



**Endangered Wolf Center**  
ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI

**FALL 2018**

## **OUR MISSION:**

To preserve and protect Mexican wolves, red wolves and other wild canid species, with purpose and passion, through carefully managed breeding, reintroduction and inspiring education programs.

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**Dear Friends of the Endangered Wolf Center,**

I've spent the summer enjoying what the Endangered Wolf Center has to offer to our guests and community. Hearing the laughter of our camp kids while walking the grounds, seeing the tour guests "oh and ah" over our resident animals and, more personally, hearing the wonder and excitement in my daughter's voice during the car ride home from her first wolf camp experience. Through our Center and thanks to your support, so many lives are being touched – and endangered wildlife is being saved.

Imagine if you could *help save an entire species*.

I'd like to invite you to be a **Wildlife Hero**. Through your support, you can help us save not one, but two endangered species as we increase our focus on our history-making rewilding efforts.

- **Rewilding Efforts:** As you can imagine, rewilding is not without great challenges. Successful reintroductions are accomplished through a combination of ongoing breeding of genetically valuable wolves; the coordination and logistics needed when USFWS finds a wild den which will accept additional pups; and the immediate response required to enable pups at the right age to be cross-fostered into wild dens. The EWC has been one of just a handful of organizations the USFWS turns to when opportunities present themselves to bolster wild populations.
- **Resonating with the Public:** An additional crucial element is to be able to reach and inform the public about the benefits of wolves and other predators in their native ecosystems, before wolves are introduced to new areas. Misconceptions about large predators and the presumed dangers to humans and livestock require that we undertake a concerted effort to inform the public on the critical role these animals play in a healthy ecosystem and to offer tools for co-existing. If the people who live near wolves do not want or understand wolves, all our rewilding efforts will fail.
- **Environmental Stewardship:** The positive moments I saw this summer reminded me of what being a good environmental steward is, and how different that meaning is for each individual. It can be a small change to help the environment, making conscious choices with your purchases, donating to a cause, or it can be a life path, such as a career working in conservation or a political position.

In this magazine, you will learn more about our success with cross-fostering Mexican wolf pups and the issues swirling around the preservation of the most critically endangered wolf, the red wolf. I invite everyone to take a moment and decide what type of environmental steward you want to be. The EWC celebrates all types and all efforts. Each of us, in our own way, can become a Wildlife Hero. I invite you to claim that title for yourself, today, beginning with an action of any size.

Executive Director

## 2018 Events

**Nov. 17**  
Members' Day

**Nov. 24**  
Holiday Boutique

## 2019 Events

**Feb. 15**  
Trivia Night

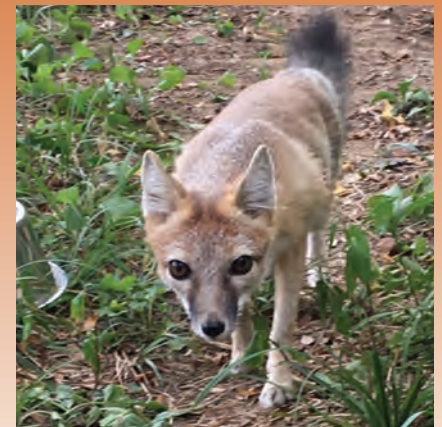
**March 31**  
Volunteer Appreciation Dinner

**TBD**  
Polo Classic

**Oct. 12**  
Wolf Fest

**Nov. 16**  
Members' Day

**Nov. 30**  
Holiday Boutique



Meet this new beautiful female swift fox, Havoc's new mate. She is four years old and we're hopeful they will have kits in the spring.

Managing Editor: Rachel Broom  
Editorial Assistance: Betsy Heck  
Graphic Design: Angela Ewing  
Contributing Photographer:  
Michelle Steinmeyer

On the cover: Four Mexican wolf pups born at the Endangered Wolf Center and cross-fostered into wild packs this summer. Learn more about this expedition on page 6.



## Lucky's Birthday

Lucky turned one in May, and we celebrated on Sunday, May 6 with a party! An extremely important ambassador for her species, Lucky inspires guests through outreach programs, enrichment, and training experiences. During her party she greeted guests and was given a birthday card, gifts, and special maned wolf cake. Sweetology donated delicious birthday

cookies for Lucky's human friends to enjoy as well.

Guests created special enrichment for Lucky, decorating cardboard gift boxes with novel scents, colors, and crickets for Lucky to explore.



*Lucky the maned wolf celebrated her first birthday as guests showered her with gifts.*

## Yoga at the EWC

The EWC now offers yoga events monthly. While each yoga program offers a tour and relaxing yoga class immersed in nature, each class offers a slightly different experience for variety. Depending on the event, yoga guests will howl with the wolves after their yoga session or meet one or more of our animal ambassadors, such as a maned wolf, fennec fox, red fox, or snake! Visit [www.endangeredwolfcenter.org](http://www.endangeredwolfcenter.org) or call 636-938-5900 today for more information about upcoming yoga events!

