabozho was gifted a lakeside home and a twin brother, Naq'pote, who could transform into a wolf while hunting. Manabozho warned him never to return home across the lake, but one day the wolf was tired and took a shortcut over the ice. As soon as Naq'pote was halfway across, the ice broke and evil spirits seized him from underneath. Although his brother's spirit appeared before him, Manabozho knew he could never come home, and told the wolf to walk towards the sunset so they could be reunited in the After Life. Happily, in another Native American legend, wolves make the best of their new surroundings.

In the Haida story "Wolf and the Sea", a man raised two wolf pups he found on the beach. When fully grown, they swam out to sea every day and killed a whale for their master to eat. Soon there was too much food



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going to waste, so the Great Above Person cast down a thick fog. The wolves could neither find their way back to shore nor any whales to hunt, so they remained in the ocean and became orcas. Indeed, killer whales are sometimes known as "wolves of the sea", due to their pack-hunting and strong family bonds.

There's only a trickle of myths linking wolves with water, but they're remarkably diverse and show water as their symbol, their undoing, or their gateway to a new destiny.

**Jessica Jacobs**

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# Red Wolf Coalition News

Firstly, sad news about ambassador red wolf Hank:

**F**ree to Roam: Red wolf ambassador Hank died peacefully on September 14th, 2016, the 29th anniversary of the red wolf reintroduction to the wild. He was 14 1/2 years old. Hank and his mate Betty taught hundreds of people about red wolves through the Red Wolf Coalition programs presented in the shady woods close to the couple's habitat. Hank's legacy will live on, and his howls will travel on the winds.'



Photograph by Kim Wheeler

## Secondly, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Announces Proposal for Red Wolf Recovery Program

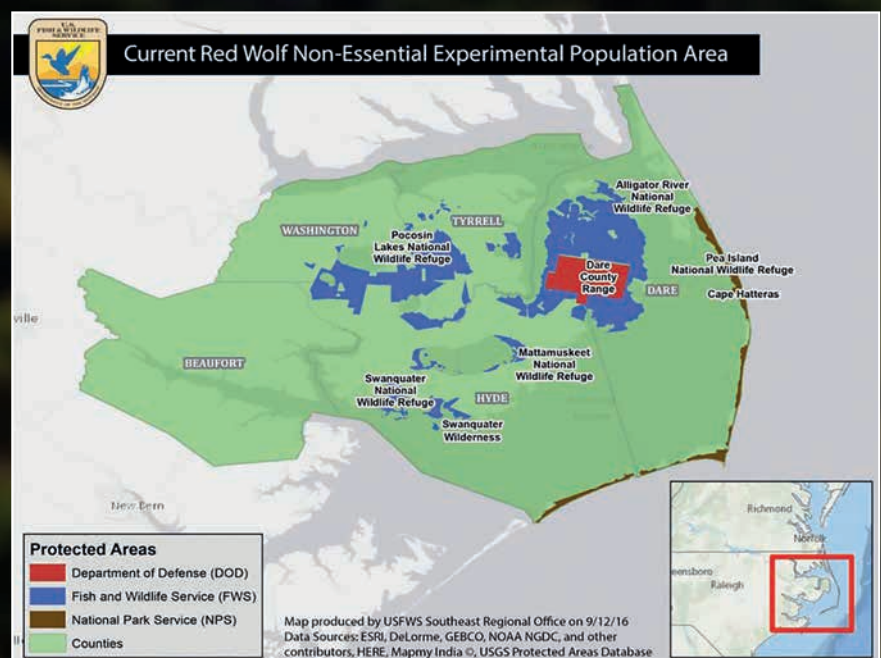
On September 12th, 2016, just two days before the 29th anniversary of the red wolf's historic return to the wild in 1987, the (USFWS) announced its long-awaited proposal regarding the future of one of the world's rarest mammals.

After conducting a lengthy review of the Red Wolf Recovery Program, the

USFWS recommended restricting the only wild population of red wolves (now an estimated 45 known animals) to federal lands in Dare County on northeastern North Carolina's Albemarle Peninsula. This would mean shrinking the red wolf's home in the wild from 1.7 million acres in five counties to approximately 200,000 acres of habitat on the Alligator River National Wildlife Refuge (ARNVR) and the adjacent Dare County Bombing Range (see map). Wolves straying or dispersing onto

private lands would be removed at the landowner's request and relocated onto public land or placed in captivity.

Additionally, the USFWS proposed doubling the current Red Wolf Species Survival Captive Breeding Program population of approximately 200 wolves. The agency also stated it would determine where potential new reintroduction sites exist, a task many think should have been undertaken long ago, particularly with rising sea







levels as a major, long-term threat to North Carolina's coastal lowlands.

Lastly, an irritating and inaccurate article in the Daily Mail on September 22nd falsely stated that the red wolf has been removed from the endangered species list. The red wolf remains listed as endangered under the Endangered Species Act in the U.S. Complaints were made to the Independent Press Standards Organisation (IPSO) and also directly in the Daily Mail's comments section.

All news supplied by Chair of the Board of Directors for the Red Wolf Coalition, Cornelia Hutt.

