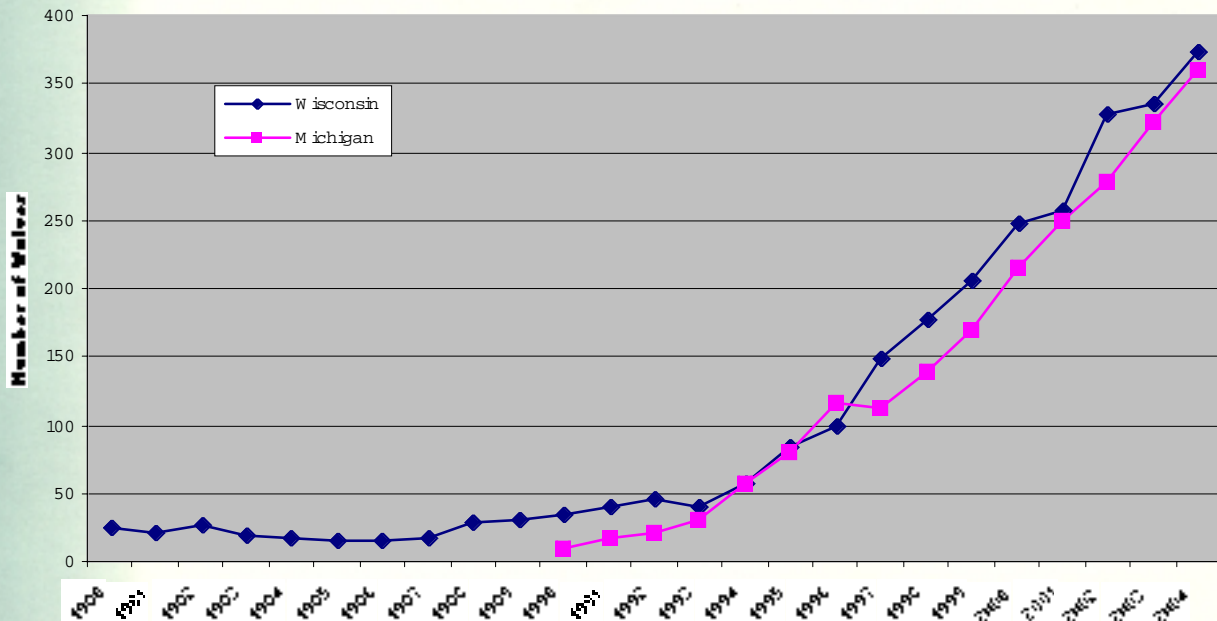


Sigurd Olson Environmental Institute  
NORTHLAND COLLEGE

## Michigan and Wisconsin's Annual Minimum Wolf Population Counts Show Increase

### Annual Wolf Population in Michigan and Wisconsin



**Wisconsin's** 2004 wolf population has increased 11% from last year to 373-410 wolves including those located on Indian reservations. (361 wolves inhabit lands outside of Indian reservations.) There are 109 packs with at least two wolves to a pack, and 13 lone wolves. The state wolf plan set a wolf management goal of 350 wolves outside of Indian reservations. On March 24, the Wisconsin Natural Resources Board voted to remove the wolf from the state threatened list and designate it as a Protected Species. This state delisting will allow biologists access to more active control to maintain wolf management numbers near the 350 goal. However, this will only occur when the federal government removes the wolf from the federally threatened list (delist) and returns all management of wolf populations to the state and tribes. The federal delisting process should begin sometime this summer.

**Michigan** saw a 12% increase in its 2003-2004 wolf population to 360 wolves in about 77 packs found in all counties of Michigan's Upper Peninsula (UP) except Keweenaw. During the past winter, biologists spent more than 2,000 hours surveying 6,000 to 8,000 miles of roads looking for wolf sign. Biologists currently monitor 44 wolves fitted with radio collars. This is the fifth consecutive year that the wolf populations exceeded 200, reaching the recovery goal stated in the Michigan Wolf Recovery and Management Plan. Reaching this goal will allow the state to remove the wolf from the state threatened list when federal delisting is completed. Isle Royale's wolf population increased to 29 animals this year; the moose population declined slightly to 750 animals.

World Wolf Congress: [www.WorldWideWolves.wow!](http://www.WorldWideWolves.wow!)