*Photo below:  
Erin Connett interacts with fennec fox, Daisy,  
and a field trip group on the viewing platform.*

## Spring Private Tours

Historically the Endangered Wolf Center has had limited tour availability during St. Louis' spring season due to the grounds flourishing with wolf puppy activity. While still careful to allow wolf mothers enough time and space to raise healthy pups, the Endangered Wolf Center has opened its gates to increased foot traffic this year, inviting guests to enjoy an educational experience via a guided walking tour. Upgraded tour experiences also include added value through either an enrichment or training experience led by the EWC animal care team.



*In Partnership with REI, the Endangered Wolf Center hosted its first hike day in celebration of National Trails Day in June.*

## Education Building

The process of constructing the EWC's new Education and Nature Center is well under way. Not only will the new building provide a comfortable and inspiring environment for a growing number of onsite guests, but it will also expand the Center's distance learning programs into classrooms across the globe. The building will also serve as a venue for private events, speaking engagements, and other educational or revenue-generating opportunities. To be a part of this critical project or for naming opportunities, please contact Rachel Broom at 636-938-9306 or [rbroom@endangeredwolfcenter.org](mailto:rbroom@endangeredwolfcenter.org).

## STEM Trifecta Nature Program

The Endangered Wolf Center, Shaw Nature Reserve, and World Bird Sanctuary have partnered to create an innovative approach to science field trips by providing schools with cohesive, curriculum-based trips that align with grade-appropriate educational standards. The STEM Trifecta Nature Program is available to students in kindergarten through fifth grade. Each year students will visit one of the three conservation organization partners. Interested faculty members should contact Aileen Abbott by telephone at 314-577-9528 or by email at [aileen.abbott@mobot.org](mailto:aileen.abbott@mobot.org).

## National Trails Day and National Public Lands Day

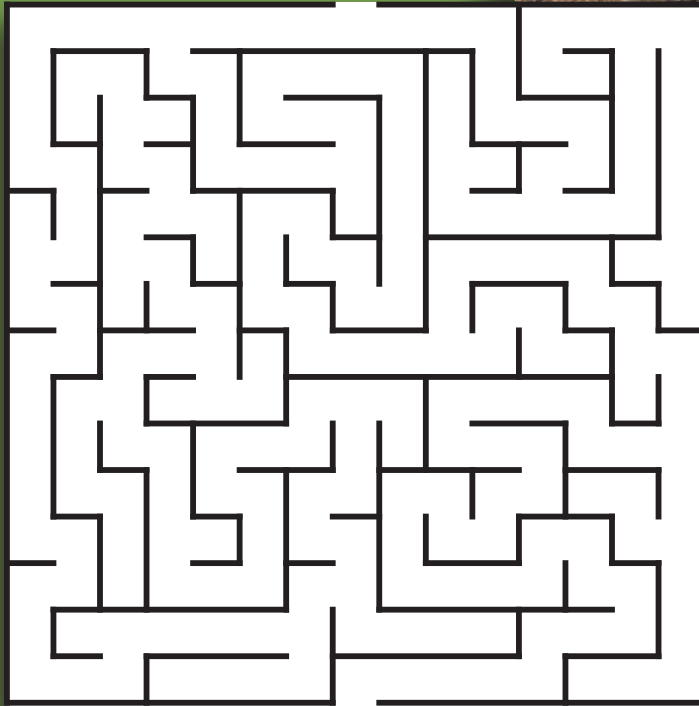
On Saturday, June 2 and Saturday, September 29 the Endangered Wolf Center partnered with REI to celebrate National Trails Day and National Public Lands Day. Guests hiked a challenging trail at the Tyson Research Center leading to a manmade cave. Upon their return to the Center's campfire area, the hikers were greeted with a lunch generously donated by Mission Taco, a raffle drawing, and a visit from Cooper, the red fox. Because this new event was such a success, the EWC and REI are working together to create more hiking events throughout the year. Keep an eye on [www.endangeredwolfcenter.org](http://www.endangeredwolfcenter.org) or call 636-938-5900 for more information about these new and exciting opportunities!



# Page for Pups

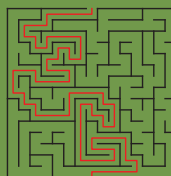
## Mexican wolf maze

Can you help our Mexican wolf puppy travel to a wild den? Find a path through the maze that will lead this wolf puppy from the Endangered Wolf Center to a wild home!



Copyright © 2018 JGB Service, <http://www.mazegenerator.net/>

Right before it ventured out to the wild, a Mexican wolf puppy is being weighed at the EWC as part of its health check.



ANSWER:



## Fostering Wolf Pups

This year marks the 20th anniversary of Mexican wolves being released into the wild. At the Center, we were excited to mark this milestone by fostering eight Mexican wolf puppies into the wild. This means we took eight puppies born at our Center and placed them into dens in the wild. Now our pups are growing up with their wild families.

