



# PAW PRINTS

Fall 2004

Paw Prints is a publication of Timber Wolf Alliance, a program of the Sigurd Olson Environmental Institute of Northland College, Ashland, WI

## Question and Answer

**Q. How do wolves keep warm in the winter?**

*A. Wolves have thick fur that is made up of two layers: a soft thick undercoat (like a down coat) for warmth, and an outer layer of guard hairs (like a rain jacket) that repel water and snow. Just imagine how warm and dry you would stay if you were bundled up in a down snowsuit with a rain suit overtop!*

**Q. What is a rendezvous site?**

*A. A rendezvous site is a resting spot where pups stay when the adults go hunting. These places are usually grassy open sites with thick trees around them for cover. Wolves use rendezvous sites from late June until October, when the pups are too young and small to follow the rest of the pack. You can tell where a rendezvous site is because there are lots of wolf tracks and scat (poop).*

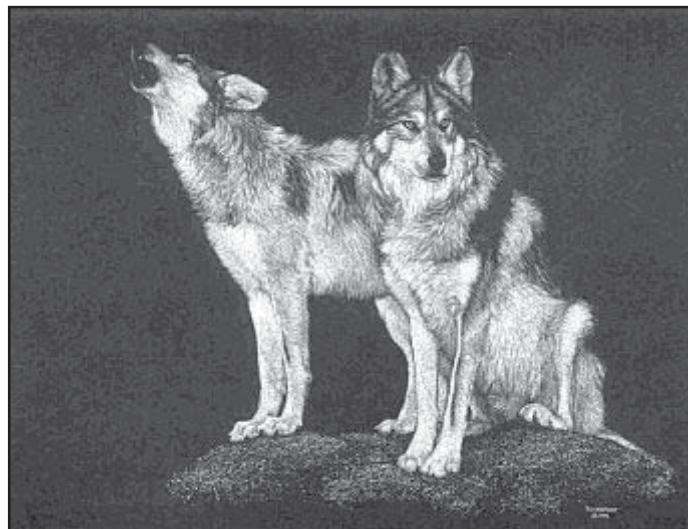
## Wolf Awareness Week 2004

Each year Timber Wolf Alliance chooses two art pieces for the Regional and National Wolf Awareness Week education posters. This year the national poster winner is Diane Versteeg of Palm Desert, California, with her image, "*Christiane and Houdini - Mexican Gray Wolves*". The winner of the regional poster contest is Derek Wicks of Orangeville, Ontario, Canada, with his image, "*Along the River's Edge*". ***Would you like a poster?*** Contact the Timber Wolf Alliance and tell us which poster you would like. We will send it to you for \$6 (shipping/handling).



*Along the River's Edge*

Derek Wicks



*Christiane and Houdini - Mexican Gray Wolves* Diane Versteeg

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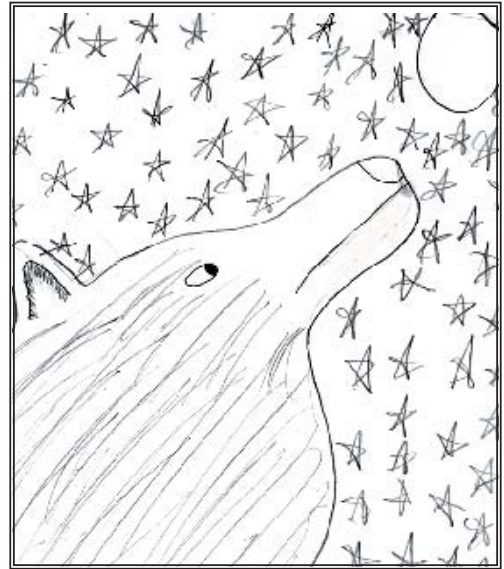
# Third Graders at Aldo Leopold Elementary School in Madison, Wisconsin, Show Their Appreciation for Wolves With Art and Poetry

## **Wolves are Wonderful Things by Jak C.**

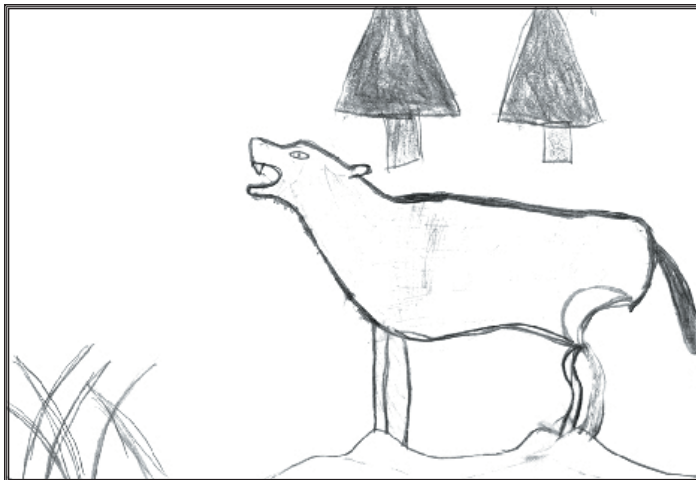
Wonderful wolves are adventurous creatures  
On the continent of North America  
Living in the wild is very tough  
Fierce wolves are very good hunters

