

# LOBO LINGO



Conservation through education



## Isle Royale Moose Herd Continues Drastic Decline

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HOUGHTON, MI--After several years of concern about whether wolves would survive the ravages of canine parvovirus on Isle Royale National Park, park officials and researchers have now turned the focus of their attention to the island's moose herd.

Park Superintendent Douglas Barnard says that a survey of moose and wolf populations completed this winter shows only about 500 moose on the island, compared to an estimated 2,400 in 1995. "We knew that we lost a lot of moose during the especially long, harsh winter of '95 - '96," says Barnard, "but no one anticipated that losses would be this dramatic." After completing field work on the island in March of 1996, biologists estimated that there were 1,000 to 1,200 moose within the park. By then, surviving moose were severely stressed from lack of food, deep snows, and a heavy infestation of winter ticks. The moose population was dealt yet another blow, the late arrival of spring greenup, which resulted in additional moose mortality from starvation.

Dr. Rolf Peterson, a wildlife biologist at Michigan Technological University, conducts the annual survey for the National Park Service. Peterson notes that the park's moose population had grown dramatically over the past 15 years. This was due to a population crash in '81 - '82 of their only predator, wolves. That wolf decline coincided with the arrival of canine parvovirus in the region. The dynamic relationship between moose, wolves, their environment, and available food sometimes results in extreme population fluctuations.

### WHAT'S INSIDE...

- 1 Isle Royale Moose Herd Continues Drastic Decline
- 2 The Scent Post
- 5 Adopt-A-Wolf Pack - Isle Royale
- 6 Annual Meeting Registration Form
- 6 WI Plans for Downlisting and Beyond
- 7 TWIN Annual Weekend Outing
- 7 Mark Your Calendar
- 8 TWIN Products
- 9 TWIN Interactive

continued on page 4



Timber Wolf Information Network  
1998 Board of Directors

Officers

Patrick Arndt Chairperson N4070 30th Dr Pine River WI 54965 pat.arndt@usa.net	Don Bogdanske Secretary W1933 Lawson Dr Green Lake WI 54941 canis@mail.rpn.earthreach.com
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Chad Janowski Vice-Chair N9625 Willard Rd Berlin WI 54923 cjano997@student1. uwsp.edu	Robert J. Welch Treasurer E110 Emmons Creek Rd Waupaca WI 54981 welchr@add-inc.com
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Board of Directors


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---	---

Tim Sprain 322 N Mill West Salem WI 54669 Sprainer@aol.com	Travis Booms 2312 Joyce St Kaukauna WI 54130 tboom433@student1. uwsp.edu
---	--

Jason Warzinik 1255 Torun Rd Stevens Point WI 54481 webmaster@ timberwolfinformation.org	Dan Youngbauer 360 Center St Berlin WI 54923
--	--

Marilyn Leffler  
Editor  
1522 Almo Ave  
Madison WI 53704  
mleffler@facstaff.wisc.edu

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in January, May and September* 

Mission Statement: The purpose and objectives of Timber Wolf Information Network shall be to increase public awareness and acceptance of the wolf in its native habitat, and its ecological role in the environment.

# The Scent Post

Events of the board of directors meeting on April 26 and July 12, 1998, bring several items to report.

The winter wolf workshop season is once again approaching quickly. I would like to invite our membership to attend one of the following workshops: January 9-11, February 6-8, or March 6-8, 1999, at Treehaven in Tomahawk, WI. The weekend is full of field techniques, natural history and outdoor activities about wolves, not to mention great food and conversation. Please call Treehaven at 715-453-4106 with any questions about the workshop or to register. Each workshop is limited to 30 people so register early. There was a waiting list last year. I would also like to announce a special workshop on April 9-11, 1999, for teachers and students. Interested schools should contact Treehaven immediately.

TWIN is also offering timber wolf winter tracking clinics on January 16 and February 13, 1999, at the Sandhill Outdoor Skills Center in Babcock, WI. Join TWIN members for a discussion of wolf recovery progress and a field trip in search of wolf sign. The \$25.00 fee covers instruction materials and bus fare into the hinterlands. BYO lunch and refreshments. Dress appropriately for field work. Register by January 8 and January 29, respectively. Limit: 25 people. Contact Sandhill at 715-884-2437 with questions or to register.

The TWIN Executive Board met several months ago with leaders of the Timber Wolf Alliance (TWA) to discuss a possible liaison or speakers bureau between the two organizations. The TWIN board unanimously declined any liaison with TWA for the next five years.