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

## VERY LATEST NEWS

On September 29th, 2016, the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of North Carolina issued a preliminary injunction that orders the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to stop capturing—and authorizing private landowners to capture and kill—red wolves in the world's only wild population. On behalf of the Red Wolf Coalition, Defenders of Wildlife, the Animal Welfare Institute, the Southern Environmental Law Center has brought the USFWS to court for abandoning its responsibility to protect and restore the red wolf, a species listed under the Endangered Species Act.



## Catastrophic News From Norway

Conservationists are currently furious about Norway's recent decision to cull 70% of its tiny endangered wolf population of only 68 animals. 35,000 people have already signed an anti-cull petition.

As expected many sheep farmers are very much in favour of the plan but wildlife protection group Predator Alliance Norway have put up posters promoting the wolf as an essential tourist attraction, a symbol of wildness and nature. The group is based in Trysil, in the heartland of where the wolf cull is intended. Similar to anti-wolf sentiment in diehard regions of the US, many cars in Norway boast stickers that proclaim "Real Men Shoot Wolves". So Predator Alliance Norway, founded by Lars-Erik Lie, is an anomaly in this area.

However, not all locals want the wolf wiped out and indeed some

believe that there should be space for livestock and predators. However, it is alleged they have felt under pressure, even threatened, not to make a fuss. Norway currently allows a majority of its two million population of sheep/cattle to completely free range all through the summer, with very little supervision. Farmers lose approximately 120,000 per annum and nearly 20% of those losses, according to state compensation, 20,000 of these deaths are attributed to predators, such as bears, lynx, wolverines and golden eagles. 8% are killed by wolves.

The wolf has long being considered an enemy in Norway. In the mid nineteenth

century, bounties were placed on the species that drove it close to extinction until it was protected in 1973. Wolves returned in 1980 but did not breed in Norway until 1997.

Norwegian sheep are poor climbers and not adept at being herded or more importantly, fleeing from predator attack. They are large and meaty though, which seems the main consideration. Lars-Erik Lie lives close to the Slettåsen pack, who despite being in a designated wolf zone, are due to be culled. He states:

*'The Slettåsen pack is very stable and of genetic importance. Scandinavian wolves are subject to inbreeding and poaching, and this makes the small population more vulnerable to random events. Culling these individuals can undermine the viability of the entire Norwegian wolf population.'*

So what is the answer? Friends of the Earth advocate more suitable breeds of sheep, better fences and proper shepherding. WWF would like to challenge the decision legally before the culls begins on 1st January 2017. There are many groups working for the Norway wolf and hopefully those strong and determined voices will eventually be heard. Petition may be signed here: <http://www.thepetitionsite.com/459/200/467/demand-norway-stop-mass-slaughter-of-its-endangered-wolf-population/>



# Wolves Return to Manang After Four Decades

Photographs by Tashi R. Ghale/Global Primate Network Nepal

On September 2nd, 2016 at 16:05pm Tashi R. Ghale and Rinzin P. Lama of Global Primate Network Nepal (a Nepalese wildlife NGO) were walking down a slope after completing a snow leopard sign transect and prey count in Mam Tso area in the upper valley of Khangsar VDC, Manang. At 16:15pm after crossing a small ridgeline that separates Mam Tso area with a grazing valley located with a south-east aspect used by free roaming yaks and horses, suddenly Tashi R. Ghale sighted a pack of wolf (parents and three pups) running upwards in North-East direction at a distance of around 200m from them. The pack separated quickly; a mature male and a pup disappeared quickly into the broken terrain located on the upper slope. Mother and two other pups were photographed at an elevation of 4848m asl (N28.70532, E83.93334) from a distance of 170m at 16:21pm.

After Tashi approached the pack, the mother wolf escaped down to the narrow valley towards the stream. Both the pups hid within boulders. After a while, one pup climbed in the large rock and started howling and Tashi was able to capture that moment from a distance of around 50-60m at 4:29pm. By the time Tashi



arrived at the rock where the pup was standing, it has already escaped in the same direction as its mother. Another team member Rinzin P. Lama found the kill sites at an elevation of 4851m asl (N28.70836, E83.93009) in the middle of the boulder some 50-60m from the point where wolf pack was photographed. At 4:35pm a pup hiding behind the boulder approached towards the kill sites where Tashi was standing, stayed staring for 10-15 seconds and then ran back again. Tashi followed down the ridge and photographed that pup at 4:40pm at the end of ridgeline before it escaped down in the direction of mother and another pup. We were observing them running on the other side from

a distance of more than 1500m and soon they had vanished into the fog.'

## CAMERA-TRAPPED IMAGES:

There have been numerous camera-trapped images of the wolves in several locations, including Pripche, Angumi Lapache, Kyarkan and Shya Kang. In most of the camera trap evidence, individuals of the same pack were captured frequently, either singly or in pairs. These record makes the first ever camera trap evidence of wolves in Manang district as according to local people, they were extinct in the area.