## **Wolf Poem by Rachel Griffiths**

Wolves are wonderful  
Our forests need wolves  
Love our wolves in Wisconsin  
Very many people are interested in wolves  
Everybody should care about wolves  
Some schools adopt wolf packs



By Emma Johnson



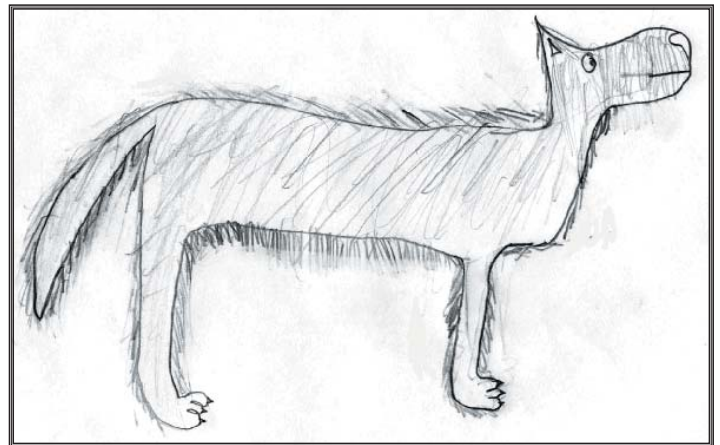
By Nick Calderon



By Lauren Phelps

## **A Wolf Poem by Rosa Sanabrina**

Wonderful wolves wave their tails  
Over the grassy plains  
Little cubs wrestle in the grass  
Very quiet they hunt for food  
Early in the morning the wolves wake up  
Start their day all over and make it wonderful



By Patrick Bass Jr.

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## Species Spotlight: Red Wolves

*Did you know that there are two different species of wolves in North America? They are the red wolf and the gray wolf. Read on for some cool information about red wolves.*

Red wolves used to live all over the southeastern US, but now only live in a few places in North Carolina. *Red wolves are extremely rare!* In 1975, only 14 of them were left in the wild. Because the red wolf was in danger of becoming extinct, the few wild wolves that remained were captured, and a breeding program was started.

**Captive breeding programs** breed and take careful care of animals that are rare in the wild to make sure that they will never go extinct. It took over ten years before enough red wolves were born and raised in captivity to begin reintroducing (releasing) them back into the wilds of North Carolina. Now, there are over 100 red wolves in North Carolina and 159 in captive breeding programs like zoos! Their color can be cinnamon red, gray, or black. They weigh 40 to 80 pounds, and are smaller than gray wolves who weigh 50-100 pounds.

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## Sub-species Spotlight: Mexican Gray Wolves

The wolves you see in this year's National Wolf Awareness Week poster are **Mexican gray wolves**, *one of the rarest mammals in the world!* They are a type, or **sub-species**, of gray wolves that live in the southwestern United States and Mexico. Gray wolves that live in different parts of the country look a little different. Based on these differences, the gray wolf species is divided into different types or sub-species.

Mexican gray wolves are the smallest type of gray wolf in North America at about 65 inches long and 32 inches tall. They weigh anywhere from 50 to 90

pounds, and have fur that is a combination of brown, gray, rust, and tan.

There used to be 4,000 Mexican gray wolves living in Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, and Mexico, but in the 1970's they almost went extinct! That's when the government and captive breeding programs stepped in, and worked to increase the number of Mexican gray wolves in captivity. In 1998, after lots of hard work, there were enough Mexican gray wolves born in captivity to reintroduce them to the wild. Today, there are 50-60 Mexican gray wolves in the wild and 280 in captive breeding facilities like zoos.



## Ways Wolves Return to the Wild

**Moving wild wolves to new homes:** Biologists carefully trap wolves from a place where many healthy wolves live, and **reintroduce** (move) some of them to another place where wolves used to live. Yellowstone National Park is one example of a place where biologists reintroduced wolves.

**Moving captive wolves to new homes:** This type of reintroduction moves wolves that were born in captivity back to places where wolves used to live in the wild. Because these wolves were raised in captivity, biologists have to help them out before they release them (let them go). The wolves need to learn to hunt and live in the wild, so they live in safe, fenced-in, outdoor areas before they are released. The Mexican gray wolf and the red wolf are examples of wolves which, because of very low numbers in the wild, had to be bred in captivity before they could be reintroduced to the wild.

**All by themselves:** In many places wolves were hunted almost to extinction. When wolves become protected in these places (people aren't allowed to hunt them), sometimes they move back to places where they used to live all on their own. Wolves in Wisconsin and Michigan are examples of this. They moved from Minnesota and Canada back into these states.



Illustrations by C.J. Conner



## Create a Canine Card for the Holidays

To make a wolffy card for your friends and family: first, cut along the dotted lines above. Now you have piece #1. Take this piece and trace its shape on colored construction paper. Cut that piece out, now you have piece #2. Next, glue piece #2 to the back of piece #1. Let the glue dry, then fold the card in half. When you are done, you can color the wolves on your card or add glitter. Write a cheery message on the inside and send it to a friend!

# WANTED!

*Have you written any stories, poetry, or book reports about wolves? Or have you drawn or painted pictures of wolves?*

***We would like to include your work in Paw Prints.***

Please send your original work to:

**Paw Prints Artwork  
Timber Wolf Alliance  
Sigurd Olson Environmental Institute  
Northland College  
Ashland, WI 54806**

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