TWIN was recently approached to assist a graduate student in Indiana who is working on a study of peoples' attitudes about wolves. His research involves a national survey and TWIN agreed to pay for the printing cost of the survey. Look for the TWIN logo if you are one of the lucky survey participants.

continued on page 3

## The Scent Post

continued from page 2



TWIN instructors will be busy teaching environmental educators about wolves during a three-hour workshop at the Wisconsin Association of Environmental Education (WAEE) fall conference on October 16-18, 1998, in Rosholt, WI. Educators are very important links to help inform others about the wolves, and we hope they howl what they learn to any listening ears.

I would like to take this time to personally invite all of our membership to the upcoming TWIN annual meeting on October 9-11, 1998, at the Pigeon Lake Field Station in Drummond, WI. Pigeon Lake is a beautiful setting with wolves nearby in every direction. This is a great time to meet your hard-working board members and for us to meet you, the membership. Bring your family and enjoy the beautiful northwoods in autumn. Hope to see you there.

Patrick Arndt  
TWIN Chairperson



## Isle Royale Moose Herd...

continued from page 1

“The carrying capacity of the moose range on Isle Royale has been greatly exceeded, resulting in serious overbrowsing that grew worse each year as moose continued to increase,” says Peterson. “The length of last winter proved especially costly for calves and older, weaker moose, but it also killed a surprising number of young adults.”

Peterson says the only thing that saved most of the moose that survived was an abundance of balsam fir browse on the east end of the island. Interestingly, he says, those trees grew up when wolves had reduced the moose herd to 700-800 animals back in the 1970s. Under the best conditions, mountain ash, aspen, and willow are the favored browse species of moose, but when those species are not available, moose will turn to balsam fir and other less nutritious species.

Peterson says the reduction in moose is good from the standpoint that it gives the island's vegetation a chance to recover from years of overbrowsing. He expects moose numbers to increase slightly if this year's calf production is good, but says wolves should play a significant role in determining the size of the moose herd in the foreseeable future.


“Everything depends on the wolves now,” says Peterson. “There are so few moose that if wolves are able to continue increasing, they should be able to keep moose at a relatively low level.”

While the Isle Royale moose have had their problems in the past couple of years, the park's wolves have been gradually building their numbers. Peterson says there are 24 wolves on Isle Royale now, and that's two more than last year and 12 more than the all time low of 12 recorded in 1988-89 and again in 1991-92.

“Seven pups survived from last year's litters, so despite five deaths during the year, the total number of wolves increased

by two,” he says. “The East Pack produced two young, the Middle Pack successfully raised three pups, and a lone pair of wolves had two pups; only the West Pack failed to produce any young.” He says the Middle Pack now has nine members, making it the largest pack on the island.

Despite their success, wolves had to work hard for every morsel of food this winter, according to the MTU biologist. “Some even dug up carcasses of moose that had died last year and ate their dried up hides. I'd never seen that before.”

The annual wolf-moose study on Isle Royale is funded by the National Park Service, the National Science Foundation, and Earthwatch. 



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# The Original ADOPT - A - WOLF PACK <sup>©1989</sup> - Isle Royale



### What Do You Get?

You get a certificate, a book related to wolves, a wolf poster or photo, a learning resources list, wolf monitoring reports, history of the wolves on Isle Royale, a VHS wolf video, TWIN newsletters, and much more!! In addition, 50% of the moneys raised with the Adopt-a-Wolf Pack Isle Royale goes directly to Isle Royale and helps fund the wolf studies.

To enroll in the Adopt-A-Wolf program simply fill in the needed information and mail it along with a check for \$75.00 (outside the continental U.S., add \$10.00 for shipping) payable to Timber Wolf Information Network

**T.W.I.N.**  
**E110 Emmons Creek Road**  
**Waupaca, WI 54981**

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Name to be listed on the certificate)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(If group or gift, name of sponsor or advisor)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number with area code \_\_\_\_\_

Name of the pack you would like to adopt: Isle Royale

No. in Group: \_\_\_\_

Educational Level:

Grade Level: \_\_\_\_

Elementary (K-6) \_\_\_\_

Adult (7th grade +) \_\_\_\_

September 1998

### Wisconsin Plans for Downlisting and Beyond

Wisconsin began a wolf recovery program in 1989 which called for reclassifying the wolf from endangered to threatened once its numbers reached 80 and remained there for three consecutive years. Having reached and exceeded that goal, the Department of Natural Resources's Wolf Advisory Committee has drafted a management plan and will be submitting it to the Natural Resources Board for approval sometime next year. The plan calls for making the wolf a threatened rather than endangered species. It would become a nonlisted, nongame species once the population reached 300 and remained there for three consecutive years. Hunting would be considered once the number of wolves exceeds 500.

