



Endangered Wolf Center  
ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI

## WINTER/SPRING 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

Collaboration, collaboration, and more collaboration. This has been the mantra for the Endangered Wolf Center this past year. Collaboration and partnership are not new to the Center's mission, but have risen to the top as a more productive way to achieve stronger conservation. And our successes are rising as a result.

Over the last five years, I've been energized to see many large non-profit organizations highlight their partnerships and collaboration with each other. I firmly believe *that unity in an effort, especially environmental efforts, brings a larger voice to the issue, and a greater likelihood for success with many working toward one goal.* I'd like to share with you some of the successes your contributions have helped make possible this year.

- **Our partners:** Our collaboration goes deep with US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), Arkansas State University, Emerson, Wildlife Rescue Center, zoological facilities near and far, schools in the St. Louis area, and many more.
- **A historic first:** This past year, the EWC celebrated the success of a Mexican wolf born via artificial insemination, a collaboration made possible with the Saint Louis Zoo, Species Survival Plan group for Mexican wolves, USFWS, University of California-Davis and the EWC. Our little pup, Nashoba, made history with his debut.
- **Red Wolf Partnership:** Our partnership with Arkansas State University is multi-faceted, and one we are proud to get behind. From the President's office to the athletic department, the biology department, the student body and even their mascot – Howl, a red wolf – we are sharing ways to raise awareness for the critically endangered red wolf, and having fun along the way.
- **Educational Outreach:** Emerson made it possible for the EWC to conduct a weeklong educational outreach program ending with a tour of the Center's animals for all of the 4th graders in the Ferguson/Florissant, Missouri school district. Together we're touching hearts and minds to create good environmental stewards and experience nature in their own backyard.
- **And a little luck:** Lastly, our newest resident, "Lucky" the maned wolf pup, joined us through collaboration with Zoo Boise, Maned Wolf Species Survival Plan and the Smithsonian's Conservation Biology Institute. Once each zoo realized that neither Lucky's biological mother nor a foster mother would care for her, she flew to her new home with us. She will serve as the first ever Animal Ambassador for this amazingly wonderful and highly endangered species.

Of course, there are many more exciting collaborations and partnerships happening at the Center, and we're so grateful for your support. We hope you'll come for a visit soon, and feel proud for helping us make these successes possible. Lucky will be looking out for you when you do.



Virginia Busch  
Executive Director



Meet Lucky, our newest maned wolf featured on page 6.

## 2018 Events

**Feb. 23**

Trivia

**April 15**

Volunteer Appreciation  
Dinner

**Aug. 25**

Polo

**Oct. 20**

Wolf Fest

**Nov. 17**

Members' Day

**Nov. 24**

Holiday Boutique

For the latest on events,  
visit our website calendar at  
[endangeredwolfcenter.org](http://endangeredwolfcenter.org)

Design by Jim Kuchar  
Editing by Betsy Heck

On the cover: Nashoba, a  
Mexican wolf pup born at  
the EWC March 2016. Find his  
incredible story on page 9.  
Photo by Michelle Steinmeyer.



## EWC Partners with the San Diego Zoo

On Monday, September 25 the Endangered Wolf Center was thrilled to host a team from the San Diego Zoo here to film a segment for San Diego Zoo Kids, an innovative television channel for medical facilities that serve pediatric patients and their families. The stories, told exclusively on SDZK channel, not only entertain children and their families during what can be a stressful time, but hopefully inspire a new generation to appreciate wildlife and their natural habitats.

The EWC is proud to partner with the San Diego Zoo on this project! Soon Lucky, Artie, Daisy and our swift foxes will be entertaining children from a TV screen ~ at the top right is a behind-the-scenes pic of the film day!



Virginia Busch, EWC Executive Director, with Lucky at Rossman School for an education program.

## Lucky Goes on a Field Trip

Lucky, our maned wolf pup, is eager to take a field trip to your school to teach kids about the science of conservation and importance of wolves in the ecosystem. How Lucky can you get! Or rather, how can you get Lucky to come to your school? Call 636-938-5900 and ask for details.

## Endangered Eclipse

On Monday, August 21, the St. Louis area experienced a total solar eclipse, and the Endangered Wolf Center was in a prime spot for viewing. We



Olivia, host of San Diego Zoo Kids, chats with Daisy, a fennec fox at the EWC.

had a beautiful view as the moon eclipsed the sun: spontaneous applause erupted at totality!

More than 200 guests from all over the world joined us at the EWC for the big day, including families from Chicago, Iowa, Arizona, North Carolina and even as far away as Italy!

Although the wolves didn't howl during the eclipse, they did exhibit some



Guests watching the total eclipse of the sun at the EWC.

interesting behavior. Our biologist and keepers reported that the red wolves were very active, seemed a bit nervous, moving a lot right before totality. But once the sun was fully covered and totality occurred, the wolves hunkered down and were very quiet and still. Once the sun peeked back out, they were up and moving again. We are located in a forest so we could hear what other animals did, too.

Right before totality, the birds we normally hear at sunrise and sunset were chirping, but went completely silent at totality – and that's when the cicadas, crickets and frogs started their loud chorus. When the sun came out, the birds began to sing again and the nighttime animals went silent. What an incredible, once-in-a-lifetime experience!

## Follow the EWC Wherever We Go

To keep up with the Endangered Wolf Center – our research, canid stories, events and general information – follow us on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and/or LinkedIn.

