Our Mission:
To preserve and protect Mexican gray 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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Remembering founder Carol Perkins. Page 10
Dear Friends of the Endangered Wolf Center,

It’s been just over a year since I became Executive Director at the Endangered Wolf Center, and I can’t tell you how excited I am to be a part of such a wonderful, important organization. I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself, and to highlight a few exciting changes that have taken place and more that are on the horizon.

I’ve lived in St. Louis all of my life, attending Community School, John Burroughs and Washington University. I have deep roots in St. Louis and, as part of the Busch family, have always had a connection to wildlife and animals through SeaWorld and Busch Gardens — the two flagship brands of the former Anheuser-Busch. I have deep roots in St. Louis and, as part of the Busch family, have always had a connection to wildlife and animals through SeaWorld and Busch Gardens — the two flagship brands of the former Anheuser-Busch. Working on behalf of wildlife and wild places has been a passion I’ve pursued since childhood. After graduation, I spent eight years as the spokesperson and conservation ambassador for SeaWorld and Busch Gardens, as well as President of the non-profit SeaWorld & Busch Gardens Conservation Fund. Family is very important to me, so the opportunity to channel this passion through a company my great-great-grandfather founded was, simply put, awesome.

As President, I awarded grants to organizations that brought innovative, community-based ideas and solutions to issues where human-animal conflict existed. Let’s face it, especially for wolves, being wild is hard. Our goal is not just to reintroduce these magnificent animals into the wild, but to set them up for success once they get there. Under my leadership, our Center will continue to explore such win-win solutions with partner organizations on behalf of wolves.

Having left the Fund to start a family of my own, I always kept a connection to wildlife and their welfare, serving as National Council Member for the World Wildlife Fund, as a board member for Fauna and Flora International, and as a member of the World Organization for Animal Health. My goal is to work with people to raise awareness, encourage education, and support more than ever.

soon you will see more changes, including new office space and an enhanced website. My vision is to raise the bar for the Endangered Wolf Center, on all fronts — awareness, quality, education — creating an engaging destination for families and wildlife lovers to enjoy, and a successful program to help wolves survive and thrive in the wild places of this world we all share.

Sincerely,
Virginia Busch

Virginia Busch

The past year saw many changes. Among the highlights:

TOURS AND EVENTS:
The daytime tour was revamped and renamed the Preda-Tour, offering a 90-minute mix of education and firsthand viewing of the five species at the Center: Mexican gray wolves, red wolves, maned wolves, African painted dogs and swift foxes. Preda-Tours are offered Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays, and are supplemented by private tours and special opportunities offered Wednesdays through Sundays. Those include enrichment experiences, keeper training experiences, special-access photo and VIP tours, and Keeper for a Day programs.

The evening Campfire Wolf Howls were also revised, offering a 90-minute program of education and entertainment, and the opportunity to hear and howl with the wolves. Campfire Howls take place every Thursday, Friday and Saturday, except for two nights when Wolf and Cheese Wolf Howls for adults are supplemented. (All tours and campfires take a break in April and May for puppy season.) The Center even held a romantic Wine & Chocolate Wolf Howl for Valentine’s Day. The evening schedule can be viewed on our Events Calendar at www.endangeredwolfcenter.org.

SPECIAL EVENTS:
The past year saw a repeat of many cherished activities, including Wolf Fest, Members’ Day, Holiday Boutique, the Volunteer Appreciation Dinner, Midnight Howl 5K Run and Trivia Night.

The inaugural Charity Polo Match held June 16 at Billy Busch’s polo complex in New Melle, Mo. was very successful in raising funds and introducing new prospects to the Center. About 500 people attended. All of the vendors that participated did an incredible job contributing unique services and products for our guests.

The Center also launched a new Speakers Series with experts in wildlife conservation. The Speaker Series has included two visits from Greg Rasmussen, founder of the Painted Dog Conservation project in Zimbabwe, and a visit by Matt Lewis of the World Wildlife Fund.

OUR LOGO:
Our logo got a refresh in 2012. The new logo keeps with the feel of the old logo while contemporizing it. The family theme of parent and pups was pulled out even more to highlight our key mission at the Center: reproduction. Additionally, the font was brought up to date, and overall the logo was simplified so that the Center could utilize it across different mediums. Thank you to Authentus Group and Elaine Swanger Designs for their guidance and help with this endeavor.

OUR CLASSROOM:
The Endangered Wolf Center classroom, or more fondly known as the Igloo, badly needed a new look—in spring 2012, when the Center closed for puppy season, we updated the Classroom to feel like an underwater den with some whimsical license.