You can help us celebrate this anniversary by creating artwork inspired by the Mexican wolf. Send us any artwork that honors the Mexican wolf and we will send you stickers celebrating their release to the wild. Please send to:

Attn: Education Dept.  
Endangered Wolf Center  
P.O. Box 760  
Eureka, MO 63025



Artwork by Cora, age 6, St. Louis, in honor of the 20th anniversary of the release of Mexican wolves

The Center welcomes poetry submissions from local grade and high school students for upcoming newsletters. Poems should be about wolves or nature, and no longer than a half-page. Selected poets will get a free tour.

Please send poems with your name, grade and school, to Regina Mossotti, P.O. Box 760, Eureka, MO 63025



# The Coyote: The Opportunist in our Backyard

**W**e have all seen one in our lifetime—perhaps even in person. The *canis latrans*, or “coyote” as we commonly know it, has spread far past its native homeland of the western plains of the United States; they now make their home in the eastern United States in urban areas, and sometimes quite literally, our own backyard.

But why are they here? With the extirpation of wolves in the eastern United States due to hunting, coyotes have little competition—and they are flourishing. Unlike wolves, coyotes continue to thrive despite any attempt to decrease their population—in fact, it has been discovered that their litter sizes increase under stress. Coyotes are extremely adaptable animals that have learned to prosper on the outskirts of human civilization, leading to an increase in opportunities for negative human interactions.

Knowing what we do now, how do we restore the balance of our wildlife and keep the coyote population in check? Our answer: bring back wolves! The American red wolf’s historic range spans the southeastern United States, from Missouri to the coast — an area that the coyote now dominates. If the American red wolf were to return to historic numbers, it would limit coyote densities. Wolves are more apt to separate themselves from space that is inhabited by humans than coyotes. Kim Berger of the Wildlife Conservation Society has found in her research that when wolves were reintroduced to Yellowstone National Park, coyote densities declined by 39% — showing a strong correlation that wolf presence alone provides abundant competition to limit coyote populations. Moreover, the presence of wolves prevented the overpopulation of certain prey species, which had a positive effect on plant life and the balance of the ecosystem.

With the red wolf population at less than 30 animals in the wild, and with their protected area proposed to shrink, they desperately need our help. If not, we will lose this all-American species and be unable to restore this predator balance. One of the key ways to prevent red wolf loss is learning how to tell these two species apart—from a distance, a red wolf and a coyote can seem to have similar features. Being able to identify a red wolf is key to their survival—especially considering coyotes are legal to hunt at certain times. An uninformed hunter might set his sights on a red wolf and mistake it for a coyote. Another hurdle that red wolves face in a shrinking habitat is hybridization—breeding between red wolves and coyotes. With red wolf numbers so low, they sometimes struggle to find mates. Coyotes, though normally viewed as competition, might seem like a worthy partner when another red wolf cannot be found. This further mixes the red wolf gene pool and hurts the red wolf population. When red wolves are at a healthy number and mates can be found, they self-manage their territory and keep coyotes at bay.

Most importantly, the red wolves need the public’s support. If you’d like to see your ecosystem restored, advocate for red wolves! Spread the word about their plight, encourage others to act, and speak up to your legislators about restoring red wolves to their native habitat. 🐾

## SPECIES HIGHLIGHT



Coyotes have adapted to urban areas, and can often be seen on roads and in suburbs. Stock Photo.



Coyotes tend to have smaller packs than their wolf relatives, often consisting of an alpha male and female and their pups. Photo by National Geographic.





## Overcoming the Odds

### MEXICAN WOLF PUPS FLY TO AZ & NM TO HELP SAVE SPECIES IN FIRST (and Second!) DOUBLE FOSTER EVENT

**T**he spring of 2018 brought two tremendous opportunities to help save the critically endangered Mexican wolf population. The Endangered Wolf Center was able to foster eight pups born at our Center into four different wild packs.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service started foster efforts in 2014 by completing the first successful foster of wild pups into a wild den. The American Red Wolf Recovery Program had been successfully fostering since the 1990s, and their experience really paved the way for the Mexican wolf program. Because releasing adults can be challenging (practically and sometimes politically), fostering gave the Mexican Wolf Program a way to get desperately needed new genetics into this critically endangered population (only 150 Mexican wolves are left in the wild, mostly found in Arizona and New Mexico).

In 2015, the Endangered Wolf Center worked with FWS to attempt the first "captivity to wild" foster. Unfortunately,

it hit a roadblock when the wild den could not be found in the recovery area. The pups returned to the EWC and were successfully reunited with their mother.

Undeterred, in 2016 the EWC in partnership with FWS again attempted a foster, and this time it worked! It was a milestone for the recovery program and a valuable new method for getting underrepresented genetics into the wild population. The positive impact each successful foster has for the recovery program is enormous, which is why we celebrate each time. Not to mention the fact that each foster requires a massive amount of last-minute coordination, perfect timing and a whole lot of luck:

- the weather needs to cooperate;
- the pups have to be born within just a few days of each other;
- the biologists have to get signals from the wild mother's radio collar that show her location and signs that she has denned;

- flights have to be available to get the pups to the recovery area early enough to allow for time and daylight to find the wild den;
- staff and veterinarians have to be available to make sure pups are ready to go and cared for during their journey.