*In September 2003, six Timber Wolf Alliance (TWA) delegates attended the World Wolf Congress: Bridging Science and Community held in the breathtaking Rockies of Banff, Alberta. At this international event, TWA contributed to the knowledge base of world-wide wolf restoration by presenting poster sessions about our strong volunteer program and the history of our successful Wolf Awareness Week posters.*

*Dozens of researchers and educators from around the world presented programs to hundreds of attendees. In fact, so many presentations were given that attendees left with minds overflowing with new information. The following are just a few highlights from TWA attendees:*

***Steve Schaub, TWA Speakers Bureau Volunteer and Advisory Council Member***

Dr. Luigi Boitani, internationally known wolf researcher from the University of Rome, Italy, in his opening keynote address, *The Wolf-Human Interface and the Role of Biology, Ethics and Politics*, made several points about wolf management that can be applied to our situation in the Great Lakes area. He postulated there can be a wide variation in solutions to management questions, depending on the human dynamic and situation. He identified seven levels of ecological complexity for setting wolf population goals and then proposed seven avenues of direction for the future:

1. Abandon the prejudice that wolves need wilderness to survive
2. Accept the concept that wolves and humans can live in integrated co-existence rather than be segregated
3. Change long standing conservation paradigm-new goals should include increasing wolf range rather than wolf numbers

4. Keep science separate from emotion in managing wolves
5. Methods of wolf management should be independent of a societies' wealth
6. Wolves should be saved and managed as part of the whole process-apply management to habitat
7. Learn to be more tolerant for a certain level of disturbance in our environment.

How can we take these insightful thoughts and apply them to wolf management issues in Michigan and Wisconsin? First, we must realize that even in our region there are differences in human attitudes and cultural traits that may require different management strategies. We can use education to incorporate Dr. Boitani's ideas into wolf management discussions and make applications that fit the need of the moment. As the wolf increases its range and population, it must adapt to humans. We also must find ways to adapt to the wolf.

***Dr. Luigi Boitani, "In regards to wolves, the decision-making process is extremely difficult due to the variation and diversity of groups. (and)...the decision-making process is more about values than about facts. Being scientific or knowledgeable is not enough."***

# Tales from the Education Front

## TWA Speakers Bureau Summit

Twelve volunteer speakers spent a day together at the Necedah Wildlife Refuge to learn the latest information on current wolf populations, depredation situations, dispersal movements and state and federal reclassifications. They also shared education tricks learned by giving programs to all age groups.



TWA volunteers meet to talk shop!



## TWA Volunteer Speakers' Bureau is a Thankful Job!

TWA speakers often receive artful and touching thank-you letters from grade school kids after giving wolf programs. Some are silly. Some are cute. Some reflect what kids learned. All are thoughtful and appreciated.



Our lone wolf in Pennsylvania, TWA volunteer speaker Laura DeYoung, presents wolf programs in communities and schools.

## Timber Wolf Alliance Calendar

<b>August 6</b>	Volunteer Speakers' Bureau Training
<b>August 7-8</b>	Wolf Weekend Ecology Workshop
<b>August 8-14</b>	Wolves and Moose of Isle Royale Adventure Course
<b>October 17-24</b>	Wolf Awareness Week
<b>December</b>	Wildlife Tracking Workshops with nationally known tracker, Jim Halfpenny. Contact TWA for dates and locations.

From July 2003-April 2004, TWA's volunteer speakers gave 89 programs to almost 5,000 people across Wisconsin, Michigan, northern Illinois, and even Pennsylvania and Connecticut.

# Remembering Jim Reul: The Voice for the Wolves

*Nan Field, TWA Speakers Bureau Volunteer and Advisory Council Member*

On December 17, 2003, TWA lost one of its most dedicated volunteers, Jim Reul of Madison, Wisconsin. Jim's death left a major void in TWA's volunteer base and the hearts of those privileged to know him. Many of us didn't become acquainted with Jim until his retirement years, when he channeled his energy in new directions, giving countless hours of his time to TWA.

Jim was born on January 19, 1925, in Madison. He attended St. John's Military Academy and West Point Military Academy and served in the U. S. Army during World War II. Jim then continued his education at the University of Texas and received his law degree from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He was married to his wife, Sheila Kivlin, since 1953 and together they raised two sons. For 20 years, Jim was an attorney for the state of Wisconsin. During those years, he was also an avid outdoorsman.

Jim's love of wild things tuned him into organizations like Ducks Unlimited and TWA. He soon became knowledgeable in wolf information and a defender of wolf recovery in Wisconsin. He contributed to TWA in many ways: served on the advisory council for several years, gave numerous presentations for TWA's speakers' bureau, and donated his expert skills to the collective cause. Jim and Sheila often opened their home to TWA folks who visited the Madison area. Jim not only made generous gifts to TWA, he was also an effective fundraiser and raised thousands of dollars for the program.

Adrian Wydeven, Mammalian Ecologist for Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and coordinator of the state wolf program, had a special father-son relationship with Jim that grew out of the years they joined forces in northern Wisconsin to conduct wolf howl surveys. During those times, Jim learned that wolves howled for a number of reasons, including to mourn the loss of a pack member. At Jim's funeral Adrian reciprocated and led Jim's friends in a howl that grieved the loss of a friend, father, and husband from this earthly pack but welcomed Jim to his universal one. We will not forget Jim's passion, sense of humor and twinkling eyes.



Non-lethal control researchers, Tom Gehring, Professor from Central Michigan University and John Shivik, researcher from USDA - Wildlife Services.