A big thank you must go to Cell-Net, Dallman Construction, and Elaine Swanger Designs for all of their hard work and pro-bono support. Our classroom now has a sense of place, which invites our guests to stay longer and enjoy snacks and the children’s reading nook, and to visit the Celeste Ruwe Gift Shop.

ENCLOSED ENHANCEMENTS:

Last year, with a generous donation from Pittsburgh Pipe in St. Louis and volunteer Brad Richmond, we were able to install large tunnels in our African painted dog habitat and in Amara’s (Mexican gray wolf) habitat. The wolves love the tunnels to run through, hide in, play, get shade in the summer or sun themselves in the winter. The keepers love hiding enrichment in the tunnels and on top of them.

Volunteers from the Center and the American Association of Zoo Keepers have helped repair erosion in some of the enclosures, some of which are 42 years old. We also received donations of two new equipment sheds from Home Depot and Ann Jackson.

NATIVE GARDENS PARTNERSHIP:
Missouri Nature Scapes, Missouri Wildflowers Nursery, Shaw Nature Reserve, Home Depot, Kirkwood Material Supply and Complete Tree Service joined forces with us to create three native gardens (shade, partial shade and full sun) to help teach our visitors about the beautiful plant life native to Missouri.

Planting native species is important to maintaining a healthy ecosystem. It cuts down on the spread of invasive plants and foreign diseases. It also helps wildlife like songbirds, monarch butterflies and mammals that depend on these plants for shelter and food. If you are interested in learning more about writing a native garden in your own backyard, check out missourinaturescapes.com.

OUR STAFF:
Executive Director Virginia Busch and the Board of Directors created a new organizational structure, with separate directors of Animal Care, Development and Operations. The Center currently has 75 staff members, and is working to recruit and train new volunteers to increase the ranks of an already strong volunteer network.
Wolves are vital to a healthy ecosystem

BY REGINA MOSSEL, DIRECTOR OF ANIMAL CARE AND CONSERVATION

Gray wolves (Canis lupus) were recently removed from the protection of the Endangered Species Act because their population numbers had improved in many areas, which in and of itself is a good thing and should be the goal of every recovery project (we joke at the Endangered Wolf Center that our mission is to put ourselves out of a job). Their removal, however, also means that their management moves from the federal government to state governments. As a result, states such as Idaho, Montana and Wyoming have opened up a wolf hunting season.

Many in the scientific and conservation communities have watched with trepidation as the hunters have started to “manage” the fledgling population, wondering: Should wolves be subjected to a hunting season so soon after being removed from federal protection? Should they be hunted at all? Whichever side of the wolf management debate you land on might depend on how you answer a much deeper question: What is the “value” of a wolf?

Over the course of the 20th and 21st centuries, the American mindset has consistently shifted to a more moderate, conservation-minded approach to the preservation of our natural resources. The mindset has changed in large part to the nation’s history of predator management. Unfortunately, ecology is a relatively new field of study, and early Americans did not understand what kind of consequences predator control would have on the landscape.

Populations of hoofed animals such as elk and deer started to rise because no predators were there to keep their numbers in check. In a place like Yellowstone, this rise had a visible effect on the surrounding landscape. Elk numbers grew and they started to eat the vegetation down to the dirt. Without this important vegetation, many other species started to disappear, including song birds, butterflies, insects, amphibians, fish and small mammals.

Doug Smith, the project leader for the Yellowstone Wolf Project, was there when the first wolves were released in 1995 and saw firsthand the landscape before and after the wolf’s return. In a recent interview I conducted via email, I asked him to describe firsthand the landscape before and after the wolf’s return. In a recent interview I conducted via email, I asked him to describe the changes with their return:

SMITH: Certain areas (along streams and rivers) look lusher on the northern range. I mean, most of them didn’t have a willow stem that had not been eaten completely by elk. Now, there are some stems eaten, but many that have released and are taller. These supply habitat for song birds, beavers, etc. In fact, when I was out flying recently counting beavers, I could see that they have increased dramatically on the northern range since wolf reintroductions. I counted one colony in 1996 and now there are over 20! I would also say that the scavenger community (foxes, eagles, ravens, magpies) parkwide seems to be doing better.

Yellowstone National Park has become an example of what an ecosystem looks like when balance is restored. Once the wolves returned, the elk numbers lowered to a healthy carrying capacity and the elk started to move more because they had to be more wary of predators. The wolves’ presence forced elk to nibble a little move on (almost like pruning) instead of grazing an area to dirt.