Beyond all of the coordination and planning, the mother wolf at the EWC has to have at least four pups to allow us to even consider taking a few for fostering (leaving a minimum of two pups for the mother to raise to help maintain the SSP population's genetics). Oh, and there can't be any natural disasters such as wildfires.

Basically, the sun, moon, stars, earth and all of the planets have to align to make fostering possible! So each year we put more than 25 breeding pairs together in facilities across the U.S. and Mexico with hope that some of their litters will line up with a wild litter.

(above photo) Regina Mossotti, (EWC Dir. of Animal Care and Conservation), with Interagency Field Team at the Mexican wolf wild den site, taking a genetic sample.





Endangered Wolf Center team Sarah Holaday and Kim Rutledge flew on Arizona Game and Fish's plane to wild dens. \_credit FWS

## FOSTER STORIES

In the 2018 breeding season, Sibi and Rogue were the only two females at the EWC that met the exhaustive criteria required for fostering. On April 18, 2018, Sarah Holaday (from the EWC) and Kim Rutledge (Executive Director of the Wildlife Rescue Center) flew four critically endangered Mexican wolf pups born to Sibi (who had given birth to seven pups) to Arizona to be cross-fostered by two different wild packs — one in Arizona and one in New Mexico. This historic collaborative effort between the Endangered Wolf Center staff, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and its partners represents the first time four pups born in captivity have been “adopted out” to two different packs in two different states at the exact same time. We couldn’t believe everything lined up, especially Sibi having such a large litter and two packs in the wild matching her



Dr. Luis Padilla, Saint Louis Zoo veterinarian, Dir. of Animal Health, and Danielle Rosenstein, keeper at the EWC, performing a health exam on Rogue's puppies.

timing. A wildfire and 60 miles-an-hour winds almost canceled this foster event, but weather cleared and fires moved in a different direction.

Next, we were incredibly excited that Rogue had eight pups and two wild mothers' timing matched her as well! We couldn't believe it! Regina Mossotti, EWC Director of Animal Care and Conservation, and EWC keeper Danielle Rosenstein conducted the second foster on May 14, 2018. Our EWC team arrived at the Center at 3am. Donned with headlamps, we went into our wolves' den containing the newly born pups. Veterinarian Dr. Luis Padilla from the St. Louis Zoo determined it was a healthy litter; we pulled two males and two females and left the remaining four pups to snuggle with each other in the den.

After we left, we watched as Rogue went back to the den to check on her pups — she began to nurse them, which was a great sign. We quickly drove to the airport and boarded our plane with the precious cargo – the pups traveled in a small carrier under the seat in front of us with a towel and hand warmers to help regulate their temperature and keep them warm.

We landed in Albuquerque, NM, in the early morning; Fish and Wildlife Service met us and together we drove about four hours to the recovery area to meet the field team. Once at headquarters in Alpine, AZ, Danielle and Regina split up: Danielle took two pups with one team, and Regina took two pups with the other team, and we drove as closely as we could to the wild dens.

But wild recovery means WILD, and the roads could only take us so far! The Mexican wolves in the wild live high up in

the Arizona/New Mexico mountains (up to 8,000 ft. elevation), reminding us that this rugged terrain is not for the faint of heart. To get to the dens, we had to hike up and down the sides of mountains for eight grueling miles—four miles to the den, and four miles back. We'd come from St. Louis (~ 400 ft elevation) where there was a lot more oxygen, and as we climbed higher into the mountains, we felt like we were in the middle of a marathon.

Through scrub and thorn and over sliding rock and fallen trees, we pressed on with the pups in our backpacks. They'd let out the occasional sweet, soft whimper, and the sound of them motivated and reminded us of why we'd come all this way. We wanted these young pups to



Hiking to the wild den sites is grueling and challenging work in the high elevation and mountainous terrain in Arizona. Pups are carried safely in.

have a chance to run in the wild, lead their own packs and take care of their own wild wolf families.

When our team found the den, it was a lush area of the forest, surrounded by trees with a small stream just on the other side of the ridge. As our team approached the den, the mother darted away in the opposite direction — her reaction to us was a vivid reminder of just how frightening humans are to wolves. We worked quickly and took great efforts not to leave our scent so she would come back quickly and tend to her litter. She stayed close but out of sight at a safe distance.



## Overcoming the Odds (cont'd)



FWS vet, Susan Dicks performs a health check on the crossfoster wolf pups in Phoenix. Credit George Andrejko

We took a genetic sample from all pups, wild and captive, weighed them, did a quick exam to make sure they were healthy and inserted a microchip identifier (just like your dog or cat would get) to help us identify them later in life – which pack they came from and if they were one of the fostered pups.

Before putting them back in the den, we “whizzed” them...meaning made them go to the bathroom by simulating their mother cleaning their bottoms with her tongue...we used a wet cotton ball. We used the urine and feces from the pups as a way to muddle the scent—to make the wild pups smell like the captive pups and vice versa. By mixing the scents, it would help the mother accept the new pups as her own.

