

DBO LINGO



Conservation through education



Are There Wolves in Maine?

by Patricia Salem, Editor

The opening in May of the Northeast Wolf Center, long a dream of the Maine Wolf Coalition, was a giant leap forward for the Maine wolf recovery effort. Located in Hallowell, the center hopes to serve as the headquarters for an anticipated recovery of the state's extinct timber wolf population by providing resources and information to help all involved make educated decisions about the process. The center, staffed entirely by volunteers, features posted information and a bulletin board for upcoming events, video viewing area, wolf display, library, kids' section, and small gift shop.

Historically, wolves were a large and vital component of the vast forested areas in the northern half of the state. Like wolves in many other states, they were extirpated by human interventions, particularly bounty hunting. The current status of the timber wolf in Maine is a matter of some contention. Over 90 wolf sightings have been reported, several of which are credible, and large canid tracks have been detected in various locations in the state, including the Bangor and Jackman areas. This summer, two students from Northland College in Wisconsin spent the summer in Maine looking for more conclusive proof, to no avail. A Wolf Sighting Hotline has been set up to document future reports.

Two large wild canids that were killed in the state are being considered wolves by the Maine Wolf Coalition, despite the presence of coyote DNA in their tissue samples. The Coalition maintains that wolves migrating from Canada to Maine could easily contain some coyote DNA, as wolves and coyotes frequently interbred when they both shared habitat south of the Canadian border, decades ago before the wolf was pushed out of the northeastern U.S.

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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

The midsummer board meeting brings a few items to report:

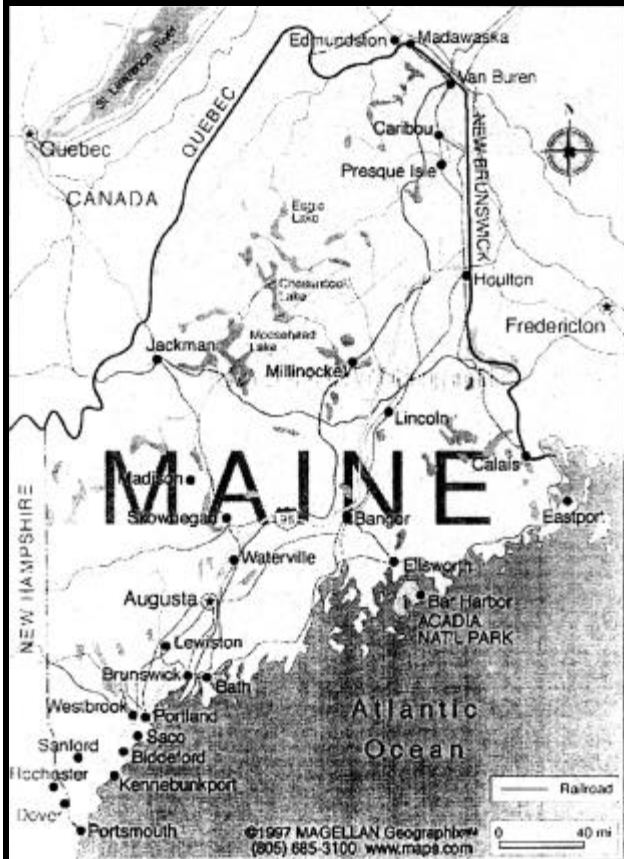
There was a lengthy discussion on the status of the Wisconsin Wolf Management Plan. TWIN sent two representatives to sit on a wolf advisory panel this last April. The panel consisted of several special interest groups representing many stakeholders in the management process. TWIN held the position that all management decisions should be based on sound wildlife management principles. In our estimation, the plan, as written by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR), was based on good scientific reasoning. Yet it failed to meet the needs of all of the special interest groups. The greatest debate was over the acceptable wolf population levels. The DNR projected the ecological carrying capacity around 800 wolves for the state. Yet they opted for a social tolerance management level of 350 wolves. There will always be some people who feel there shouldn't be any wolves in the state. Yet others feel we should not limit their population at all. In the middle, we must find a balance where the definition of social tolerance reflects society's opinions, not just those of special interest groups. TWIN was thanked by the DNR for its role as a wolf advocate and for serving as a role model of a well educated organization. The April meeting resulted in few revisions to the latest draft of the plan. The plan went before the Natural Resources Board this fall for approval and was tabled for further exploration. Support for the Wolf Management Plan is needed now as much as ever. Please attend any public forums in your area and

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Are There Wolves in Maine?

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The issues faced by the state of Maine in building a recovery of the wolf population are similar to those faced by the state of Wisconsin, TWIN's home state; several decades ago. These include the need for increased government support, a long-term recovery plan (which must include a dialogue with neighboring Canada, where wolves are not protected); clarification about the state's liberal coyote management, and greater public education and outreach. A recent survey of licensed motorists in Maine revealed support for natural reintroduction, while the same survey in the *Northwoods Sporting Journal*, showed a distinct aversion among sportsmen to the presence of any wolves in Maine (May, 1999). The debate will no doubt continue, as it seems likely that wolves will ultimately reestablish themselves there. To keep updated on the status of wolves in Maine and to learn more about the Maine Wolf Coalition or the Northeast Wolf Center, check out their website at: <http://home.acadia.net/mainewolf>.