## New Hours at the EWC

Exciting news at the Endangered Wolf Center: we're now open on Mondays for PredaTours, Keeper for a Day, field trips, scout troops and special and private tours!

To make reservations, go to <http://www.endangeredwolfcenter.org/take-a-tour/or> call 636-938-5900.

# PAGE FOR PUPS

## AFRICAN PAINTED DOG

On the right is a picture of painted dog siblings, Shaba and Mikumi. African painted dogs work and play together with their families all the time. You can also work with your family to help save wolves and other endangered canids. You and your family can:

1. Learn more about wolves and other large carnivores.
2. Read positive wolf stories, like *Amorak* by Tim Jessell. You can find positive stories about wolves in books at the EWC library or at your local public library.
3. Tell your friends and family all about why wolves are important for a healthy ecosystem.
4. Write your government .



## CRYPTOGRAM

Work with a friend or family member to solve this puzzle. In a cryptogram, one letter represents another. For example, in this puzzle, S equals W, C equals P, and Z equals T.

Can you solve this quote from the Jungle Book?

GWO ZLI RZOIYPZL WG ZLI CENV FR ZLI SWBG,  
EYM ZLI RZOIYPZL WG ZLI SWBG FR ZLI CENV.

Answer: For the strength of the pack is the wolf, and the strength of the wolf is the pack.

## Student Poems

### Thriving

Sibi  
Mexican wolf  
She is a survivor  
Her family is the lucky pack.

Fire  
Shaba  
The Riddler  
African Painted Dog  
Clever, perfect ambassador  
Spotted

Daisy  
A Fennec fox  
Charms everyone she meets.  
Little girl tiny but mighty  
Blooming

The wolves  
Are so happy  
They're safe and protected  
At the EWC.

Thriving Zoey Barton, 14



Bella Rowe, 11

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



# Of [Red Wolf] History and Hope

*But how do we fashion the future? Who can say how  
except in the minds of those who will call it Now?*

~Miller Williams, "Of History and Hope"

Last year the red wolf celebrated an important anniversary – 30 years ago the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) launched the first re-introduction of a large carnivore into an area where it had been hunted to extinction. It was the first time humankind had attempted such a bold feat of environmental reconciliation, and to look back on it now, 30 years later, we marvel at the ambition and the audacity of those who understood that extinction meant forever — who stepped up and did something about it.



Red wolves howling at the Endangered Wolf Center. Photo by Michelle Steinmeyer.

Nothing like this had ever been attempted, but in the 1970's the FWS made the bold decision to capture all remaining red wolves from the wild and bring them into captivity to start a managed breeding program.

Those remaining 14 pure red wolves truly became the last hope for the species.

When the red wolf was declared extinct in the wild in 1980, the population in managed care officially became the only remaining red wolves in existence. By the fall of 1987, the breeding population had grown healthy enough to attempt the first red wolf release back into North Carolina. No one knew what would happen with the program. Were there enough square miles set aside for the program to flourish? Would the wolves breed in the wild? Would they establish a population?

The program did indeed flourish, and for more than 30 years the program grew and celebrated success after success: the population increased from just a handful to more than 150 in the wild; new techniques were developed for releasing carnivores; pups were fostered from the captive program into wild litters; and the program became a model for future endangered species recovery programs.

Unfortunately, humankind did not evolve alongside the red wolf program, and some of the all-too-familiar issues began to emerge. A campaign against the red wolf from a group of local citizens caught fire, and not only did poaching increase (reducing the population to fewer than 30 in the wild today), but misinformation and fear about this species were purposefully spread.

As the campaign of fear and intolerance took hold, the local community in North Carolina pushed their state representatives to demand that FWS shut down the recovery program. But in September 2016, after conducting two reviews (one by the Wildlife Management Institute and one internal review), FWS stood strong and reaffirmed its dedication to saving the red wolf — committing to help this species mount another remarkable comeback.

As the results from several environmental feasibility studies have come in over the course of 2017, the FWS has begun to narrow its focus on additional and alternative recovery sites across the red wolf's historic range. And those of us in Missouri and Arkansas can, for the first time in a long time, dare to dream of the prospect of one day hearing a red wolf in our own backyards. Hope is not enough though — change requires action, and it's going to take all of us standing up and making our voices heard.

Miller Williams, one of Arkansas's most beloved poets, touched on this very notion when he read the poem "Of History and Hope" at the Presidential Inauguration. Williams read a poem full of cautious optimism; one that looks forward and wonders what our children might see in the future: "looking through their eyes," he says in the poem, "we can see what our long gift to them may come to be. If we can truly remember, they will not forget."

# Meet Lucky the wonderpup



A domestic dog named Jacqui from A Mother's Safe Haven dog rescue immediately bonded with Lucky, our maned wolf puppy.

The Endangered Wolf Center is excited to welcome our newest member of the pack, an eleven month old maned wolf pup nicknamed "Lucky."

Born May 5, 2017 at Zoo Boise to a mother who was unable to raise her litter, Lucky was the only surviving pup. The Zoo acted swiftly to rescue her as she is a very special wolf whose genetics are rare: when she is older, Lucky can help keep the managed population healthy by having pups and increasing genetic diversity.

As luck would have it, another maned wolf litter had been born the day before at the Smithsonian's Conservation Biology Institute. Zoo Boise and the Maned Wolf Species Survival Plan (SSP), after consulting with the staff here at the EWC, opted to try to foster Lucky into the Smithsonian's litter, even though a foster had never been attempted with maned wolves.