As a parting gift, the FWS team put an elk carcass within a mile or so of the den to provide food for the additional mouths to feed. The team does this for a few weeks to help the parents when the pups are little and it is harder for the pack to hunt,

helping ensure the pups survive so their genetics help make the wild population healthier.

We left the pups in the den and the mother soon returned. Looking back on it now, it feels like a dream and it's still hard to believe that all the pieces of the puzzle fell into place. It was a true team effort by the EWC, the FWS, AZ Game and Fish Dept, the US Forest Service—everyone working together to make sure these pups got safely to their new home. I am proud of the EWC's participation in groundbreaking conservation work on behalf of the animals we care for — knowing that we are helping ensure their song can be heard for generations to come.

If you want to see more photos or video from the Endangered Wolf Center's fostering event, check out National Geographic's story here: <https://video.nationalgeographic.com/video/news/rare-mexican-wolf-pups-wild-cross-foster-animals-vin-spd> 🐾

## EWC Staff Updates



◀ **Sarah Holaday** was elected St. Louis American Association of Zoo Keepers Chapter liaison. Her work will include bringing together chapter members and animal care staff in other wildlife organizations in the region, creating learning opportunities to cultivate their skills and knowledge in the science of animal care and welfare.



◀ **Maggie McCoy** was elected Mexican Wolf Co-Education Advisor for the Mexican Wolf Species Survival Plan and will represent the EWC as a volunteer. She will help create education materials to be used around the world by zoological institutions, teachers, universities and others to create awareness about this critically endangered wolf.



▲ **Regina Mossotti** was elected Vice Coordinator of the Red Wolf Species Survival Plan and will help lead the efforts to save the most endangered wolf in the world, working alongside the Coordinator to manage more than 230 red wolves that live in 44 institutions across the U.S. Recently awarded the Species Champion Award by the Conservation Centers for Species Survival for her work on behalf of American red wolf conservation, Regina was also recruited as the Mexican Wolf Species Survival Plan Pup Foster Advisor to help with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Mexican Wolf SSP efforts to foster pups from zoos into wild litters.



# Unprecedented Collaboration to Save the American Red Wolf

## CONSERVATION NEWS



**T**he American red wolf is the most endangered wolf in the world, as well as one of the most endangered mammals. At last count, the wild population in a small area on the coast of North Carolina was down to 30 wolves. Once prevalent throughout the Southeastern United States, this medium sized canid (with a propensity to eat deer and a howl like a soprano opera singer) is our American wolf. And yet, many people don't even know the animal exists—let alone that it is on the verge of extinction.

However, scientists, conservationists and ordinary citizens across the country are launching an unprecedented effort on behalf of the red wolf to save this national treasure. Below are a few of the highlights from this year's collaborative efforts:

- In August 2018, the Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute held a workshop for world renown scientists from across the country to come together to help U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service draft a **new** recovery plan.
- In July 2018, Arkansas State University, supported by Little Rock Zoo, the Nature Conservancy and the Endangered Wolf Center, hosted the Red Wolf Species Survival Plan Annual Meeting in Little Rock, Arkansas. Zoos, NGO's, universities, scientists, federal and state wildlife agencies and more came together to **address the immediate and future needs** of wolves in managed care and in the wild.
- The Association of Zoos and Aquariums accepted the American red wolf as a S.A.F.E. (Saving Animal From Extinction) Species, which means a **three year action plan** is being developed to help red wolf conservation. The AZA will aid this effort through funding, awareness, resources and research.
- The Red Wolf Species Survival Plan has drafted a plan to grow the population of red wolves in managed care, supporting future reintroductions and helping ensure the population stays genetically healthy. Growing the population means **doubling the size**, and several institutions such as North Carolina Zoo, Fossil Rim Wildlife Center and others have pledged to add new space to care for red wolves. This population growth is a vital step to expand red wolf recovery to other reintroduction sites in the future. We are working to identify zoos and conservation centers to join our efforts to meet the goals set by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.
- Conservation Centers for Species Survival (C2S2) and the Endangered Wolf Center received a grant to develop a short film about red wolves to help **create awareness and inspire action**. The film crew is comprised of National Geographic award winning filmmakers, and a release date for the film is set for early 2019.

These are just a few highlights of the work that is currently being done on

behalf of the American red wolf. But it's not enough—we need your help now more than ever. The red wolf needs the public to know and care about their plight if they're going to have a chance at survival. Those of us in the conservation community know that we need to speak with one strong, loud, positive, unstoppable voice. Here are a few ways we can all step up to make a difference:

- ✓ **Share Information:** Whether at the dinner table or on social media, spread the word about red wolves. Be an ambassador for the American red wolf.
- ✓ **Donate:** Help the people and the organizations on the front lines, working every day for the red wolf.
- ✓ **Take Action:** Write, call, or email your representatives (both state and federal) often. Ask them to support red wolf recovery and the Endangered Species Act, and encourage your family and friends to do the same. They will hear you. They can help by allocating financial aid or supporting their state or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service recovery efforts. It is our job to make them care and take action.
- ✓ **Believe:** You are making a difference. Any contribution you make to the cause makes you part of the pack, and together we will continue to work until the red wolf is firmly rooted back where it belongs in the American landscape. 🐾



## Citizen Conservation in Action: Turning the Tide in the Era of Grassroots Collaboration

**W**hite-nose Syndrome. Colony Collapse Disorder. The spread of invasive species and Global Climate Change. There is no denying it; we live in an era of looming, catastrophic environmental threats.