Next issue: Wolves in New York

THE SCENT POST

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show support for a sound management plan.

On another note, TWIN will be facilitating a new class on wild canids at Trees for Tomorrow in Eagle River, WI. The week-long summer course is designed for educators and will be as packed with fun and activities as our winter wolf ecology workshops. For more information, contact Trees for Tomorrow at: 715-453-6456.

As always, we look forward to our winter workshop season at Treehaven in Tomahawk, WI. This year's workshops will be held January 21 -23, February 18-20, and March 10-12. Contact June at Treehaven for reservations at: 715-453-4106. Enrollment for classes is limited to 30 participants. Most classes fill quickly and have a waiting list, so register now to ensure your spot.

TWIN Co-chairs
Pat Arndt
Chad Janowski

Wisconsin Wolf Management Plan: What's Next?

by Patricia Salem, Editor

The proposed "Wisconsin Wolf Management Plan," the subject of our last issue, could mean some substantial changes for the timber wolf population in Wisconsin. A draft of the plan was made available to the public for review last spring, then analyzed and discussed by various stakeholders in its implementation. Few changes to the draft were made as the result of the public review period. The future of the plan is on the agenda for the October 27 meeting in Madison of The Natural Resources Board, the policy-making body for the state Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

Designed to replace the "Wisconsin Wolf Recovery Plan," which was developed over a decade ago when the wolf population had barely reestablished a foothold in the state, the new plan calls for the timber wolf to be removed from the Wisconsin endangered and threatened species list when the population reaches 250 animals. In the most controversial aspect of the current plan, public hunting of wolves would be considered when and if the population grows to 350 wolves, not after a five-year wait, as proposed in the plan's first draft. It is unclear whether or not the figure of 350 wolves would constitute a management goal (keep the population no higher than 350) or a minimum management goal (the wolf population should not go below 350 wolves).

Gray wolves have been considered endangered by both the state and federal governments, which means they cannot be killed. Problem wolves, such as those which are habitual depredators on pets or livestock, must be trapped and relocated. The Natural Resources Board has already approved changing the status of wolves in Wisconsin from endangered to threatened this fall. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service may well follow suit, which would permit authorized trappers to euthanize problem wolves.

Once the wolf population in the state reaches 250, the species would be reclassified again, according to the plan, from threatened to nongame, excluding Indian reservations. This would allow private landowners with permits and law enforcement officers to destroy nuisance animals. This year's late winter census of wolves in Wisconsin put the total population at 200 wolves.

Within the Wolf Management Plan, the state is divided into four management zones. Each zone has different management strategies, limiting lethal control in suitable northern habitat, while providing more liberal control in southern populated areas, where little to no appropriate habitat exists. Tribal authorities would hold responsibility for managing wolf packs within Native American reservation lands. The protected core areas proposed for Zone I (the Northern Forest deer management units and Menominee County) in the first draft of the plan were eliminated during the public review period.

The current version of the plan calls for continued wolf population and health monitoring, using radio telemetry, howling surveys, tracking, and compiling public wolf sightings. It also recommends that wolf management costs be capped at \$ 120,00 per year for the next five years. This figure does not include depredation costs. The cost of relocating or euthanizing chronic problem wolves is approximately \$15,000 to \$30,000. The plan calls for roughly \$20,000 to \$40,000 per year to be allocated for reimbursing pet or livestock owners who lose animals to wolf depredation, once the wolf population has reached management goals. It also suggests

The Wisconsin Wolf Management Plan: What's Next?

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the DNR consider alternative funding sources for these costs, incorporating the assets of diverse interest groups such as nature lovers, hikers, and photographers, rather than the traditional hunting, fishing, and trapping license monies or funding from endangered resources.

The broad appeal of the timber wolf comes not only from its physical beauty and elusive nature, but also from the fact that it is an apex species. "How we manage for wolves is going to have an effect on many other forest species," said Adrian Wydeven, the DNR wildlife ecologist who coordinates Wisconsin's wolf recovery program, in a DNR news release on August 17, 1999. Wolves are known to keep deer populations under control by preying on sick and weak animals, thereby reducing overgrazing, and they maintain coyote and beaver populations, as well.

More public involvement from a wide range of interest groups may ultimately work to the timber wolf's advantage. While the DNR Wolf Advisory Committee will continue to review wolf management and make recommendations to the Natural Resources Board, a public review of the management plan will be conducted every five years. To keep abreast of the latest policy decisions concerning the timber wolf, log on to the state DNR's website at: www.dnr.state.wi.us

Food for Thought

"Favorable Habitat ... refers to areas that have a 50% or greater probability of being settled by wolf packs... Areas of favorable wolf habitat have less than 0.7 mile of road per square mile, less than 10 people per square mile, and consist of over 90% forest or wildlands."