The EWC was asked to help because of our experience fostering other species of canids. Regina Mossotti, EWC's Director of Animal Care and Conservation, flew to Zoo Boise to accompany Lucky to the Smithsonian. Regina and the Smithsonian's team attempted to foster her into the litter, but the mother did not accept Lucky. Even though this

first attempt was not successful, much was learned that could improve the science of managing this threatened species and help increase the odds for successful fosters in the future.

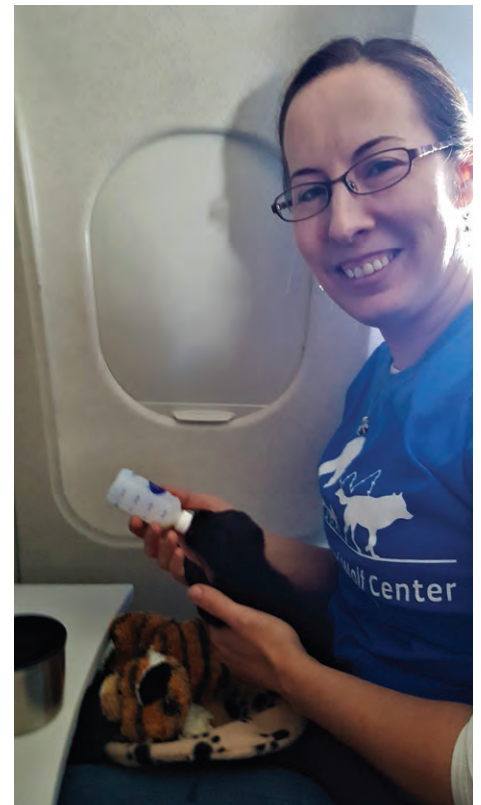
The Maned Wolf SSP then asked the EWC to raise Lucky. So, at just two weeks old, Lucky flew home to St. Louis with Regina. Once here, again as luck would have it, a domestic female dog with a litter close in age and size to Lucky was made available to the EWC by the help of "A Mother's Safe Haven" dog rescue. A domestic dog was chosen because its milk is healthier than formula for pups, which was especially important as Lucky was underweight, and dogs speak a closer language to maned wolves than humans do. Jacqui, a Labrador mix, bonded with Lucky immediately and nursed and cared for her as one of her own pups for more than five weeks.

So the third time was the "Lucky" charm. Today, with the collaboration of the Saint Louis Zoo veterinarian team, the Wildlife Rescue Center and the Animal Clinic of Clayton, Lucky has grown from less than a pound to nearly 35 pounds and is thriving. And she's already winning hearts with her dynamic personality. "She's a strong pup," says Regina. "She's a fighter – a survivor. And very intelligent, too! She outsmarted her foster puppy

brothers and sisters, figuring out puzzles much faster, and showing great curiosity, she loves to explore everything!"

Lucky's unique situation and her sweet personality make her the perfect ambassador for her species. Never before has a maned wolf been available for an up close experience to educate the public about the plight of her unique species. Lucky and the staff at EWC are happy to tell her story, which is not only heartwarming, but an example of the critical conservation efforts at the EWC to help preserve and protect endangered species.



While we all agree she's pretty "lucky," we are hoping a donor will help us find a fitting name for this pup; his or her donation will help us with ongoing care for this cute little girl. For more information on how to join Betty White's Puppy Naming Club at the EWC, call 636-938-9306.



Regina Mossotti, Dir. of Animal Care & Conservation, flying Lucky from Zoo Boise in Idaho to the Endangered Wolf Center.



## About maned wolves

-  The maned wolf is the tallest member of the canid family, but it is not a true wolf. It is in its own unique genus, and more closely related to an ancient canid.
-  Maned wolves are nicknamed “fox on stilts” for their leggy build and fox-like features.
-  This South American native roams a range extending from the Amazon in Brazil to the dry shrub forests of Paraguay and northern Argentina.
-  Unlike most wolves, these gentle, timid animals typically live alone, except to breed.
-  The maned wolf is threatened with extinction in its native habitat.



*Lucky growing up big and strong at the Endangered Wolf Center. EWC photo taken by Michelle Steinmeyer.*

This is due to loss of habitat — grasslands being converted to crops or grazing pastures.

The introduction of dog diseases, and also a belief that some of its organs have medicinal healing powers have also led to maned wolf population decline.

## Congratulations to Rogue and Amigo!

After two faithful years of bonding, Mexican wolves Rogue and Amigo became parents on May 13, 2017. Thanks to the generous donation by Dianne Meyer of webcams that were installed in their dens, our animal care team was able to document the birth and watch Rogue dutifully care for her pups, growing in confidence as a mother as she carefully groomed, nursed and protected her litter.

At the pups' first health exam, we discovered we had three females and two males. Strong from the start, these siblings followed Mom out of the den at only a few weeks old, and their curiosity continues to grow with their size. The pack has received a wide range of natural enrichment, from rabbit fur to snake shed, which helps to elicit natural behaviors like scent rolling, digging, and eating native prey.

It's also a lot of fun for the wolves (and entertaining for us): the young wolves have enjoyed interacting

with these items but only after their parents investigated everything first.

Many wonderful donors have fallen in love with this litter and some had the honor of naming males Kipper and Marco and females Jinx and Sydney. As they grow older, the personalities of these Mexican wolves are shining through: Kipper and Jinx are resourceful and extremely shy, hiding when people are around. Marco and Sydney are rambunctious and playful. But everyone's favorite thing to do is snuggle with Mom and Dad.