...but we also live in a remarkable time of grassroots collaboration, where the internet has afforded us both the interconnectedness and the knowledge necessary to fight back. Finding like-minded environmentally conscious individuals, both within your communities and far afield, has never been easier. As is researching practical and affordable methods for affecting the positive change all of us in the environmental family so desire.

You may be thinking “These problems are too big for me! How can one individual possibly put a stop to these grave threats facing our Mother Earth?”

Well, dear member of the Endangered Wolf Center pack, like I always say, these problems are bigger than any one individual can tackle alone... but

they’re not bigger than us. Us can be as small as you and your neighbors working together, or it can be as large as the entire Endangered Wolf Center community. Nevertheless, when we come together with one voice but many pairs of hands, there is nothing we can’t achieve.

Just receiving this magazine, you are already making a difference. By becoming a member, by supporting the Endangered Wolf Center and the critical conservation work we do here, you are taking a stand for our home and all the wonderful creatures we share it with.

In the past year, new data has pointed to an extraordinary decrease in rates of colony collapse disorder, a condition leading to the total dissolution of honey bee colonies. Do you know what research suggests is the number one contributor to this remarkable victory?

It’s you. It’s us. It’s concerned communities, coming together to tackle the problem head on. From converting your back yards into fields of wildflowers, to building community gardens, to

planting a few native flowers in your window boxes; together we are making a difference. And together, there is nothing we can’t achieve.

So keep your chin up. Keep thinking big picture. And most importantly, to quote Margaret Mead, “Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it’s the only thing that ever has.”

Your friend and ally in conservation,

Matt Fox, EWC Volunteer and Previous Program Manager 🐾

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*Swift foxes have one of the greatest conservation comeback stories, made possible by many groups working together. Thanks to the Swift Fox Conservation Team’s efforts – in combination with the EWC, landowners, Native American tribes and coordinated reintroductions – swift foxes were able to increase their numbers and find protected lands. Today, the EWC continues to play an important role in the recovery of this species as our Lead Keeper, Tracy Rein, is the International Species Survival Plan Coordinator for Swift Foxes.*



# The Week of the Wolf

## Presented by Emerson

**P**eople's attitudes and actions affect wildlife and our environment. That's the message the Endangered Wolf Center is communicating to students of all ages. Called "The Week of the Wolf," this program is designed to teach students that the way they think and act can have positive or negative consequences on the environment and with wildlife, emphasizing that wolves are an essential part of a healthy ecosystem, ultimately impacting the well-being of human health.

Funds to develop and offer the Week of the Wolf were provided by Emerson, and the EWC piloted this program with

4th graders in the Ferguson-Florissant School District in St. Louis, MO. Students were presented information about wolves over the course of a week through multiple teaching methods encompassing elements of science, math, social studies, and literature. We hope this education approach will help debunk the misinformation and myths about wolves and shift attitudes from nonexistent or negative to positive with an understanding of the importance of wolves in our ecosystem.

The program, which is aligned with the Missouri Grade Level Expectations for

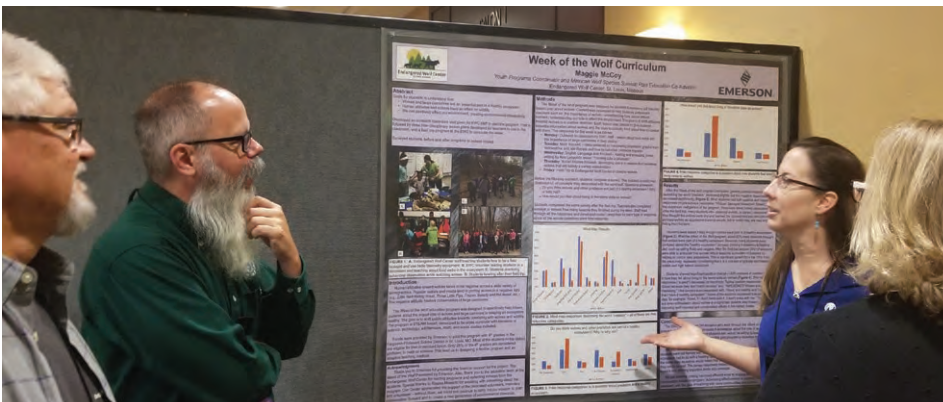


4th grade, works like this:

On Monday, our staff teaches a lesson to students in their own classrooms called The Balancing Act – a class focused on how wolves help to maintain the balance of nature. Teachers receive lesson plans including math, language arts, and social studies to work with their students Tuesday through Thursday. On Friday, the students take a field trip to the EWC and visit the wolves they have been learning about. Seeing the wolves in person is the best opportunity for the students to connect with these beautiful animals. Students complete surveys at the beginning and end of the week to assess if and how their views changed over the course of the program.