The change in elk numbers and grazing patterns allowed trees to be replaced, which in turn gave beavers materials for home building; beaver dams created pools, which attracted waterfowl and created habitat for amphibians and endangered fish like the steelhead trout. And even elk, the primary prey for wolves, benefitted too: The wolves helped remove the sick, old and weak and created a stronger, healthier herd.

Another unforeseen benefit to wolves returning has been economical. According to the Sierra Club, almost 60 percent of visitors in the winter specifically traveled to Yellowstone to see wolves. According to the same article, those visitors spent $35.5 million in the tri-state area surrounding Yellowstone.

Despite the obvious ecological and perhaps less obvious economic benefits to the wolf’s return, the debate continues over the wolf’s intrinsic value to the American landscape, and so too continues the management debate on a wider way in many states.

For now, those of us in the scientific and conservation communities might be best served doing what we do best: collect data, publish findings, voice informed opinions, continue to create sound, logical arguments as to why these animals are important to all of us in the country, and hope that the management programs won’t undo the progress that’s been made in restoring so many ecosystems throughout this great country.

Yellowstone is a prime example of restoring a healthy balance of nature.

CONSERVATION NEWS

PAINTED DOG PARTNERS

African painted dogs have helped forge a partnership between the Endangered Wolf Center and an organization half a world away in Zimbabwe.

African painted dogs (Lycaon pictus)—also known as African wild dogs, cape hunting dogs or painted wolves—are a critically endangered canid that is native to sub-Saharan Africa. It’s estimated that this once ubiquitous species now has only between 3,000 to 5,000 individuals left.

Painted dogs are one of the most social animals, always needing to be close to one another. They are also one of the most effective hunters; successful close to 70 percent of the time. In comparison, gray wolves are successful only 10 percent of the time.

The painted dog is an important part of the ecosystem and the Endangered Wolf Center is dedicated to conserving this species. Our conservation efforts include education, breeding, research and partnerships with organizations working to protect the species in the field. Painted Dog Conservation group (PDC) is one of our favorite partners.

The group was founded by Greg Rasmussen in Zimbabwe in 1992. In the late 1990s, nearly 95 percent of painted dog mortalities were caused by humans, either through gunshot, snares, or cars. These animals in the wild are generally thought of as a nuisance and struck on highways without a second thought. Indirect human-caused mortalities also took a toll: habitat loss, population fragmentation, and even diseases such as rabies and distemper spread by domestic dogs. Interestingly, the above conflicts and issues were historically what led the gray wolf to massive extirpation 100 years ago. These same issues still affect all species of North American wolves and many canids worldwide.

Greg has twice visited the Endangered Wolf Center to speak to its staff, members and volunteers, in October 2012 and again in March 2013. The Painted Dog Conservation group employs clever methods to work with the local community to offer alternative methods for sustainable livelihoods that complement the PDC’s efforts. For example, it has employed locals to go out and confiscate illegal snare wire. Snare wire is often set to catch small game such as impala. This meat can be consumed or sold on the black market bush meat trade. Snare also catch unintended prey such as African painted dogs. The confiscated snares are brought back to the PDC’s art center where local artists design snare art and sell them to raise funds for conservation efforts. These unique and beautiful art pieces can be found in the Endangered Wolf Center’s gift shop. The proceeds from the art help the PDC and the Center.

The Endangered Wolf Center has also partnered with the painted dog organization on a community outreach program. They are starting a soccer league with the local community, organized by the PDC and sponsored by the Center. This program is designed to connect members of the community to the PDC staff and help create a bond promoting education and empowering members of the community to think twice before setting wildlife snares or poaching painted dogs.

The Endangered Wolf Center is currently collecting soccer uniforms, shorts, soccer balls and goalie gloves donated by individuals and by Marquette High School in Chesterfield, Mo., to send to the program.
Leaders of the Pack

The Endangered Wolf Center makes every effort to acknowledge all gifts received and to maintain accurate records.

Gifts received Jan. 1, 2012–Aug. 31, 2012

Alpha Pack (Contributions $100,000+)

- Sister Madonna Buder
- August A. Busch III
- Dr. Ann K. Miller

African Painted Dog Pack (Contributions $25,000-$99,999)

- Beekman Charitable Fund
- Ms. Lovelie Gibson
- Ms. Deke Street

African Grey Wolf Pack (Contributions $10,000-$24,999)

- Veterinary Imaging Specialists
- Ms. and Mr. Peter Von Gontard
- Ms. Elizabeth Vreeland

Mexican Wolf Pack (Contributions $5,000-$9,999)

- Ms. Sondra Schol and Ms. Elaine Majerus
- Mr. Cyrus H. Lyle Jr.

