



WOLF
CONSERVATION CENTER
www.nywolf.org

2 0 1 6 A N N U A L R E P O R T



About the Wolf Conservation Center

The Wolf Conservation Center (WCC), founded in 1999 by H el ene Grimaud, is a private, not-for-profit environmental education organization located in South Salem, NY. The Wolf Conservation Center's mission is to change the perception people have of wolves by teaching people about wolves, their relationship to the environment and the human role in protecting their future.

The WCC accomplishes its mission through onsite and offsite education programs emphasizing wolf biology, the ecological benefits of wolves and other large predators, and the current status of wolf recovery in the United States.



H el ene Grimaud

In addition to her dedication in founding the Wolf Center, H el ene Grimaud has become a global advocate for wolves. In H el ene's words, wolves are not only essential "biodiversity engineers," preserving balances among animal and plant species, but also "endlessly fascinating creatures who have much to teach humans."

Wolf Conservation Center

Current number of:

- employees: **8**
- volunteers: **15+**
- wolves: **25**
- enclosures: **10**
- acres: **28**
- dogs in the office: **3 (for now)**





1999

WCC founder Hélène Grimaud started the Wolf Conservation Center back in 1996 with three Ambassador wolves: Apache, Lukas, and Kaila.

2002

Atka joined the WCC "pack".

2003

The WCC joined the SSP program.

Atka made his first offsite appearance – launching the traveling education program that now reaches about 30,000 people every year.

2006

Our first Mexican gray wolf, F838, was released into the wilds of Arizona.

2008

By 2008 we had a state-of-the-art website and registration system, 4+ employees, 30 wolves, and had welcomed our first Mexican Gray Wolf pups (appropriately enough on Earth Day!).

2010

A bittersweet year. While we celebrated the first litter of red wolf pups born at the WCC, we also said goodbye to Apache and Lukas. Both of the Center's Ambassador wolves passed away after battles with cancer.

2011

The WCC's third original Ambassador, Kaila, passed away at age 15 but we welcomed Alawa and Zephyr on April 20th, joining Atka to make up the Ambassador Pack.

2013

Our first red wolf, M1804 aka Thicket, was released to the St. Vincent National Wildlife Refuge in the Gulf of Mexico.

2014

The Northeast Wolf Coalition was founded and we welcomed Nikai, born April 13th, to the Ambassador Pack.

2016

The Eastern Wolf Education Summit took place and was attended by over 60 individuals including scientists and state representatives.



Education

Through our educational programs, thousands upon thousands of people are learning just how important wolves are. Our education and Ambassador wolf programs introduce the community to the importance of a healthy planet and healthy ecosystems.

Our programs aim to educate the public on the history and ecology of wolves. Each program offers an educational component followed by a trip to the enclosures where visitors can see the wolves and how they interact with one another.

2016

Educational programs included:

- **523** On-site visits with a total attendance of **15,357**
- **13** Off-site visits with a total attendance of **2,671**

Visitors have said... “What your organization does for the wolf population is nothing short of magnificent and inspiring. Your volunteers and staff there are a gift to these wolves, and to the community. A pleasure to meet. This was a truly unforgettable experience that made me realize I am meant for something more. I hope to be back soon.”

Research at the WCC

The Wolf Conservation Center is a wonderful laboratory for students, professors and biologists. The WCC provides great opportunities for researchers to gather unique data from captive wolves.

Featured below are projects done at the WCC:

“Analysis of Behavior and Cortisol Levels Of a Captive Wolf in Solitaire Versus Captive Wolves in a Pack”

“A GIS-Based Approach to Documenting Carnivore Damage to Bones”

“Work in Progress: Using Wolves to Teach Engineering Design”

“Study of Wolf Behavior”

“Comparisons of laterality between wolves and domesticated dogs (Canis lupus familiaris)”

Species Survival Plan

The WCC has another key aspect to it as well: The Federal Species Survival Plan. We participate in the recovery programs for the Mexican gray wolf and the red wolf, two of the rarest mammals in North America. Both species at one time were extinct in the wild.

Organizations participating in the SSP are tasked with housing and caring for the wolves, collaborating in the captive breeding program, sharing observations and recommendations for release, and engaging in the sometimes unusual and often controversial efforts to save the species.

Since 2003, the WCC has played a critical role in preserving and protecting these imperiled species with thorough, carefully managed breeding and reintroduction. In the first week of August 2016, the Wolf Conservation Center cohosted the annual Species Survival Plan meeting. This meeting brought together representatives from dozens of facilities participating in the SSPs, Fish and Wildlife Agencies from both U.S. and Mexico, state wildlife agencies, endangered species reproductive specialists, and many other organization representatives to tackle the myriad of issues associated with recovering the most endangered wolves in the world.