## Ganga Ram Regmi

Global Primate Network

<http://primatelife.org>



# An ADVENTURE in Croatia (Part 2)

My cabin was a fairly large wooden structure in the middle of nowhere, surrounded by a forest and large clearing. The views were incredible and the sense of escape and wonder is something I had never felt before or experienced since.

The morning breakfast, which became a staple of our daily routine, consisted of eggs, sausage, peppers, onion with bread, black tea and honey. Cooking the simple breakfast was the easy part, but washing up was another story. More of that later.

On a clear night, I could gaze up and see pure, unpolluted sky. I grew up in a little town near the New Forest and then moved to the small village of Beenham roughly a couple of months before the trip, so I have never lived in large populated areas. Therefore I was lucky enough to have seen the night sky in relatively low lit, unpopulated areas. This was something else entirely though, as if, in Croatia, this was how the sky was meant to be experienced.

So many people had passed through or stayed in my isolated cabin; it was rich with history, including bullet holes from the Croatian war of independence in the early 90's. Most of all, the cabin embodied its natural environment and surroundings. There of course was no electricity, which was a breath of fresh air in an age of constant, nagging communication. Phones had to be charged in the car and even then there was little to no signal, so my phone remained off for nearly the entire trip. All the cooking had to be done on gas and all the lights were gas-burning lamps and torches. The biggest shock though, for a privileged westerner, was that there was no running water. This was true for a majority of the stay, as the local reservoir had dried up over the summer months.

The lack of water, far from being a disaster, was an interesting exercise. I saw this as an adventure and to some degree a way to experience life as an animal might, relying on certain water sources. I would have to work at finding a water source every day rather than simply turning on a tap. I will never forget visiting a natural spring to collect water in a large plastic water jug, looking into the crystal-clear, bubbling water as it surfaced, filtered through the ground. Next to the surfacing bubbles sat a newt. This water was entirely safe to drink and entirely natural. Obviously without tap water, we could not flush the toilet, so it meant a trip to the woods just outside the door. The key was to sing so if any bears were nearby, you wouldn't spook them. My singing was enough to scare





away any bear, especially after I had been enjoying a traditional Croatian game and sharing around a bottle of whiskey and a few beers.

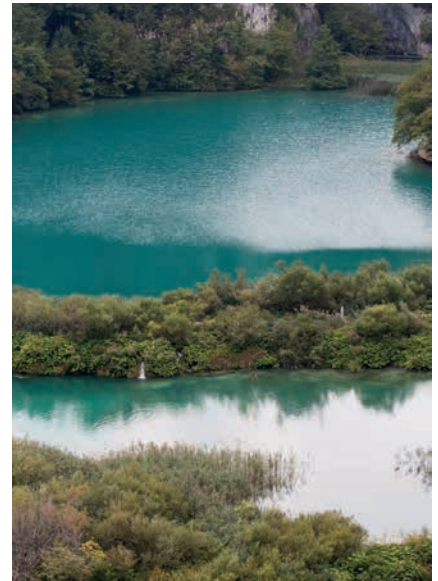
The remote nature and simplicity of the cabin really appealed to me; it was a rare and unusual chance to enjoy a situation that simply could not be improved by wealth. Maybe I saw this step closer to nature in a romanticised way but it was a good lesson. When you see a wolf or any other animal, you should remember that life is hard work, dangerous and often lacking in comfort. An animal in the wild has to be constantly alert and smart.

The lack of running water was probably the most noticeable change to my daily routine. The Plitvice Lakes National Park is mostly known for its incredible lakes and waterfalls. The lakes attract over a million tourists annually. I struggle to imagine that anywhere could be as intensely beautiful. The lakes cascade into one another, separated by natural dams and following the same general water flow. Around the lakes there are man-made walkways and wooden paths above the water level, so it is possible to walk around the whole national park over the water. The biodiversity in the area is incredible and you can see plenty of freshwater fish in the lakes and birds in nearly every tree. The symbol of the Plitvice Lakes National Park is a brown bear for a reason. Most of the wildlife tends to stay

away from the busy tourist areas but there is a hiking pathway through the forests where people may encounter all kinds of native animals, flora and fauna, although the wolves usually stay hidden deep in the forest.