When Dr. Armon performed their 16-week health exam he said they were extremely healthy, weighing in at more than 40 pounds (over half of their adult weight!). Come meet the pack where you, too, will fall in love with the newest Mexican wolves at the EWC!



*One of Rogue's and Amigo's pups during a physical exam at the Endangered Wolf Center. EWC photo taken by Michelle Steinmeyer.*

## St. Louis Chapter of American Association of Zoo Keepers Awarded 2017 Chapter of the Year

In October 2017, the St. Louis Chapter of the American Association of Zoo Keepers (AAZK) was awarded the 2017 Barbara Manspeaker AAZK Chapter of the Year award at the annual AAZK National Conference in Washington, D.C. The chapter was recognized for its leadership in advancing the animal care profession, dedication to the association and for promoting conservation to the general public.



EWC Keeper, Emma Miller, accepting the Golden Rhino Award at the American Association of Zoo Keepers National Conference in Washington, D.C.

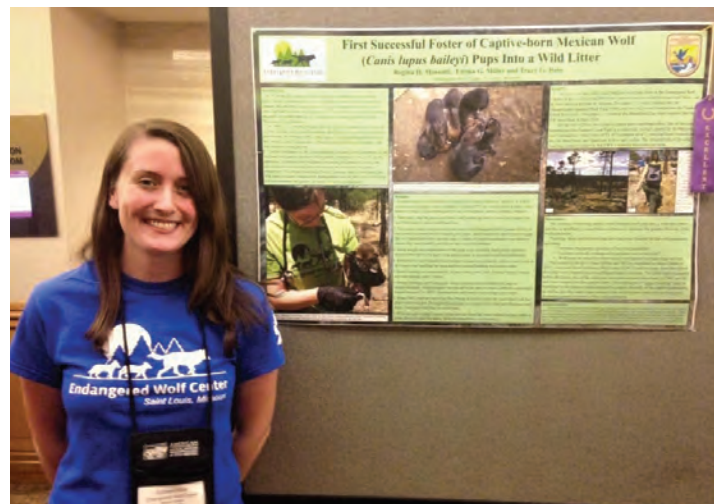
Among the members of the AAZK St. Louis Chapter are animal care professionals, employees, docents and volunteers at the Endangered Wolf Center, Grant's Farm, Saint Louis Zoo and World Bird Sanctuary.

Additionally, the Endangered Wolf Center received the 2017 Certificate of Merit for Zoo Keeper Education, recognizing the team's efforts to promote continuing education through workshops, including an annual Recovery Species Husbandry

Workshop in which animal care staff from around the country travel to the EWC to receive hands-on training to learn handling and care protocols for the critically endangered Mexican and red wolf species.

Also at the AAZK annual conference EWC keeper Emma Miller presented a poster describing the EWC's role in the first Mexican wolf pups born at the Center being fostered into a wild litter in Arizona and New Mexico. The poster, written with lead keeper Tracy Rein and Director of Animal Care and Conservation Regina Mossotti, won the Ribbon of Excellence from AAZK.

The Endangered Wolf Center is proud to have such a dedicated animal care team and to partner with the amazing animal care organizations in St. Louis and around the country.



EWC Keeper, Emma Miller, presenting a poster at the American Association of Zoo Keepers Conference in Washington, D.C.

### About the St. Louis Chapter of American Association of Zoo Keepers

St. Louis Chapter of American Association of Zoo Keepers is a group of dedicated animal care professionals and enthusiasts who are striving to make a difference in the animal care and conservation profession.

The chapter hosts fundraising events and activities throughout the year to raise money and awareness for animals in need and serve as advocates for wildlife conservation and professional animal care. The chapter is also dedicated to advancing the field of animal care.

**For more information, visit [aazk.org](http://aazk.org).**



# Artie & Cooper: Fast Friends

The story of the arctic fox is one that's sadly all too common: often without a happy ending. But the Endangered Wolf Center is proud to tell a happy story about Artie, our tiny arctic fox. When he was surrendered by a private owner (who could not care for a wild animal) to the Wildlife Rescue Center (WRC), Artie was injured, emaciated, and had a fever from infection. Our partners at WRC rushed to Artie's aid and immediately gave him much needed antibiotics and medication to help him heal.

As he healed, the WRC knew that a wild release for an animal like Artie was not an option (because he was raised by humans and not originally taken from the wild). The best future for Artie was to find him a forever home, and the Endangered Wolf Center volunteered to step up to the task. Our Animal Care staff's experience of working with many different canid species proved to be a perfect fit for Artie's needs.

But because Artie's story is all too common, it wasn't a surprise that only a few months passed before the WRC received another call about a fox that someone had tried to have as a pet; this time it was a red fox named Cooper. They immediately reached out to the EWC to let us know about Cooper, who had a melanistic gene that made his fur black (often referred to as a silver fox).

Because Cooper seemed to have a calm and companionable demeanor, we had a feeling that he might be a wonderful buddy for Artie. We introduced the two (a fence separated them for the initial introduction so we could evaluate their behavior towards each other), and it was brotherly love at first sight! They immediately greeted each other with lots of positive fox behaviors, and since the introduction we have since seen them snuggling together and playing — just like long-lost brothers.

At the EWC, Artie and Cooper have a wonderful enriching life. They constantly have opportunities for having fun and forming bonds with their caretakers and serving as ambassadors for their species and all wildlife. These two adorable foxes are part of the world-class education programs at the EWC that teach respect for wild animals and the vital roles they play in building healthy ecosystems — helping to create responsible and enthusiastic environmental stewards.