The plan also recommends a three-zone management system:

Zone 1 would consist of northern and central Wisconsin forests where wolves would be provided a high level of protection on public land, even if removed from threatened status, and

Please fill out, detach and return the reservation form below with your check, payable to "Timber Wolf Information Network," to Patrick Arndt, N4070 30th Dr, Pine River, WI

..... ✂

#### 1998 TWIN Annual Membership Meeting Registration

##### Lodging

\_\_\_\_\_ Friday night-\$16.00 (meal on your own)

\_\_\_\_\_ Saturday night-\$16.00

##### Meals

\_\_\_\_\_ Saturday breakfast-\$4.00    \_\_\_\_\_ Saturday supper-\$8.00

\_\_\_\_\_ Saturday lunch-\$6.00    \_\_\_\_\_ Sunday breakfast-\$4.00

TOTAL (enclosed) subtract \$2 if at least 1 night and 3 Saturday meals are checked.....

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

name \_\_\_\_\_

-

address \_\_\_\_\_ ✂

limited control on private land.

Zone 2 would include buffer areas where dispersing wolves would be protected. More liberal control would be allowed for nuisance wolves.

Zone 3 would include far southern Wisconsin where liberal control of problem wolves would be allowed.

The plan also recommends continued monitoring of wolf populations, promoting public education, controlling nuisance wolves and reimbursing landowners for losses, future research, regulating wolf-dog hybrids and captive wolves, and encouraging reasonable ecotourism of wolves and their habitats. To receive a copy of the plan, contact:

DNR Bureau of Endangered Resources  
 PO Box 7921  
 Madison WI 53707-7921  
 608-266-7012 (ph)



## TWIN Annual Weekend Outing

It is time once again for the Timber Wolf Information Network annual membership meeting! It will be held at Pigeon Lake Field Station on the weekend of October 9-11, 1998. This is our annual get-together; an opportunity for you to meet, get to know one another and take advantage of field searches for wolves and wolf sign in the wilds of the Chequamegon National Forest.

← To register, send in the registration form found on page 6.

Tentative agenda:

Friday night:

6pm - 9pm Arrive and settle in  
 8pm - 9pm Meet in game room for introductions  
 9pm - ??? Howling!\* If interested in going howling, meet in the game room (only if the weather cooperates)

\*Things to Remember:

For maximum comfort, dress in layers of "quiet" clothing, hats, etc. We will be in and out of vehicles, both walking and standing still, possibly for long periods of time, so please be prepared for the cold Wisconsin night. Please refrain from using heavy perfumes. Be very quiet; noise will diminish our chance of hearing wolves. Unless otherwise instructed, you must stay with the entire group at all times.

Saturday:

7:30am - 8am Breakfast! (listen for the bell)  
 8am - 9am Relax, hike and enjoy the great fall weather!  
 9am - 11:30am Board meeting with work groups afterwards  
 12pm - 12:30pm Lunch! (listen for the bell)  
 12:30pm - 1pm Personal time; prepare for field trip  
 1pm - 5pm Wolf tracking field trip and plaster casting  
 5:30pm - 6pm Dinner! (listen for the bell)  
 6pm Relax until we go howling  
 After dark Howling - meet near cabins

Sunday:

7:30am - 8am Breakfast! (listen for the bell)  
 8am Bog hike/pack up/farewells

Directions: The Pigeon Lake Field Station is located north off Hwy N, four miles west of Drummond. Drummond is located on Hwy 63 about 25 miles north of Hayward. Watch for the big wooden "Pigeon Lake Field Station" sign on Hwy N. Driving time from Madison: five hours; Stevens Point: four hours.