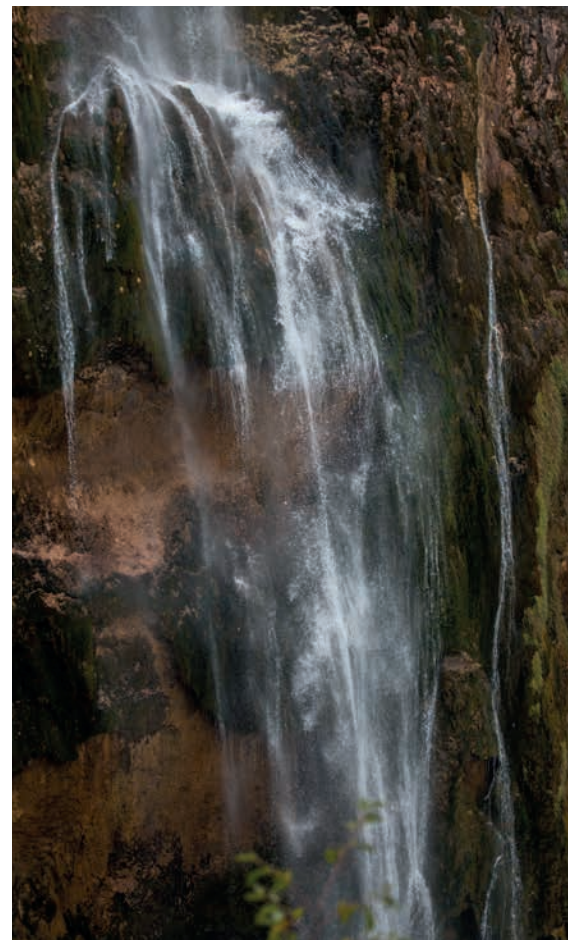
On the morning of Monday 7th September 2015, it was time to check a couple of camera traps which hadn't been checked for a few weeks. The camera traps led right up to an area close to where Professor Josip Kusak knew there was a wolf den. The results of the camera traps showed us many photos of youngsters born this year playing in the sand together and resting on the dirt forestry roads closed off from the public.

We also saw lupine adults going about their wolf business, and occasionally a charmingly candid shot of the adults playing with the youngsters. But the majority of photographs had shown prey species, often in huge numbers. In one area, in one photo sequence we counted 19 boar wallowing in mud, an incredible image and the perfect example of the rich biodiversity in the area. The size of the boar and deer observed in the sequence of photos really highlighted again how hard life for a wolf must be. As well as travelling to a water source daily, these animals had to bring down large prey many times the size of them, animals that might have sharp hooves, large antlers and tusks, which could easily end a wolf's life prematurely.



Experiencing Croatia the way I experienced it was an exceptional privilege, which will stay with me all my life. Although this was my first visit to such an outstandingly beautiful country, this will certainly not be the last.

**Mike Collins**





# Fascinating facts inspired by the wolf

The autoimmune disease Systemic Lupus Erythematosus (SLE) or lupus, literally means wolf redness. In the eighteenth century, physicians believed the disease was caused by a wolf bite.

In ancient Rome, barren women attended the Roman festival Lupercalia (named for the legendary nursery cave of Romulus and Remus) in the hopes of becoming fertile.

According to Pliny the Elder, a first-century Roman scholar, wolf teeth could be rubbed onto the gums of infants to ease the pain of teething. He also reported that wolf dung could be used to treat both colic and cataracts.

The Aztecs used wolf liver as an ingredient for treating melancholy. They also pricked a patient's breast with a sharpened wolf bone in an attempt to delay death.

During the Middle Ages, Europeans used powdered wolf liver to ease the pain of childbirth and would tie a wolf's right front paw around a sore throat to reduce the swelling. Dried wolf meat was also eaten as a remedy for sore shins.

The Greek god Apollo is sometimes called Apollo Lykios, the wolf Apollo, and was associated with the wind and sun.

In Athens, the land surrounding the temple of Apollo became known as the Lyceum, or the 'wolf skin'.

The Greeks believed that if someone ate meat from a wolf-killed lamb, he or she ran a high risk of becoming a vampire.

The Cherokee Indians did not hunt wolves because they believed a slain wolf's brothers would exact revenge.

Furthermore, if a weapon were used to kill a wolf, the weapon would not work correctly again.

Sextus Placitus, in fifth century BC, Sextus (*Medicina de Quadrupedibus* (*Medicinals from Animals*)) claims that sleeping with a wolf's head under one's pillow would cure insomnia.

The Japanese word for wolf means 'great god'.

John Milton's famous poem *Lycidas* derives its title from the Greek for 'wolf cub'.

The Vikings wore wolf skins and drank wolf blood to take on the wolf's spirit in battle. They also viewed real wolves as battle companions or *hraegifr* (corpse trolls).

The earliest drawings of wolves are in caves in southern Europe and date from 20,000 B.C.

Adolf Hitler (whose first name means 'lead wolf') was fascinated by wolves and sometimes use 'Herr Wolf' or 'Conductor Wolf' as an alias.

'Wolf's Gulch' (Wolfsschlucht) 'Wolf's Lair' (Wolfschanze) and 'Werewolf' (Wehrwolf) were Hitler's code names for various military headquarters.

In the 1600s, Ireland was called 'Wolfland' because it had so many wolves. Wolf hunting was a popular sport among the nobility, who used the Irish wolfhound to outrun and kill wolves. The earliest record of an Irish wolfhound dates from Roman times in A.D. 391.

by Tsa Palmer





## Johannes Stöetter, creator of the *'human wolf'* talks to Wolf Print about his work of art

Interview by Julia Bohanna

### What was the process of creating the wolf?

The story began in a simple everyday life situation: I met three girls sitting at a bar, one of them had already modelled for me. So I joined them for a cup of coffee, they asked me about

how my work was going. We started talking about my animal illusions and one of the girls asked me if I had ever tried to create a wolf. Actually I had, but it didn't really work out (I had tried to design a standing wolf), but suddenly I asked myself if it would work with a sitting and howling wolf - immediately I took a pen and a piece of paper and made a small sketch. It seemed to work and spontaneously I asked the three girls to follow me to my studio and check out the position of the wolf I had created.