Many supporters have stepped up to help the EWC care for these foxes. We are excited to announce that because of the generosity of two of our long-time supporters, Celeste Ruwwe and Gerry Hufker, we are constructing a new, large fox habitat: a permanent home for Artie and Cooper at the EWC. Brad Richmond, another amazing long-time supporter of the EWC, has helped prepare the land for the construction of the new fox habitat and spent many hours with his tractor and bobcat making sure the site is perfect and safe for the foxes. Jason Rhodes, from Sachs Electric, organized and



*Artie, our handsome Arctic fox, is happy and healthy at home at the Endangered Wolf Center.*



*Cooper, our melanistic red fox, is Artie's best friend and snuggle buddy. Come visit them both at the Endangered Wolf Center!*

secured the donation of electricity – not only to the new fox habitat, but also to many of our other animal enclosures, helping us to install permanent electrical outlets to plug in heated water buckets for the freezing winter temperatures.

Thank you, again, to our wonderful supporters for helping us with the habitat! We are excited to finish construction this summer. If you haven't done so already, we encourage you to come out and meet Artie and Cooper soon — they love meeting new friends!

## EWC Celebrates World's First Mexican Wolf Pup Born From Artificial Insemination Using Frozen Semen



Vera, a female Mexican wolf, is asleep and underwent the first attempt at artificially inseminating a Mexican wolf with frozen semen. Caring for Vera are the expert Saint Louis Zoo vet team and the EWC animal care team.

Nashoba, a tiny endangered Mexican wolf, made history on April 2, 2017 when he was born to Mack and Vera at the Endangered Wolf Center, marking the first time a pup was born as a result of frozen semen thawed for artificial insemination in this critically endangered species.

"This puppy represents a major breakthrough in advancing the science of saving Mexican wolves," said Ginny Busch, the EWC's Executive Director. "The partnership between so many institutions, including the EWC, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Saint Louis Zoo's veterinarian and research team, the University of California-Davis and the Mexican Wolf Species Survival Plan, was impressive and illustrates that collaboration is key to conservation."

As scientists learn more about what it takes to save endangered species, they are seeing that a decrease in genetic diversity can severely compromise a population through low birth weights, reduced litter sizes and increased mortality rates of pups. Reproductive technologies, such as freezing semen and artificial insemination, were developed to grow gene diversity. "This little pup offers new hope," added Ginny. "To succeed in conserving a species, many tools are needed in our proverbial 'toolbox.' Frozen semen will help maintain the genetic and overall health of the critically endangered Mexican wolf population by allowing scientists to draw from a larger pool of genes, including wolves at other institutions and even deceased wolves."

Nashoba was conceived at the EWC with sperm collected several years ago by the Saint Louis Zoo research team. The procedure, called a nonsurgical transcervical intrauterine insemination, was performed with Vera on Jan. 27, 2017 by Dr. Bruce Christensen, DVM, Assistant Professor of Population Health & Reproduction, University of California Davis.



Rhiannon McKnight, veterinarian and EWC Board member checks on Nashoba, a male Mexican wolf pup, and is the first ever Mexican wolf born using frozen semen through artificial insemination.





*Nashoba (not yet fully grown!), was named by supporters Geraldine Hufker and Celeste Ruwwe. Their support helps to provide him with necessary supplies, nutrition and care.*

Nashoba's biological father was a male named Luis, who was born to Picaron and Tanamara at the Endangered Wolf Center in 2003. At two years old, Luis moved to The Living Desert Zoo in California where he continues to live today at 14½ years old. Nashoba is Luis' only offspring and Picaron's only grandpup. This pup ensures that Picaron's and Luis' legacies live on.

Wolves are a keystone species, and as scientists have learned with the reintroduction of wolves in Yellowstone, they are an important part of keeping plants and animals in an ecosystem healthy. Sadly, the Mexican wolf had been eliminated from the wild by 1980 as a result of a predator removal campaign by the government. By the time ecologists learned how vital wolves were to maintaining the ecosystem it was almost too late.

Fortunately the last remaining Mexican wolves in the wild were captured and brought into managed care to start a captive breeding program in an effort to save the Mexican wolf.

Once the captive population grew large enough, FWS launched a reintroduction program in 1998 with the release of 11 Mexican wolves into the Southwest United States, several of which were from the EWC. Today 113 Mexican

wolves can be found in the wilds of Arizona and New Mexico and 30 are in Mexico. In addition, there are approximately 245 captive wolves in the care of more than 50 institutions in both the United States and Mexico.

"While the captive program has prevented the extinction of the Mexican wolf, with only roughly 100 Mexican wolves in the wild today, we still have a lot of work to do to recover the species," said U.S. Fish and Wildlife Assistant Mexican Wolf Recovery Coordinator Maggie Dwire. "We are hopeful the wild populations will benefit from these reproductive technologies, as well."

In 1990, at the request of FWS, the Saint Louis Zoo established a frozen semen bank for the FWS Mexican Wolf Recovery Program and the SSP. For the first several decades, males were brought to the Endangered Wolf Center where the Saint Louis Zoo's Dr. Cheryl Asa, Laboratory Manager Karen Bauman, and veterinary team would come to the EWC during breeding season (January-February) to collect wolf semen to bank for potential future use. Once the captive population grew larger, Dr. Asa and Karen traveled across the country to collect semen.