And they did! We observed increases in knowledge about wolves and more positive feelings about humans and wolves co-existing. The findings from this pilot program will help us develop the most effective educational programs going forward.

Encouraging environmental stewardship in future generations is a vital component to our success in helping restore wolves to their rightful place in the American landscape. We sincerely thank Emerson for partnering with us here at the Endangered Wolf Center to make this valuable program possible! 🐾



EWC Volunteer, Maggie McCoy created a poster that Regina Mossotti, EWC Dir. of Animal Care and Conservation presented at the International Wolf Symposium. Regina also discussed the critically endangered American red wolf with a panel of experts at the conference.





## VOLUNTEERS & STAFF

# From tours to maintenance and everything in between, volunteers are the heart of the Endangered Wolf Center!

If you've visited the Endangered Wolf Center (EWC), attended a special event like Wolf Fest, or seen us at an EWC booth anywhere in the St. Louis area, chances are you've met some of our incredible volunteers. There is no better example of our volunteers' devotion to the EWC than their help building Fox Haven for Artie and Cooper, our Arctic fox and red fox, and running this year's Messy Play Day event.

Thanks to our awesome volunteers, our Messy Play Day event allowed kids to have a blast getting messy and learning all about nature and conservation. Around 20 of our volunteers facilitated nature play and exploration for about 100 kids and their families! Afterwards, families took a tour and found docents at each of our animal habitats sharing stories and information about our wonderful species. The wolves even

howled during the event, sparking a sense of excitement in everyone!

Whether it's getting messy with toddlers or fighting the heat to build a habitat, our volunteers put their hearts into all that they do for us here at the EWC. Come join our volunteer pack! You can email [krumley@endangeredwolfcenter.org](mailto:krumley@endangeredwolfcenter.org) or call 636-938-5900 to find out more about volunteering and how to get started! 🐾

Volunteer, Bob O'Reilly welding Fox Haven.



Volunteers helping to clean up Messy Play Day.



### Gail Helfer Volunteer

Gail Helfer is a veteran brand strategist, former Hallmark creative director and award-winning writer. Her passion is using this expertise to help people feel a deeper connection to wildlife and wild places.

Gail fell in love with wolves at an early age. By mistake. It wasn't until she bought her favorite Newbery Medal-winning book – *The Grey King* – from her former grade school that she realized the beautiful gray wolf in the story was actually a dog. Okay, a dog with some pretty cool wolf-like abilities, but the bug had long-since bitten, and the passion endured.

Gail and her husband, Marc, own Authentus Group, and have built and managed our website, helped with emails, social posts and letters since 2012. She also writes the bios for our adoptable animals and staff, and named our popular PredaTour.

Her story, *Matron of the Mountain*, a tribute to our beloved Anna, won the Sedona Wolf Week Rewrite the Fairy Tale contest, and will be published later this year. She keeps a photo of Picaron in her office, and the legacy adoptions she wrote for these two amazing wolves are still popular.

She credits National Geographic's *Strange Days on Planet Earth's Predators* film about Yellowstone and the role wolves played in its recovery for turning her love of wolves into a life-long commitment to being their voice. 🐾



### Brian Chrysler Director of Education and Operations

Brian Chrysler came to the Endangered Wolf Center in October of 2017 to help manage our special events and volunteer program as our Special Programs Coordinator. It wasn't long before he was promoted to Director of Education and Operations, a role he took on with purpose and passion.

Born and raised in the Chicagoland area, Brian moved to St. Louis in 2014, bringing with him a Bachelor of Science degree in Animal Science from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

But Brian's passion for animals extended far outside the classroom. His first experience as an animal keeper came at Illinois' Niabi Zoo. He also studied and researched multispecies enclosures at the AZA accredited Brookfield Zoo, looking at the interactions between Asian small-clawed otters and white-cheeked gibbons sharing a single habitat.

After moving to St. Louis, Brian worked as an animal interpreter at the Saint Louis Zoo. He then worked as an animal care technician and supervisor at the Washington University School of Medicine for several years before returning to the Saint Louis Zoo as a lead educator, running overnight programs and serving as associate camp director of Camp KangaZoo.

With a mind for science and a heart for wildlife, his passion and knowledge are things he's excited to share. 🐾



# GIFTS RECEIVED AUGUST 1, 2017 — JUNE 30, 2018

## LEADERS OF THE PACK

We make every effort to acknowledge all gifts received and to maintain accurate records. If you discover a discrepancy or have questions, please call Judith at 636-938-9306.

### NEW AND UPGRADING MEMBERS

Our wild canids give a big "Howl of Recognition" to our new and current members who have increased their support to the Center.

#### BEQUESTS

John H. Tyler  
Sharon K. Kamman  
Joan M. Gossin

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(CONTRIBUTIONS \$100,000+)  
August A. Busch III Charitable Trust  
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Ms. Traci Young



Traci Young enjoyed a private cabana with her guests at the Polo Classic event.