The first sketch took me just a few minutes, but it took four hours to check out the position with the models, my longest position test ever. Later I studied the photos of the test and found out that by changing some details I could make it seem even more like a wolf. The day after I spent another hour for a second position test. The next step was to make a bigger sketch and also add the colours and the structure of the wolf - which

took me a whole day. Of course I looked at various photos of wolves and studied the exact appearance. My models and I met for a third positioning test and I carried out some more small changes, before I finally realised about the body painting.

The painting was one of my longest tasks. From the beginning to the final photo I spent eight hours in my studio. In the middle of it all we spent at least an hour changing the position again; the pure painting time was about six hours.

### What does the wolf mean to you?

I have a special connection to certain animals; the wolf is one of them. I think the wolf is an animal which attracts many people and it is a power animal/totem animal. Its appearance and howling are very mystic.

[www.johannesstoetterart.com](http://www.johannesstoetterart.com)  
[www.wb-production.com](http://www.wb-production.com)







# BBC Radio 4 Interview with Brett Westwood

**O**n 20th May this year, BBC Radio 4's Brett Westwood came to the Trust to join our Wolf Keeper and Site Manager Mike Collins, Associate Professor of Conservation Biology at the University of Oxford, and founder and director of The Ethiopian Wolf Conservation Programme, Claudio Sillero, and Garry Marvin, a social anthropologist and Professor of Human Animal Studies at the University of Roehampton. Also featured in the programme, called Natural Histories, were Erica Fudge, Director of the British Animal Studies Network (BASN) at the University of Strathclyde and Judith Buchanan, Professor of Film and Literature at the University of York.

Natural Histories explored how the wolf has been perceived in history, culture and in modern times, and how this has changed over the years. Professor Garry Marvin for example talked how North American cultures

have historically revered the wolf and respected it as a fellow hunter. However, as humans began to domesticate animals such as cattle and sheep, the wolf was then seen as more of a treacherous thief.

Legends or stories of werewolves were also discussed, such as that of wealthy German farmer Peter Stübbe/Stumpf, the 'Werewolf of Bedburg', who murdered and ate numerous people, and mutilated cattle. If a lone wolf was seen around a village, it was often thought to be a werewolf, as wolves were normally known to live in packs.

Brett also asked Mike, Claudio and Garry if wolves are a threat to human beings. How likely are we to be attacked by wolves in the wild? Claudio explained that in the last three decades, there have been no fatal attacks in North America and Europe perpetrated by a healthy

wolf. Garry explained that wolves are natural hunters, doing what they are biologically built to do. Although they have a ferocious reputation, they do not hunt to cause suffering, but for sheer survival.

Stories from around the world have also highlighted one gruesome element of wolf behaviour, where they have dug up shallow graves or eaten the flesh from the fallen on battlegrounds. Again, this was discussed by the experts as a natural behaviour, as wolves would rather scavenge for food rather than waste energy on a hunt if it's unnecessary.

Brett did however end the programme showing wolves more positively, particularly how they are greatly beneficial to local ecosystems. Now rather than a threat, wolves are seen as an asset by many.

Everyone had a fantastic day at the Trust and it was really great being able to work with Garry and Claudio again, and of course the BBC team, who were not only wonderful people, but incredibly enthusiastic about the wolves.

**Francesca Macilroy**

## Time for Wolves

By Bruno D'Amicis  
Published by ORME  
ISBN: 978-8867101436

**I**n Italian folklore, when the weather is cold, windy and rainy, it is said to be 'time for wolves', Italian photographer and biologist Bruno D'Amicis spent many hours in such weather in the Apennine mountain range of central Italy in a six-year quest to capture 130 intimate images of the wolves that live in those mountains.

The book provides a rare insight into the private lives of the wolves of the Italian peninsula in the same way that Andoni Canela's *Sleeping Amongst Wolves* does for Spanish wolves. The photos are carefully chosen to immerse the reader in the Apennine terrain, and its elusive wildlife through the seasons,





as the wolves go about their business of hunting, defending their territory and raising pups. The Abruzzo Apennines are not a pristine wilderness and we are also introduced to the human characters and their livestock who have shared this landscape for hundreds of years, not always amicably.

The accompanying text focuses on the author's experiences following wolves in the mountains, his observations of their behaviour, and reflections on the wolf's place in nature, as well as our own. His sense of wonder at the natural world and excitement at witnessing wolves in their natural habitat is evident throughout; this is a celebration of the wolf and its mountain stronghold.

The foreword, by legendary photographer Jim Brandenburg, sums up the book perfectly: *"Time for Wolves has been crafted with a delicate eye of an artist, the hand of a seasoned writer and the analytical mind of a scientist."* Bruno D'Amicis's previous book *The Last Stronghold*, about bears in the Tatra Mountains of Slovakia is also recommended.