Today, the "frozen zoo"—or combined gene bank—located at the Saint Louis Zoo and at the Chapultepec Zoo in



*Vera is snuggling and caring for her newborn, Nashoba inside their den box.*

Mexico, contains genetic materials from more than 200 male and female Mexican wolves. This is one of the world's largest gene banks established specifically for the long-term conservation of an endangered species.

The EWC is proud to be a part of these conservation breakthroughs for the Mexican wolf. From the artificial insemination last year and the previous year's first ever successful foster of Mexican wolf pups born in managed care into a wild litter, to facilitating and hosting the first joint Red and Mexican Wolf Species Survival Plan Conference in Yellowstone, and the more than 40 years of growing husbandry knowledge and assisting in important research for the Mexican wolf, our staff, volunteers and supporters will continue our mission to ensure that future generations will hear the call of the Mexican wolf in the wilds of the Southwest.



## EWC + A-State = a Bright Future for Red Wolves

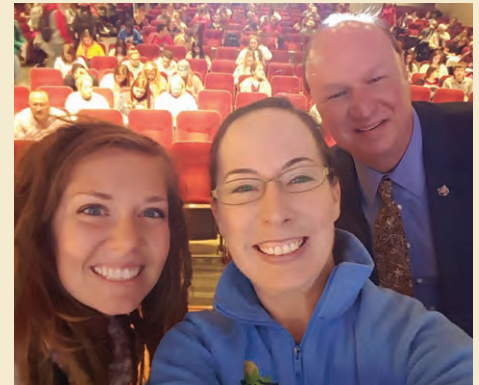
The Endangered Wolf Center and Arkansas State University (A-State) are teaming up to help the critically endangered American red wolf. It's a perfect match: the EWC preserves and protects red wolves. The red wolf just happens to be the A-State mascot, and their campus is located right in the middle of the red wolf's historic range.

"The Endangered Wolf Center helped us understand how A-State could help save the American red wolf," said Jeff Hankins, A-State's Vice President for Strategic Communications & Economic Development. The EWC organized the showing of the Red Wolf Revival documentary on campus a year ago, and it served as a rallying cry for the University to escalate its involvement.

The University has since incorporated red wolves conservation into the freshman curriculum (every student now reads "The Secret World of Red Wolves" by T. DeLene Beeland). One of the EWC's former Animal Care Interns, and A-State student, Lizz Etzkorn, founded the Red Wolves for Red Wolves student organization which has played an active role in creating awareness on campus and in the Arkansas community about this endangered species.

"We couldn't have done this without the partnership and guidance of the Endangered Wolf Center," said Hankins.

The University worked with the EWC, The Red Wolf Species Survival Plan and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to establish



Regina Mossotti traveled to ASU to join a panel discussion to talk to more than 1,000 students, faculty and members of the community about red wolf conservation. With Regina (m) on the panel were Dr. Tom Risch (r) and Lizz Etzkorn (l).

the official Red Wolf Biofacts Collection on the A-state campus. Any red wolf specimens (blood, tissue, carcasses) are now sent to the University's museum, which was funded with a \$5 million dollar National Science Foundation Grant.

This addition to the recovery program will help push red wolf conservation science further through research on nutrition, reproduction, genetics, disease, wildlife management and more. The EWC's Director of Animal Care and Conservation, Regina Mossotti, will serve as the SSP liaison between the museum and SSP institutions to help manage the collection materials. Mossotti said, "The passion, commitment, creativity and energy from A-State to save the red wolf is truly inspiring. Just in the past two years of working together we have made a huge, positive impact for red wolves. I can't wait to see what happens next — it definitely gives me hope."

Hankins said, "Arkansas State University is positioned to play a key role in red wolf education and conservation while giving our students remarkable learning opportunities." The EWC is excited to partner with Arkansas State University, working together has created "pack pride" and we know we are working towards a brighter future for the American red wolf.



A-State students and faculty volunteered at the EWC's Wolf Fest Event. They helped make it truly an amazing event.



Regina Mossotti, Ashley Rearden and Rachel Broom met with A-State, Little Rock Zoo and the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission to discuss how red wolves could potentially have a future in Arkansas.



# We'd love for you to spend time with us

Our varied volunteer opportunities are a great way to gain valuable experience



*The Volunteer Appreciation Dinner recognizes hard working volunteers.*

Looking for new adventures, or meaningful additions to your resume? The Endangered Wolf Center has a variety of needs which makes a fantastic way to build up your skills or make a difference in our community—not to mention these experiences make interesting conversations to have with your friends and family!

No matter what your goals, there is a job for you: Our needs consist of educating the public by leading tours, participating

in our annual events like Wolf Fest, and even helping our keepers care for our animals by doing grounds maintenance, washing dishes, building den boxes and other physical tasks.

If you're more of a fan of the indoors, fear not: you can still help our Center with office work or by lending your expertise in technology, writing, arts, sales, law—the possibilities are endless! Perhaps you're an educator in the making, or maybe you simply love teaching and talking to people—being a tour guide with us would be a great match for you. Maybe you would like to learn the processes it takes to care for the animals, we offer great experience for that too. If you'd like to take it to the next level, we even have internships in both the Education and Animal Care departments—a great way to build your career!

Whether it's for building your work experience for your next career, finding like-minded friends that want to help wildlife and wild places or simply widening your knowledge of animals, we have a place for you here. If you'd like to join our volunteer community or become an intern, give us a call at 636-938-5900 or email us at [info@endangeredwolfcenter.org](mailto:info@endangeredwolfcenter.org).