Red Wolf Pack (Contributions $3,000-$4,999)

- Ms. Rachel Gentry
- Ms. Deborah DeMicelli

Maned Wolf Pack (Contributions $1,000-$2,999)

- Albert Kahn State Park
- Ms. Cindi Blanke

Puppy Pack (Contributions $500-$999)

- Ms. Danett Williams
- Ms. Isabella Peterson

Mexican Gray Wolf Pack (Contributions $500-$999)

- Ms. Judith Ciegel
- Ms. Kaitlyn Held

Puppy Pack (Contributions $250-$499)

- Ms. Linda Walsh and Ms. Joyce Spurgeon

Mr. and Mrs. Doug Winkelman

- Ms. Linda Walsh and Ms. Joyce Spurgeon
We’re Making It Easy with a New Monthly Giving Program!

Small steps make big gifts! We heard you and we’re responding to the many requests for a monthly donation program. The Endangered Wolf Center is proud to report that we have partnered with Caring Gifts Inc. (CHI) to make giving easy and safe for our members. Donations may now be made via credit card or bank account either one-time or as a recurring gift.

“We are excited to offer this option for our members, as it gives everyone the freedom to divide donations into several payments, rather than one lump sum,” said Rachel Broom, Director of Development.

This new program is being made possible through the generous spirit of the Sutcliffe family, whose insight and involvement during the developmental stages of the idea, “We wanted to find a way to share our love of the Center through a recurring gift. It is our hope that this program will offer an even larger group of people access to giving with convenience,” said Dianne Sutcliffe.

Donors can also rest easy knowing their information is safe via email or online through their estate plans in the form of bequests or living trusts. For information or assistance in establishing a legacy that reflects your dedication to wildlife preservation, please call Rachel at 636-938-5900.

How will the program work? Donors may call 636-938-5900 today to enroll. In the very near future, the website will also offer this uniquely convenient donation solution. If you’d like to learn more or have questions, our development staff would love to speak with you.

Schnucks EScrip Program

You can help the wolves when you purchase groceries!

Here’s how: Pick up a free EScrip card at Schnucks or call us at 636-938-5900 and we’ll mail one to you. When you register via phone or online, choose the Endangered Wolf Center as your charity recipient, then present your card to the cashier during checkout. Schnucks will donate up to 3 percent of your purchase at NO COST to you!

 Apache’s Fund & Fill IT Campaign

The Animal Care staff is proud to announce that thanks to the generosity of Home Depot and longtime member Ann Jackson, we are getting two new maintenance sheds, the one provided by Home Depot will be used to store important tools that help us take care of the wolves’ habitats. Our second shed, donated by Ann Jackson, will be used to safely keep building materials and wood, which are used to build den boxes and other structures at the Endangered Wolf Center.

Contributions by additional donors during our annual fund drive will help us acquire much-needed tools and renew the resources necessary to keep the animals in our care safe and healthy. Apache, our 15-year-old elder statesman and beloved Mexican gray wolf, has been active in helping raise donor awareness.

Donations of any amount are happily accepted online, by phone or in the mail. Those that give $75 and over will receive a 1/4” survival tool as our special thank you. Please see the back cover of this newsletter for our website, telephone number and address.

Sandy and Tim O’Shaughnessy

Sandy and Tim O’Shaughnessy each took a day off from their jobs on Friday, March 15, to do what? To work throughout the day and night as volunteers at Trivia Night 2013.

That came after Sandy had spent many days preparing the baskets used that night for the Trivia Night Silent Auction and raffles. Not to mention that many of the prizes in the baskets were donated by Tim and Sandy.

The couple is among the most active in volunteering at Campfire Wolf Howls. Tim has hosted many Campfire Howls and has told stories, including one he authored.

Tim recently took a break from chopping wood for our Campfire Howls — by donating and delivering a load of chopped wood.

And Sandy recently brought in a photograph of a robust Bob, the Mexican gray wolf whose tadsmire is preserved in our classroom, to show visitors to the Center what Bob looked like with a full winter coat of fur and before his health declined.

All of us at the Endangered Wolf Center are greatly appreciative of Tim and Sandy’s generosity.
OBITUARIES

CAROL MORSE PERKINS 1917–2012

Carol Morse Perkins, well-known conservationist, humanitarian, author, lecturer and photographer, and the widow of the world famous zooologist Marlin Perkins, died on Oct. 20, 2012 at her home in Clayton, Mo., after a long illness. She was 95 (born May 25, 1917).