Signed copies of *Time for Wolves* can be purchased direct from Bruno D'Amicis at [www.brunodamicis.com](http://www.brunodamicis.com)

**Richard Morley**

Wolves and Humans Foundation/[www.wolvesandhumans.org](http://www.wolvesandhumans.org)

## Of Wilderness and Wolves

By Paul L Errington

Published by University of Iowa Press

Paperback 244pp

RRP **£27.95** ISBN: 978-1609383657

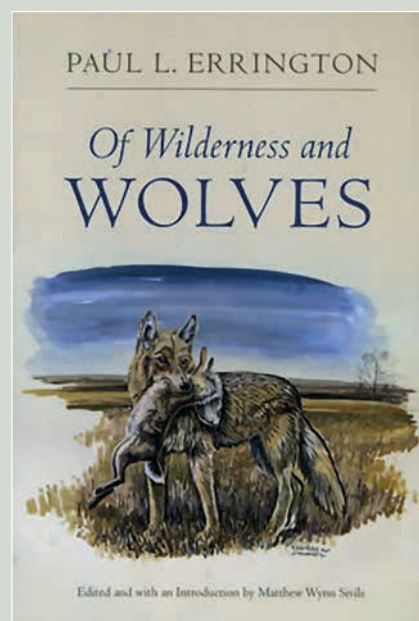
Where to begin with this small gem of a book. It's sad to think that this classic very nearly didn't make it into print, and when it eventually did, after years of persistence from the author's wife, Paul Errington had passed away and never saw his work in print.

*Of Wilderness and Wolves* is beautifully written. However, at times the language used can often make a point appear longwinded and complex, where from time to time I got lost in the point Errington was trying to make. Often, the chapters resemble that of an essay, which was the original intention; but this is not a big issue as the chapters are set out beautifully in their context. Furthermore, it is important to take note that Errington died before he could fully finishing editing the text. Editor Matthew Wynn Sivils gives an excellent introduction to the book, explaining that the published version has not been changed from Errington's original writings except for a few minor details. This is where the book in a strange way redeems itself, as the author's voice has not been lost along the way, giving a real sense of Errington's character. I believe this is what Errington would have wanted;

therefore the publishers and Matthew Wynn Sivils have done his work justice.

From a child Errington had a great fear of wolves, which had been indoctrinated into him by his elders, yet as he came to grow as a person and the more he learnt about the wolf, Errington developed a great love and respect for the animal. This point often comes across and may be why he originally had trouble getting the book published. Errington portrayed the wolf for what it was, rather than the terrible pest that needs to be eradicated. Popular belief was that the wolf was anything but good, so Errington often criticises human prejudice towards *canis lupus*, backing up his viewpoint further by explaining why the wolf is needed and the role it plays in wildlife ecosystems.

Another lovely touch to the book are the illustrations by Charles W. Schwartz. Errington liked Schwartz's work and after some correspondence, Schwartz sent a few examples of his work to Errington's publisher. At the time when Macmillan were considering publishing Errington's work, the editor wanted photographs in preference to illustrations, as



Cecil Scott felt *"almost all successful books on animals today seem to be illustrated by photographs, the reason being, I suppose that the reader feels that he gains a truer picture of the animals discussed."* Again, this meant that the book was presented close to what Errington would have wanted.

Overall this book will be a great addition to anyone's collection. Errington's attention to detail with animal behaviour is excellent, along with research from other researchers, and ecologists. Excellent case studies used to explain the wolf's behaviour, greatly enrich the book. Anyone who has an interest in nature, wolves or even ecology will enjoy it.

**Francesca Macilroy**





# Interview with Susan Wallis, Fine Artist, Puppeteer and Storyteller

Interview by Julia Bohanna

**Your primary career is fine art. What was your route to the art world?**

For many years I have written creative stories and poetry but also painted and made puppets. To raise funds for a local primary school I began writing plays and involved the community in performance, production and direction; in latter years they took on more of a pantomime style. I then studied for a Fine Art degree at Plymouth University and was on the committee at North Devon Arts, based at Broomhill Sculpture Park, North Devon. I have since exhibited works in Devon, Somerset and Hampshire; solo, joint ventures and as part of a group.

**You come from a farming background. Were there animals to which you were particularly drawn to as a child?**

As a child I was very solitary but shared an affinity with animals and imaginary worlds. There were cats, various dogs, cows, pigs and many chickens! I also read books full of wondrous lions, tigers, wolves, old tribes and exotic lands. I loved Hans Christian Andersen's fairy tales. And more recently, the Brothers Grimm and Peter Pan. I am drawn to wolves because of their survival instinct, their intuitiveness and their love of family. They are loving, loyal, and devoted with an alert survival instinct. I am drawn to horses for their power and freedom.

**Why puppeteering? What were your influences and inspiration?**

Puppetry began with communicating stories to children: birthday parties, then events within the community. During my degree course the puppets became larger, interacting with the public. My puppetry was further influenced by Somerset's Fork Beard Fantasy Theatre Company, where I attended a summer school; choosing to focus on puppetry and performance. The artist Gavin Turk, animator/film



Susan telling the story of 'Wild Woman & Wolf'

makers Jan Swankmajer, and the Quay brothers were also inspirations.