## Aileen Abbott Volunteer

Aileen graduated from State University of New York College at Cortland in 1989 with a Recreation and Leisure studies degree. Yes, that's right, Recreation and Leisure studies!

To satisfy one of her degree requirements, one summer she spent two weeks working at Raquette Lake in the Adirondack Mountains, and there she discovered her passion: Environmental Education.

She has been fortunate to live and work in three states, working with children, youth and adults at various outdoor education centers: the YMCA of Greater New York, the Houston Independent School District, and Shaw Nature Reserve. It's been her pleasure to work with amazing people while teaching thousands of students of all ages and backgrounds.

The EWC partnered with Aileen at Shaw Nature Reserve and World Bird Sanctuary to create an innovative approach to science field trips. The goal of the STL STEM TRIFECTA program is to provide schools with cohesive curriculum-based field trips that are in line with Missouri state DESE standards. The program includes grade specific, pre-planned field trips to serve as an exciting supplement to the concepts teachers are teaching in the classroom.

As a volunteer for the Endangered Wolf Center she's helping lead education programs. Her hope, as always,

is to ignite a passion and sense of wonder in the youth of today, helping them become positive stewards of the land as they grow into the adults of tomorrow.



## RACHEL BROOM Director of Development at the Endangered Wolf Center

Rachel is married to her high school sweetheart and together they have four adorable children: two actual children and two chocolate labradors! She's an adventurer who's competed in the Navy Women's Dragonboat team in Okinawa, Japan and summited Mount Fuji.

After completing her business degree in Management and Marketing, and while working on her master's degree in Public Administration with a focus on Nonprofit Administration, Rachel began her career at the Saint Louis Zoo, working on its capital campaign to renovate a third of the zoo grounds.

Upon completing her master's, Rachel joined the Endangered Wolf Center, intrigued by the challenge of starting the Development Department.

A team player, she is driven by a passion for animals and the environment, and today her work is focused on saving endangered animals and the ecosystems that depend on them. Here, every day, she combines her business knowledge with her passion for helping endangered animals. It's a mountain she climbs with conviction and confidence.

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

Deanna Chott

### AFRICAN PAINTED DOG PACKMATES

(CONTRIBUTIONS \$100,000.00+)

Beckmann Family Charitable Trust

### AFRICAN PAINTED DOG PACKMATES

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Rachel Broom, Director of Development with August A. Busch III and Gene Tichacek, two generous supporters of the EWC.

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Daisy received a special holiday gift from adoptive parent, Peyton Dudenhoeffer.

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*Bradley Beckmann meeting an armadillo at Wolf Fest.*

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*Danielle Rosenstein holding Clay, a hognose snake, Andrew and Jennifer Baur and Regina Mossotti with Daisy, a fennec fox, at the Wolves and Wine auction.*

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Traci Young with her new painting of Anna that she won at the Wolves & Wine Auction.

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**Happy Father's Day**  
 Mr. Andrew Arnowitz

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Ms. Alexis Giannini



Wendy Knudsen-Farrell providing a delicious treat to a porcupine. Wendy was the winning bidder of this unique experience which helped fund crucial conservation efforts at the EWC.



**Julia Brncic**  
Ms. Dianne Brncic  
Mr. Nick Natoli

**Rachel Broom**  
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**August A. Busch, III for the many years of service he provided to the Emerson Board of Directors**  
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Jennifer and Bill Raley traveled all the way from Texas to attend Eat What the Wolves Eat event.

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Jim and Connie Kuchar supported the EWC by winning a private visit with Daisy, a fennec fox and animal care staff, Sarah Holaday.

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Judy Kent getting up-close with an alligator during an animal experience won by Wendy Knudsen-Farrell at the Wolves & Wine Auction.

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Ana Kent holding a baby raccoon.

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Patricia Scott and friends meeting Lucky, a maned wolf puppy, during a private donor experience.

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Angie Buss, Heather Wood, Linda Gibson, Sharon Abel, Wendy Knudsen-Farrell, Judy, Matt and Ana Kent, Ellen & Dan Gibson taking a group photo after meeting David Jackson and his ambassador animals to support the EWC.



An outstanding group of EWC volunteers and staff worked together to make the Wolves & Wine Auction a huge success.



# Wolves & Wine Auction

## Second event was successful and fun

On April 21, 2017 we held our second successful Wolves & Wine Auction, raising more than \$80,000 for the care and conservation efforts of the EWC. More than 75 guests joined us at the Selkirk Auctioneers & Appraisers gallery in the St. Louis Central West End for a spirited evening of bidding on wine packages paired with one-of-a-kind wolf and fox experiences.

Many thanks to everyone who joined in on the fun, and to the wonderful sponsors and team who helped make the evening possible:



Kathy Snowden and Virginia Busch with Event Presenters, Beau and Suzy Brauer.

### Presented by

Suzy and Beau Brauer

### Committee Chair

Janet Conners Langley

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Andrew Baur  
Julia Brncic  
Virginia Busch  
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### Special Acknowledgements

Jeff Jeffers, CEO of Selkirk  
Auctioneers and Appraisers  
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Joan Berkman, Face Watchers  
Terry Beye, Auctioneer  
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projects + gallery  
Rick Ruderer, Event Planner



Jennifer Scott Peters holding her prized Imperial.



Sponsor, Jason Main, Owner and Sommelier of The Wine Merchant, with Rachel Broom.



Nick Kriegel, Steven and Julia Brncic, and Sally Kriegel enjoying the wine tastings.