Items on the meeting agenda included:

- *Reports on the status of Mexican wolf recovery in both Mexico and the U.S.*
- *Reports on the status of red wolf recovery*
- *Reports on both the Mexican wolf and red wolf SSP and the status of the global captive studbook populations*
- *Reports on reproductive research in 2015 and needs for 2016*
- *Criteria for selection of breeding pairs*
- *Selecting pairs for breeding in 2016-2017*
- *Gamete banking plan and criteria for selection of candidates*
- *Selecting semen and oocyte collection candidates for 2017*
- *Selecting candidates for release*





Atka's Pool Trip

Atka celebrated the first day of Autumn with a dip in the local town pool! The Wolf Conservation Center is constantly trying to make sure that our Ambassador wolves have interesting experiences. Sometimes it's just a matter of letting Atka explore a new environment so he can experience all sorts of different sights and smells! Atka has visited the ocean, rivers, and lakes before – but he has never been to a pool in his 14 years! He wasn't sure at first... but ended up loving it!

Enormous thanks to the Lewisboro Parks and Recreation Department for inviting Atka to its pool!



Eastern Wolf Summit

The Wolf Conservation Center proudly hosted a conference regarding the status of wolf recovery in the Northeast USA in June 2016. The Eastern Wolf Education Summit, attended by over 60 individuals including scientists and state representatives, was prompted by the listing of eastern wolves in Ontario as threatened. In June 2016 the Ontario provincial government granted the species automatic protections due to their "threatened" listing and also renamed the eastern wolves in Ontario, preferring to refer to them as Algonquin wolves as they are mainly located within Algonquin Provincial Park (APP).

The uplisting highlighted the increasing potential for recolonization of eastern wolves in the Northeast USA and emphasized the need for collaboration. Speakers spoke on the unique genetics of the eastern wolf and the irreplaceable role this top canid plays in the ecosystem. The WCC looks forward to continuing this conversation and to hosting another summit in 2018 to further address the status of eastern wolves.



©Steve Dunsford

Algonquin Trip

Covering approximately 5,000 square miles, Algonquin Park is one of Ontario's oldest provincial parks and is home to abundant wildlife including otters, beavers, raccoons, wolves, moose and bears. Guests were able to delve into the fascinating world of Canadian wildlife at the historic Algonquin Wildlife Research Station - one of Canada's foremost centers for outdoor education and situated within a 30,000 acre Wildlife Research Area that provides the perfect backdrop for both exploring Algonquin Park and learning first-hand from Canadian wildlife researchers and naturalists.

Diane Bentivegna, attendee, writes "The WCC's unique summer adventure in Algonquin Provincial Park encouraged many lasting memories of Ontario's oldest provincial park which is home to the province's richest history, wildlife and scenery. Learning from our hosts at the Algonquin Wildlife Research Station helped all participants to appreciate the lives and interactions of Algonquin's beautiful flora and fauna."



Stand for Wolves event at Sherry B Dessert Studio

In our efforts to broaden awareness and understanding for the importance of wildlife conservation, the Wolf Conservation Center and Sherry B Dessert Studio hosted an educational family event for the Westchester community and beyond. Visitors took a stand for wolves at Sherry B Dessert Studio in Chappaqua on Sunday, January 24th, 2016. Guests learned about the importance and plight of endangered wolf species, our efforts to recover them, and met young wildlife advocates who exemplify the amazing potential of their generation to make this world a better place.

Atka joined the party and made sure to get some camera-time in too. Admission was free and all profits from the awareness raising event were donated to the WCC to support the Center's work in ecosystem education, species preservation, and environmental advocacy.

Highlights from 2016



Advocacy

Our thousands of supporters are guided and directed to make their voices heard on numerous issues that continue to impact wolves in the wild. We believe every individual has the ability and responsibility to affect the world, as well as a powerful voice to safeguard the future of wolves for generations to come.

We are able to engage with a vast number of learners and supporters through our 15,000+ visitors and our robust social media effort. Consistent, professional effort has resulted in over three million people following our work on Facebook where they are alerted to ways they can help save wolves locally and across North America, communicate effectively with their elected representatives, and encourage personal responsibility for improved human stewardship of our World.

In 2016...

The Wolf Conservation Center, along with a coalition of wolf conservation groups, environmental organizations and a retired federal wolf biologist announced a court settlement requiring the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (the Service) to prepare a long-delayed recovery plan for Mexican gray wolves by November 2017.

With only 97 individuals existing in the wild at the end of 2015, and fewer than 25 in Mexico, the Mexican gray wolf is one of the most endangered mammals in North America and faces a serious risk of extinction. Thanks to the courts, the Service is finally required to meet its legal obligation of completing a legally-sufficient recovery plan, with the ultimate goal of a healthy, sustainable population of Mexican gray wolves in the wild.

The Service developed a document it labeled a "recovery plan" for the Mexican wolf in 1982—but the Service itself admits that this document was incomplete, intended for only short term

application, and "did not contain objective and measurable recovery criteria for delisting as required by [the Endangered Species Act]."

Update

Despite the recommendations of scientists, the draft recovery plan for the lobo or Mexican gray wolf (*Canis lupus baileyi*) released by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service unnaturally limits the population size and range of this subspecies in the Southwest. Exclusion of millions of acres of suitable habitat near Grand Canyon, north of the current recovery area, and an artificial cap on population size will limit real recovery of this species to a state-managed token animal instead of allowing it to fulfill its important role in maintaining ecosystem health.