**How did Granny Frances and the wolf begin?**

The wolf came to me as a spirit guide in my dreams and also from a book: Clarissa Pinkola Estes' *Women Who Run With The Wolves*. The story *Wild Woman and Wolf* was born, firstly in story form, charcoal drawings, then paintings and finally puppets. The first showing was an open air theatre in a garden, exhibiting as part of a group called Stitched, for Somerset Art Weeks Festival. Everyone is enamoured with the wolf puppet. He is a lone wolf, gentle and wise; made from wire upholstery fabric, tumble dryer parts, plugs, wire, tights and an old duvet. I enjoy combining wire and fabric; I find the controlled fluidity satisfying.

**The story of Red Riding Hood usually highlights the wolf as a true villain...**

Granny Frances was an installation piece created for Hestercombe House



Granny Frances

winter trail, a fusion of my imagination and my Grandmother Frances Wallis, known as Frankie. Granny Frances was originally the crone puppet in *Wild Woman and Wolf*, then Mother Christmas and currently, Red Riding Hood the Elder. Red the Elder made an appearance with her friend the wolf at Taunton Live Arts Festival in July 2016. I chose to portray the wolf as misinterpreted and misunderstood. I have re-written Red Riding Hood in her voice – she conveys the true story.

All my puppets are developed from recycled materials along with some necessities. My early childhood was influenced by the fabulous 1960s *Watch With Mother* programmes. I loved puppeteer, author and children's presenter, Shari Lewis, with her infamous Lamb Chop.

**Where next for your art in general? Are there challenges still ahead that you wish to tackle?**

All my paintings, puppets and stories are created with love and tenderness. I want to explore smaller puppets in the form of scenes, filming them and creating static insights into those created worlds. There is always a challenge in art and the pressure to create commercial work. It is not easy to stick to your beliefs and the message you wish to convey. My message is one of unity, hope and understanding.

[www.susanmwallis.co.uk](http://www.susanmwallis.co.uk)



# STUCK FOR CHRISTMAS GIFTS THIS YEAR?

Why not try one of our gift memberships?



Christmas  
ONLY  
special offer

**Adopt a wolf membership – comes with a special cuddly wolf toy £40**

If you'd like to support the Trust, why not adopt one of our wolves? Adoptions cost £40 per wolf per year and the adoption pack includes a beautiful 10" x 8" photograph of your adopted wolf, three copies of Wolf Print magazine, a Certificate of Adoption and a biography of your wolf. In addition, we'll send a small vial of moulted fur from your adopted wolf. You'll also receive a voucher for a free admission to visit on a 'Wednesday Open Day' so that you can come and see your adopted wolf.



**Junior membership – £20.00**

Open to children aged between 6 and 12, this includes: one Junior ticket to come to visit on one of our 'Wednesday Open Days' during membership year, advanced notification of events and 20% discount on children events run by the Trust, Wolf Chronicle newsletter three times a year, welcome pack, including 10" x 8" colour wolf photograph, fun fact sheet, membership certificate, wolf information sheets, UKWCT car sticker and a free gift.



Christmas  
ONLY  
special offer

**Walking membership – comes with a 2017 calendar £125.00**

A walking membership is an unforgettable experience and makes an ideal gift. A great opportunity to get some fabulous photos of our wolves on a leisurely walk around the countryside surrounding the Trust and learn more about the way of the wolf.

**Magazine membership £14.00**

Three issues of our informative magazine on wolf conservation worldwide along with book reviews, merchandise, interviews and of course updates on our ten resident wolves.

FOR MORE INFORMATION GO TO OUR WEBSITE [WWW.UKWCT.ORG.UK](http://WWW.UKWCT.ORG.UK)



# Gifts, clothing and wolfy souvenirs



## UKWCT Navy Baseball Cap

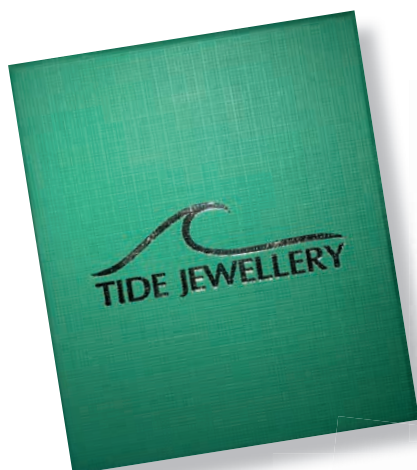
**£11.99**

An exclusive UKWCT navy baseball cap with a high quality design, with grey bordering along the cap edge. The cap features a printed image of a wolf silhouette in front of a full moon. The UK Wolf Conservation Trust name is embroidered on back of hat. Velcro adjustable for sizing.

## Paua Shell Wolf Necklace

**£5.00**

A wolf inset with paua shell which has been sustainably sourced. The wolf metal is zinc with imitation rhodium plating. 18mm trace chain. Gift box included. Wolf pendant 25mm.



## Pewter Wolf Head Lapel Pin £4.50

A wolf head pewter lapel pin supplied by Cadogan. Size 3cm. Presented on cardboard backing.