## Record crowd, generous sponsors make Wolf Fest a big success

Wolf Fest 2017 goes down in the books as the best Wolf Fest ever! Thousands of people joined us on the grounds of the EWC for a day of nature, once-in-a-lifetime encounters with ambassador animals from around the world, and of course, up close and personal experiences with the wolves that call the EWC home. There were programmed activities for the kids, shopping with crafters and artists, live music and food trucks. The weather cooperated and a good time was had by all! Proceeds benefitted the work, vision and mission of the Endangered Wolf Center – and we thank everyone from the bottom of our hearts! Hope to see you at Wolf Fest 2018! (Save the date for October 20th!)

We'd like to thank the record-setting crowd who helped make Wolf Fest 2017 the big success it was. And we especially want to thank the many sponsors who made our open house event on Oct. 21 possible:

**Premier Sponsor:**  
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Kendall and Dolce Norris enjoying their VIP experience at Wolf Fest.



Betty Beckmann learned about lemurs and the importance of protecting them while inside the VIP tent.



Local artists and vendors were a welcomed addition to last year's Wolf Fest.

The Kriegel Family  
The Stange Law Firm  
IMO Marian Roberts  
Musick Construction Company  
Schoeninger Family Fund  
St. Charles Animal Hospital  
The Eugene J. Tichacek Family Trust  
Virgil & Sandra VanTrease  
Lee & George Weber  
Wiley Family Foundation  
Winnick Family Foundation

Multiple booths and exhibitions fit in with Wolf Fest's theme of wildlife/conservation/outdoors.

Food trucks — Blues Fired Pizza, Curbside Cookery, and StLouisianaQ offered delicious, savory choices.



## Thanks to the sponsors who made Polo 2017 possible

August 19 brought sunshine, warm temperatures and an action-packed polo game as fans of the sport and the EWC raised more than \$75,000 while cheering on the riders and their mounts in support of the EWC and its conservation efforts.



*Polo Sponsor, Gene Tichacek, with friends and family at the polo match.*

The annual family-friendly event hosted hundreds of people who enjoyed a day at the Kraftig Polo Club in Defiance, Missouri.

We appreciate the funds raised by the polo enthusiasts, and the amazing sponsors and team who made the polo event a success:

### **Polo Event Sponsors:**

Kevin & Betty, friends of the EWC

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August A. Busch III Charitable Trust

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*The polo crowd watching an exciting match.*



*Guests enjoy champagne while divot stomp at half-time.*

## New Event Coming to the EWC in 2019!

Announcing the inaugural Art of the Wolf event on April 13, 2019 at the St. Louis Artists' Guild. This will be an art show and auction to raise money and awareness for artists as well as the Endangered Wolf Center. The event will feature a mixture of locavore food and drinks, paired with live performances and demonstrations from poets, painters, musicians and other artists working in a variety of mediums. At its heart, Art of the Wolf will showcase an eclectic mélange of work, broadly inspired by the unique viewpoints of featured artists who draw inspiration from the natural world around them. If you or someone you know is interested in participating with nature-themed artwork for the event - or if you'd like to be a sponsor - please email Rachel Broom at [rbroom@endangeredwolfcenter.org](mailto:rbroom@endangeredwolfcenter.org). Artwork displayed on the right is by EWC volunteer, Karen Landon.





# Educational Keystone and Nature Center

## 2018 Capital Improvement Plan

The Endangered Wolf Center has earned a global reputation for breeding endangered wolves and other canids, leading husbandry research and participating in releasing wolves into the wild as part of the US Fish & Wildlife Service's recovery programs.

But the successful recovery of an endangered species doesn't end there. While the essential role wolves play in the health and sustainability of an ecosystem is undisputed scientifically, fear and misconceptions about wolves and other top predators are old narratives that take effort and persistence to shift.

This makes education the foundation upon which all our efforts are built. It's the reason we've developed a broad range of curriculum-based, quality education programs and activities tailored to children and adults, on-site, online, in classrooms, in the communities near release sites and beyond.

We are currently planning for a new Educational Keystone and Nature Center to meet our growing demand in educational programming. We have secured the land, completed the architectural drawings and bids, and raised more than 48% of the necessary funds for the construction of the building.

We hope you will consider partnering with the Endangered Wolf Center by making a donation to help us begin construction in 2018. The building will serve as a much-needed venue for our on-site educational efforts.

Our Education Department provided programs to almost 45,000 people in 2017, an increase over 2016 (37,660) and continuing our growth trend (24,338 in 2013) in impact and numbers. Our education, tour and outreach goals are focused on providing STEM-aligned (K-12), curriculum-based, quality programs. Getting outdoors, hands dirty and immersed in nature will also continue to be an important element of our programs.



*A sneak peak inside the new Educational Keystone & Nature Center.*



*A rendition of the new Educational Keystone & Nature Center.*



Children ages 4-13, underserved areas of the community and families are the primary targeted audiences. Each program is designed to create lasting connections to nature and a renewed sense of responsibility toward the health and well-being of this planet.

We hope you'll be a part of this significant step toward another recognition – a worldwide leader in education about wolves and wild canids.

Calls are welcome at 636-938-9306 or contact Rachel Broom at [rbroom@endangeredwolfcenter.org](mailto:rbroom@endangeredwolfcenter.org) for giving opportunities.



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Havoc, a swift fox exploring the snow at the Endangered Wolf Center. EWC photo by Michelle Steinmeyer.