"The captive-breeding program that we operate aims to release wolves into their ancestral homes in the wild, but the success of our efforts requires a legitimate, science-based recovery blueprint that will ensure the survival of these iconic and imperiled wolves. This is not what the Fish and Wildlife Service delivered," said Maggie Howell, Director of the Wolf Conservation Center.

Donors

The WCC would like to thank the following for their unwavering support and fierce dedication to wolf conservation. Thank you.

\$25,000+

Susan & John Freund
Martha Handler
Amy McGraw
Loretta Stadler
Jeniam Foundation

\$15,000-\$24,999

Tripp and Jennifer Killin
Nina & Michael Stanton
Tresa, Daniel & Max Toscano

\$10,000-\$14,999

Sherry & Jeff Blockinger
Francine Haselkorn
Amy Wendel
Leslie Williams
Christian Zbylut
Trinity Packaging Corporation

\$5,000-\$9,999

Sebastiano Cossia Castiglioni
Sara Cope
Linn & Robert Feidelson
Eliza W. Fraser & Dean S. Travalino
Hélène Grimaud
Paul Hancock
Janet Harckham
Judy Hayama
Lisa Kole
Sue McGraw
Anita Winkler
Shari & Bob Wolf Ruckh
Lisa Zedlovich
Bauer Family Foundation
Jeffries & Co Inc

\$2,000-\$4,999

Veronica & Sam Dodge
Amy Groveman
Daun & Peter Hauspurg
Robin & James Herrnstein
Bria Neff
James Shyer
Diesel Cafe
Gristle Tattoo
Local Independent
Charities of America
Patagonia
Volz Auto Group

\$1,000-\$1,999

Hope Babcock
Robert Bell
Diane Bentivegna
Dee DelBello
Jon Pierre Frenza
Dennis Friedman
John Holland
Richard Jones
Kevin Klunk
Stephen Kramarsky
Judith Kramer
Ashley & Jeffrey Kransdorf
G. John Krediet
Anne-Marie Kurz
Pamela Lunny
George Matelich
Mark Miller
Tashia Morgridge
Courtney Morse
Mr. and Mrs. Fred Orlan
Jean & Peter Ossorio
Jane & Richard Pearl

Mieke Ptaszynski
Adam R. Rose
Ema Scheidel
Robert Sole
Jennifer & Morgan Stebbins
Rachel White
Kristen Wolf

*Ally Financial
Appleby Charitable Lead Trust
Burt Family Foundation
Chevron Matching Employee Fund
Chicago Zoological Society
The Dermatology &
Laser Group
JP Morgan Chase
Employee Giving
The Dyson-Kissner-Moran Corporation
National Grid
Petoskey-Harbor Springs Area
Community Fund*

Financials

INCOME

In-Kind	\$99,868
Education Programs	297,326
Fundraising Events	54,580
Individual Donations	353,411
Capital Campaign	
Donations	763,575
Foundation/Trust Grants	8,800
Promoted Donations	187,556
Corporate/Government	
Donations	69,565
Miscellaneous	4,717

Total Income \$1,839,398

EXPENSES

In-Kind	\$99,868
Personnel	369,483
Operations	342,375
Fundraising	15,614
Capital Campaign	135,399
Administration	20,777
Contributions	2,046
Cost of Goods Sold	82,954

Total Expenses \$1,068,516

ASSETS

Current Assets	\$1,464,073
Fixed Assets	2,802,772
Capital Campaign Long	
Term Pledges	490,965

Total Assets \$4,757,810

LIABILITIES & EQUITY

Liabilities	\$239,320
Accumulated Fund	
Balance	3,747,608
Net Income	770,882

Total Liabilities \$4,757,810



Board of Directors:

Jeffrey Blockinger
Veronica Dodge
Susie Freund
Hélène Grimaud, *Founder*
Martha Handler, *President*
Scott Kantro, DPM
Tripp Killin
Claudia Neary
Shari Wolf Ruckh
Dean Travalino
Audrey Zinman

Advisory Board

Diane Bentivegna
Charlie Duffy, *VMD (Veterinary Medical Doctor)*
Dr. Cristina Eisenberg, *Ph. D.,
Earthwatch Lead Scientist, Author*
Nina Fascione, *Defenders of Wildlife*
Cathy Kangas
Dr. Don Moore, *Smithsonian Zoo /
Polar Bear International*
Randolf Perry, *Nonprofit Attorney and Advisor*
Rolf Petersen, *Wolf Biologist*

Staff

Maggie Howell, *Executive Director*
Rebecca Bose, *Curator*
Spencer Wilhelm, *Operations Manager*
Alex Spitzer, *Educator*
Genny Lawson, *Business Manager*
Regan Downey, *Youth Education Coordinator*
Mary Kate Kabbes, *Educator/Development*
Robyn Abbott, *Development Coordinator*



Wolf Conservation Center
PO Box 421
South Salem, NY 10590
(914) 763-2373
www.nywolf.org