## TWA hosts 2004 Midwest Wolf Stewards Meeting

TWA partnered with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources to host the 2004 Midwest Wolf Stewards meeting at the Bad River Convention Center in April. This annual meeting is one of the rare times the states of Michigan, Minnesota and Wisconsin, plus the province of Ontario come together to discuss wolf management and education in the western Great Lakes region. Over 85 natural resource professionals, researchers, academic professors, educators, and stakeholders attended. Experts presented lectures on topics including lethal and non-lethal control research, neosporosis disease, public attitudes, future education strategies, and a moderated panel discussion on the pros and cons of using public harvest as a management tool.

*Continued from page 2...*

***Nancy Warren, Co-Coordinator, Speakers' Bureau and Advisory Council Member***

I attended the conference presentations from scientists and researchers, but as a member of TWA's Speakers Bureau, I was very intrigued by the education sessions, especially the enthusiasm shown by Rick Whittaker of The Halibuton Wolf Centre. The Centre is located in prime Ontario wilderness with Algonquin Park to the north. With a mission of wolf education and research, the Wolf Centre specializes in outdoor education seminars. As part of his presentation, Rick explained how he uses a puppet show to teach younger children about wolves.

It is the simple story of The Three Little Pigs, however, it is told through the eyes of the wolf who was merely trying to borrow a cup of sugar from the pigs. And, it was a sneeze from a terrible cold that causes both the straw and stick houses to collapse. I knew instantly that I wanted to create this puppet show, and Rick graciously shared his script with me.

***Dorothy McLeer, TWA Speakers Bureau Volunteer and Advisory Council Member***

What an opportunity! Travel to Banff, see mountains for the first time in my life, spend time with great friends and international wolf researchers-past, present, and future-and represent TWA in the name of wolf conservation. This was my luck as a participant in the World Wolf Congress.

In all my years of conferencing, the Congress was unique in its emphasis regarding non-lethal control in wolf management. As proof that "everything old is new again," the ancient Eastern European technique of fladry (tying colorful ribbon flags along fencing), once used to hunt wolves, is now used in Europe and North America to discourage wolves from entering livestock enclosures. The movement of ribbons blowing in a breeze makes wolves wary of crossing boundaries...at least for a while. Being the intelligent animals they are, they usually overcome this fear. Employing a variety of techniques keeps wolves guessing.

To this end, radio activated guard (RAG) boxes produce strobe lighting and various loud sound

The children's reactions at my programs have been overwhelming, even more than I anticipated. Following the puppet show, I teach the children about real wolves using a variety of props including stuffed animals, gloves, oversized glasses, and ears and explain a wolf's diet and how it hunts. I have found that using the combination of "real versus pretend" is an effective way to teach children about wolves.



The conference was an opportunity for me to learn about the latest research and obtain fresh ideas. I was honored to attend as a representative of TWA.

Nancy with her homemade puppet show

effects. RAG boxes sound off when radio-collared wolves reach a pre-determined proximity to the box, scaring the animal away from the area. One RAG box currently used in Idaho, called the Model 9000 Frightening Device, broadcasts over 30 different sounds such as yelling, gunfire, and helicopters, to reduce habituation to the device. Motion activated guard (MAG) boxes work similarly on non-collared animals, reacting to movement rather than radio-collar frequencies. (I'd hate to blunder into that pasture!)

Sessions on social and attitudinal issues about wolves received much attention and were as well attended as "hard science" presentations, which was a pleasant surprise. Since human behaviors are guided by personal and cultural beliefs, the way we regard wolves is, too. Understanding the origins of and reasons behind these beliefs is crucial in coming to terms with wolf/human interactions and their outcomes. The World Wolf Congress was the perfect forum to learn how individual and cultural values influence decisions about wolf conservation and management around the world.

# Hot Summer Days!

## **Wolves and Moose of Isle Royale Adventure Course, August 8-14**

Timber Wolf Alliance is collaborating with the Isle Royale Institute to offer an incredible experience at Isle Royale National Park. Spend a day with prominent wolf biologists Rolf and Candy Peterson. Camp, hike, canoe, and explore the rich diversity of this island haven!

## **Wolf Weekend Ecology Workshop and Speakers' Bureau Training, August 6-8**

Like clockwork, TWA holds its annual wolf ecology workshop and volunteer speakers' bureau training at the Pigeon Lake Field Station in northern Wisconsin. Join wolf biologists from Wisconsin and Michigan as we learn about the ecology, management, and future of wolves in the western Great Lakes region.

Undergraduate and graduate credit available.

Please contact TWA at [tw@northland.edu](mailto:tw@northland.edu)

or (715) 682-1223.

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*Since 1987, Timber Wolf Alliance promotes and assists in achieving a sustainable population of grey wolves in the upper great lakes region through public education.*

*Timber Wolf Alliance is a program of the Sigurd Olson Environmental Institute of Northland College. The Institute works with citizens to build environmental awareness, encourage action, and forge lasting solution to environmental challenges in the Lake Superior region.*

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