## Jumping Wolves 3D Card £2.40

3D Picture by American artist Steven Michael Gardner, featuring three leaping wolves. Blank inside for your own message, supplied with envelope. Size 16cm x 15.5cm

## The ideal stocking filler Apron & Oven Glove Set **£16.50**



To view and order any of these items and our other stationery, clothing, books, gifts and souvenirs, visit our online shop at [www.ukwolf.org](http://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.





### Whiffy Wilson – The Wolf Who Wouldn't Go To Bed **£6.99**

Whiffy Wilson thinks bedtimes are boring, but his best friend Dotty knows better. She shows Whiffy that with the right ingredients, bedtimes really are the best! Paperback, 30 pages.

### 3D Ascending Song Keyring **£2.00**

3D keyring with picture on both sides of Daniel Smith's 'Ascending Song.' Size 5.5cm x 3cm.



### Quiet Reflection Table Lamp **£13.00**

Cylinder Fabric Lamp with Lisa Parker image 'Quiet Reflection.' Requires 25w golf lightbulb. Supplied with fitted plug & on/off switch on lead. Height 27cm 11.5cm diameter.



### 15cm Arctic Suma Mini Wolf **£5.20**

A white 15cm soft feel wolf toy. Not suitable for small children, as toy has detachable eyes.



### Calendar **£8.50**

- A4 calendar opening to A3
- Features pictures of all ten Trust wolves
- Planner with key dates and holidays
- Hole-punched for wall hanging
- Supplied with mailing envelope for you to post to a friend







# Howl Nights

Feel your backbone tingle and your ears vibrate with the sound of the wolves howling. The evening starts with a presentation on wolf communication; you will then go on a tour of the Trust and have the opportunity to let out a howl and see if the wolves respond! (Don't forget to dress up warmly for an evening under the stars). The event usually finishes from around 9 to 9.30pm.

**13th January, 10th February,  
24th March, 7pm to 9.30pm**

**£10 per person. Age 8+ – BOOKING ESSENTIAL.**



## THE ULTIMATE WOLF DAY: a magical lupine experience

- Spend an amazing day at the UKWCT in the company of our ten wolves
- Walk with **BOTH** the Arctic and Canadian wolves
- The day involves **TWO** walks, allowing you to observe the wolves while they investigate the countryside around the Trust
- Photograph the wolves as they: interact with each other, investigate various scents, paddle in the pond or stream and howl to the other wolves left behind
- Together with our experts, you will then feed the wolves and get involved with our wolf enrichment programme
- See close up how we care for these magnificent animals
- Learn about the worldwide projects currently supported by the UKWCT and in the last twenty years

*Make sure to bring your own lunch,  
tea and coffee will be provided.*

**Check website for future dates  
10am to 3.30pm**

**£175 per person, £300 for 2 people.  
Limited spaces. Age 18+ – BOOKING  
ESSENTIAL.**







## Arctic Amble

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!

**Check website for future dates  
9am to 11am**

**£60 per person. Maximum 16 people.  
Age 18+ – BOOKING ESSENTIAL.**

## Photography Day

Each of the four wolf packs can be photographed from an adjoining enclosure where there are specially made holes for cameras, giving great results. Expert handlers will encourage the wolves to stand in the best position in their enclosures. You will also be able to use our special raised photography platform. During the day the handlers will give a tour of the Trust, seeing all of wolves and learning about each individual.

*Refreshments available but not lunch included, so please bring your own*

**Check website for future dates  
10.30am to 3pm**

**£80 per person (no wolf walk included).  
Suitable for all abilities –  
Age 18+ – BOOKING ESSENTIAL.**







# UKWCT Wolf Centre 'Visit Wednesdays'

**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 – and have a guided tour with one of our knowledgeable volunteers. 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. Hear them howling during the day and watch them being fed at 2pm. We have picnic areas for warmer days, a gift shop for you to browse for books and souvenirs, and plenty of free parking.

**Wednesdays – Open from 11am to 4pm**

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



## Wolf Discovery Day

Spend the whole day studying in-depth wolf behaviour close up by observing and getting involved with the welfare of our ten resident wolves. Learn about wolf pack structure, our wolves' personalities and take close-up photos.

**You will have the opportunity to:**

- Listen to a presentation about wolf behaviour
- Learn personal information on our ten resident wolves
- Prepare their food and feed the wolves
- Take part in our enrichment programme for the wolves, which differs daily, and observe the behaviours shown. Learn how we keep our wolves healthy and happy
- Have a tour inside one of our enclosures whilst the wolves are in a different holding area and learn about the habitat in which we keep our wolves
- Undertake wolf tracking and learn how to use our telemetry equipment with our Wolf Keeper Mike, who has tracked wolves in the wild
- Have a howling session to encourage the wolves to howl back
- Watch a wrap-up presentation about the projects we support. Learn what needs to happen for wolves and humans to coexist in the future
- Take close-up photos throughout the day

*Make sure to bring your own lunch, tea and coffee will be provided.*

**Check website for future dates – 10am to 4pm**  
**£90 Per person. Age 18+ – BOOKING ESSENTIAL.**