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*Smith McGehee and Susie von Gontard hosted the EWC Polo Classic event on August 25.*

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 Ms. Samantha Bourdelais  
 Mr. and Mrs. Bill Bowman and Will T.  
 Ms. Tierny Boyd  
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 Ms. Isabelle Caguitla  
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*Marguerite Garrick, Jane Gleason, Erin Connett holding Daisy, and Teri Steinberg enjoyed a perfect evening full of howling at a private Cocktail Wolf Howl.*



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 Gala Loam  
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Animal Keeper Sarah Holaday and Daisy ready for their appearance on the Kathie Lee and Hoda Show in New York City.

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 Ms. Sharon Moran  
 Mr. and Mrs. Michael F. Mullins  
 Dr. Barbara Natterson Horowitz



Kathie Lee Gifford and Hoda Kotb met EWC ambassador animals while Julie Scardina, EWC spokesperson, and Virginia Busch, EWC Executive Director, shared how the EWC is working to increase the number of endangered canids in the wild.

The Reynolds Family  
 Mr. Travis Riley  
 Ms. Jennifer Roberts  
 Ms. Dylan Rogers  
 Ms. Erin Rollins  
 Morgan Rudman  
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 Ms. Kimberly Walker Sandling  
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 Mr. Everett Wood  
 Mr. Jonah Wulff  
 Ms. Sharon A. Wyman





Carter Roberts, President and CEO of World Wildlife Fund in the US, met with our EWC Executive Director Virginia Busch and our Board Chairman Jeremiah Dellas.

Mr. and Mrs. James E. O'Donnell  
 Ms. Vickie Ostoin  
 Ms. Debbret Overturf and  
 Ms. Hailey Overturf  
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**Happy Birthday Anna**  
 Ms. Karen Krings

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**Mickey Arnowitz's Birthday**  
 Mr. Andrew Arnowitz

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**Celeste Ruwwe and  
 Gerry Hufker, "Merry Christmas"**  
 Ms. Pamela K. Dauphin

**Celeste Ruwwe, my aunt**  
 Ms. Barbara Meeks

**Sam and his love of wolves**  
 Ms. Elizabeth Macheca

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**Paul Zemitzsch**  
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Lucky and the EWC team were on Fox 5 Good Day in Washington, D.C. spreading the word about wolves, conservation and the health of our environment.



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### **"Maxine"**

Dr. and Mrs. Matthew Broom  
Mr. and Mrs. Paul Meyers



Celeste Ruwwe and Geraldine Hufker help cut the grand opening ribbon for Fox Haven, a much needed habitat for our newest residents, an Arctic fox named Artie and a red fox named Cooper.

### **Tom McNamara**

Ms. Judith Ciegel and  
Dr. Mike Crecelius  
Mr. and Mrs. Travis Mossotti

### **"Mr. Merlin"**

Ms. Laura Lucas

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Anonymous  
Dr. and Mrs. Matthew Broom  
Ms. Mary Hall  
Ms. Jennifer Manuel



EWC Executive Director Virginia Busch with Elizabeth Green at the Polo Classic event.

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Ms. Patricia L. Clarke

### **Terry Sherburne**

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### **Savina Tonella**

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"I want to acknowledge luck. The benevolence of it in my life and the brutality of it in the lives of others."  
—Paul Newman



Endangered Wolf Center's team members presented at the Newman's Own Foundation Headquarters and personally thanked them for their support.

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## EVENTS

# An Outdoors Gala Worthy of the Animals We Save

**O**n Saturday, August 25, 2018 the Endangered Wolf Center hosted the area's most popular Polo Classic benefit at the scenic McGehee Polo Field in Chesterfield.

With a convenient new Chesterfield location, a variety of relaxed viewing and reserved table arrangements in a garden lounge provided by Kirkwood Gardens and Growing Green, and a special catered meal created by Executive Chef Kara Sullivan of Flavor 360, the EWC Polo Classic was the summer's premier event for families, friends, business colleagues, and sports fans of all ages. We thank the Fox Family for constructing a gorgeous display for photo opportunities, Bravo! Tuscan Grille and Texas Roadhouse for providing delicious Bar-B-Q sandwiches and vegetarian dishes for the general public, and Nothing Bundt Cakes for treating all of our guests to personal cakes as a special dessert.

Everyone enjoyed being a part of the fun and excitement of world-class polo as the area's top players squared off in this "Sport of Kings" event. Sideline attractions included the Bubble Bus, Torch the Clydesdale, photo opportunities, a champagne toast, and the popular halftime divot stomp.

Thanks to the St. Louis Polo Club for their partnership, making it possible for us to raise approximately \$98,000 to benefit the EWC's mission of preserving critically endangered Mexican wolves, red wolves, foxes and other canids. (If anyone would like to help us round the total up to \$100,000, we welcome your call at 636-938-9306!) We especially thank Smith and Janet McGehee for hosting this event, and we are truly grateful to everyone that attended, made a donation and spread the enthusiasm in order to make this event a huge success!

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The Winnick Family Foundation sponsored this Mexican wolf puppy named Benny, helping him to reach the wild and become part of a new family pack.