“It is with a sad heart that I heard of the passing of Carol Perkins,” said Ginny Busch, Executive Director of the Endangered Wolf Center. “She led a wonderfully full life filled with passion to change the hearts and minds of people about wildlife and their value to our planet. I am more than proud to work for the organization that she and her late husband founded and to continue the legacy of saving the most endangered wolf in North America.”

Mrs. Perkins traveled worldwide with her husband to film wildlife for lectures, books and television. In 1962, as director of the Saint Louis Zoo, Marlin Perkins began working on television’s “Mutual of Omaha’sWild Kingdom.” The program, which won four Emmys, was on the air for 26 years until his death in 1986. In his autobiography, “My Wild Kingdom,” Marlin Perkins noted that Mrs. Perkins often accompanied him on trips for the show. “It was always much more fun when she went along,” he wrote.

Mrs. Perkins led dozens of safaris in Africa, Australia, India, Nepal and Sikkim. St. Louis newspapers often reported on those, including a story about her expedition to find diamonds by sifting delta sand dug from the bed of a river in Venezuela. Mrs. Perkins founded and served as chairman of the St. Louis Chapter of the Explorers Club, where she was named Chairman Emerita.

Mrs. Perkins and her husband worked with Washington University in St. Louis to found the Wild Canid Survival and Research Center, now known as the Endangered Wolf Center. The Center, established in 1971, has been responsible for helping save two species of North American wolves from extinction. Today, red wolves and Mexican gray wolves are living free in the wild again thanks to the vision, determination and hard work of Mrs. Perkins and her husband.

In 1974 and again in 1977, Carol Perkins was instrumental in organizing the first two national symposiums on the status of North American endangered species of wildlife. She was the conservation commentator for five years on The Eye-Witness News on KSDK (Channel 5) in St. Louis. She often represented the Center at education and outreach programs.

“Roger was an amazing educator and had the ability to ignite a passion in visitors that would leave them with a lasting impression about the EWC and the animals housed there,” said Pamela, who is now manager of school and public programs and camps at the St. Louis Science Center. “Time after time, I would get a call from someone who went on one of Roger’s tours and was inspired to help the Center either monetarily or just wanting to give their time as a volunteer.”

Roger N. Richardson, a retired educator and active volunteer at the Endangered Wolf Center, died Nov. 3, 2012, at age 79. He often represented the Center at education and recruiting many new members.

He helped former Education Director Pamela Braasch develop and deliver the first teacher workshop at the Center, and through the years he connected the Center with many teachers. He was the conservation commentator for five years on The Eye-Witness News on KSDK (Channel 5) in St. Louis. He received the Volunteer of the Year Award. Mrs. Perkins received the 1991 Conservation Medal from the Missouri Daughters of the American Revolution, and an honorary Doctor of Law degree from the College of St. Mary’s in Omaha, Neb.

Mrs. Perkins was the author of numerous books, including “I Saw You From Afar,” which relates the story of a personal visit to the Bushmen of the Kalahari Desert in southwest Africa; “The Sound of Boomerangs Returning,” which described her observations of the lifestyle of Aborigines; and “Little Pierre,” which tells the story of the star performer of the famous Saint Louis Zoo chimpanzee show.

ROGER N. RICHARDSON 1933–2012

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Some animal highlights at the Endangered Wolf Center since the beginning of 2012:

Three swift fox kits—a male, Havoc, and two females, Kimi and Lika—were born over Mother’s Day Weekend 2012. They were the first swift fox births at the Center in 12 years. In January 2013, Kimi was flown to the Cochrane Ecological Institute in Alberta, Canada, where swift foxes are still considered endangered. Kimi will participate in the recovery program for swift foxes in Canada.

In October, Wesley and Largo, two 5-year-old male Mexican gray wolves, were sent to Sevilleta—the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s pre-release facility in New Mexico—where they will become further acclimated to life in the wild before they are potentially released. They were accompanied by a female Mexican gray wolf named Ernesta, who was born at the Endangered Wolf Center in 2008 to Anna before moving to the Brookfield Zoo in Chicago in 2010.

Five Mexican gray wolf brothers, sons of Abby and Perkins, named Luis, Cimba, Alleno, Atlas and Flint, left the Endangered Wolf Center for their new home at the Albuquerque Biological Park. The brothers now have the chance to help educate people that live near their native habitat.

Dillon joined us from the Kansas City Zoo in April 2012, becoming our first female African painted dog ever.

Sprint, a female red wolf, arrived during the fall of 2012 from Fossil Rim Wildlife Center and is paired with Scout as a breeding pair.