## Mark Your Calendar...

← Next TWIN Board Meeting:  
 It's TWIN's Annual Meeting!  
 October 9-11, 1998, Pigeon Lake Field Station  
*All members welcome!*

**WOLVES: A Global Symposium**  
 February 23-26, 2000,  
 Duluth, MN  
*For more information, contact:*  
*The International Wolf Symposium*  
 UMD-University College  
 251 Darland  
 10 University Dr  
 Duluth, MN 55812-2496  
 218-726-6819 (ph)  
 218-726-6336 (fax)  
 merickso@d.umn.edu (email)

Would you like to announce an upcoming event that may be of interest to TWIN members? If so, please forward the specifics to the editor, address listed on page two, so we can include it in the newsletter. 



## TWIN Products

### The Majestic, Mortal and Misunderstood

This 100% preshrunk cotton Hanes Beefy T has long sleeves and is oatmeal in color. The print is forest green with black and cranberry. The Native American, buffalo and wolf are pictured on the shirt front representing that which we almost lost. The type on the shirt is a quote by Chief Dan George which states: "If you talk to the animals they will talk to you and you will know I, them. If you do not talk to them you will not know them and what you do not know you will fear. What one fears, one destroys."



Sizes: S, M, L, XL, XXL  
 PRICE: \$20.00

### Of Wolves and Men

By: Barry Holstun Lopez

This book offers a historical, biological, mythological and mystical account of the relationship between wolves and humans. A vast source of information with a sensitive value. A must have for any wolf enthusiast.



PRICE: \$17.95

**Ship to:** Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Item	Qty.	Size	Unit Cost	Total
Barry Lopez's Book				
T-shirt				
Shipping (see right)				
<b>Total</b>	Checks or Money Orders only			



#### Order Information

The charges below are for shipping and handling in the continental U.S. Please allow 2-5 weeks for delivery.

- \$2.00 . . . . . Orders up to \$5.00
- \$2.50 . . . . . Orders up to \$7.50
- \$3.50 . . . . . Orders of \$7.51-30.00
- \$4.00 . . . . . Orders of \$30.01-49.99
- \$4.50 . . . . . Orders of \$50.00-99.00
- \$6.00 . . . . . Orders over \$100.00

Send Orders To: T.W.I.N. CATALOG, C/O HANSON, P.O. BOX 286, POY SIPP, WI 54967

◆ ONLINE

**Keeping Tabs on the Wolf Around the World**

◆ Eye on the World - Ever wonder how the wolf is doing in other countries? All you need to do is visit TWIN's website and click on "Eye on the World - Wolf Conservation Efforts" and you will be taken to a section where you can find out all about wolves in countries like Canada, Great Britain, Portugal, as well as in many states of the USA. In addition to status updates you will also learn about an organization in that region of the world and what they are doing to help the wolf.

◆ Online Catalog and Resources - Our catalog, *Northern Howl*, has hit the web. Browse through our wide selection of wolf-related products including books, videos, t-shirts, jackets, jewelry and much more without even leaving your house.

◆ Participate in our forum, "Scent Post", and share your thoughts on wolf-related topics.

◆ Do you need to renew your TWIN membership, enroll in TWIN's Adopt-A-Wolf Pack program or would like to rent the Predator/Prey - Wolf Lab Box but don't have an application? Well, head over to our web site and click on "Learn more about TWIN." There you will find links to all of TWIN's programs along with printable application forms.

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◆ FOR INFORMATION

Homepage: [www.timberwolfinformation.org](http://www.timberwolfinformation.org)  
E-mail: [twin@timberwolfinformation.org](mailto:twin@timberwolfinformation.org)


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September 1998

## Notice to all membership:

Please note the two numbers on the mailing label of this newsletter. One of them is your password to the members only section of the website. The other is your membership expiration date. If you notice that time is getting short before your membership is to expire, please feel free to send in your membership without getting a renewal form. This saves us time and money. Any cooperation that you can afford us allows us to be more effective toward our mission.

Thank you,  
Chris Giese, Membership Chairperson 

**Also:** Please keep us informed of address changes. Thanks! 

## LOBO LINGO

**Timber Wolf Information Network  
Waupaca Field Station  
E 110 Emmons Creek Rd**

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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Non-Profit Org.  
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Madison WI  
Permit No. 747

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### WHAT'S INSIDE...

Isle Royale Moose Herd Continues  
    Drastic Decline  
The Scent Post  
Adopt-A-Wolf Pack - Isle Royale  
Annual Meeting Registration Form  
WI Plans for Downlisting and Beyond  
TWIN Annual Weekend Outing  
Mark Your Calendar  
TWIN Products  
TWIN Interactive