- Wisconsin Wolf Management Plan
Wisconsin Wolf Advisory Committee of the WI DNR
Draft, March 15, 1999, p. 35

"The prime wolf areas are filling up. As wolves establish new territories and are crossing more roads, there is an increased risk of their being hit by an automobile. In addition, there is a greater possibility of wolves being shot as they move through more populated areas."

- "Wisconsin Fine Tunes Management Plan"
WOLF Magazine, Vol. XVII No. 1, p. 10

"This plan ... boldly seeks to establish a self-sustaining; breeding population of these indigenous wolves in the areas where they were hunted and poisoned to the brink of extinction a scant 50 years ago. In areas where man now holds utter dominion:"

- "Wolves' Walk on the Wild Side Proved Deadly"
New York Times, April 25, 1999

"The 66 pound (30 kg) male wolf, shot less than an hour after it bit the little boy, proved to be healthy and normal except that it seemed utterly unafraid of humans."

- "Algonquin Park Struggles With 'Fearless' Wolves"
The Raven, the Algonquin Provincial Park newsletter
reprinted in WOLF Magazine, Vol. XVII No. 1, p. 7

"It occurred to me that in a wilderness this remote, the animals had no reason to be seen, and plenty of reasons to stay hidden. The mark of a wilderness is its elusiveness, its secrecy, and those of us who believe that wild creatures are what gives a wilderness its mystery can only be thankful when the animals elude us."

- "Signs of the Wild"

**Timber Wolf Information
Network *InterActive***



www.timberwolfinformation.org

Our web site features information about all of the Timber Wolf Information Network's many programs and projects. But it doesn't stop there, you also have access to a wealth of wolf related information available with a click of a mouse. If you have not been to our web site recently, stop by and check out what's new. You will not be sorry.

The Honor Is Ours

by Chris Giese

In attendance at our March '99 Study of Wolves workshop was Dory Vallier. For those of you unfamiliar with her, Dory is one-half of the husband and wife team that in 1954 had the foresight and ambition to purchase 600 acres of pastureland that was to become what we now call Treehaven. Without the Valliers' feel for the land, intuition as to what it could become, and patience to let time nurture and heal what man has put asunder, it is very possible that this land could still be raising cattle and not educating natural resource undergraduates. Over time, Treehaven has evolved into an outdoor classroom, both during the Valliers' reign and under the current stewardship by the UW-Stevens Point Foundation.

In recognition of this precious gift that she and her now departed husband have presented to us, TWIN gave Dory a gift of clothing from our bookstore and made her an honorary lifetime member of TWIN, both small tokens of the gifts she has given us and Future generations.

For those of you unfamiliar with Treehaven, stop by on your way to vacation land and know what I say to be true. And who knows-maybe you'll be lucky enough to hear or see some sign of a wolf. They're

Wolf Lab Boxes Add Special Touch to Teaching About Wolf Ecology

by Don
Bogdanske



Are you looking for a better way to introduce and discuss the ecology of the timber wolf with either your student or adult group? If so, you need to rent the lab boxes from TWIN. Twin lab boxes offer thirteen activities for classroom use. Teachers and presenters in Wisconsin and throughout the United States have been using the lab boxes for a number of years to teach about the wolf and how it interacts with its environment. There are a number of teachers that use the lab boxes every year to supplement their units on ecology or northwood; wildlife. With thirteen different activities, there is more than enough for 2 week-long unit. Many teachers have commented that there is usually enough time to get through have the activities, and they select the same one; each year. Some favorites include: deer jaw aging; tracking exercises; wolf howling; dentition lab; and first impressions. These lab boxes are suitable for students four through grade through adult. I have used them at all levels with slight modifications in the approach or materials used. The deer jaw aging is both very interesting and relatively easy to do with any age group. The rental fee is \$75 per week of use; TWIN covers shipping to you, while you take care of shipping back to TWIN. For more information on the lab boxes, check out the TWIN website or contact me personally at: dlbog@mail.vbe.com

Giant Screen *WOLVES* Film Will Leap and Bound Into Your Hearth

by Patricia Salem; Editor

While in Vancouver, BC, this summer, I had the opportunity to view the large format film *Wolves*, produced by the National Wildlife Federation and Primesco Communications: Directed by the award-winning David Douglas (*Fires of Kuwait*), *Wolves* follows the elusive North American predator through a year of seasonal changes, documenting pack social structure; mating; and the rearing of young, while simultaneously dispelling myths and old wives' tales about the species. This film is a natural first for anyone who has never before -- seen a giant screen production and a great educational tool both for the general public and for young students.

The giant screen format is perfect for this subject matter. Filmed on location in Montana; Alaska, Idaho, and Quebec; the film offers stunning 180-degree wilderness vistas coupled with intimate day-to-day shots of the wolves, so deceptively up close and personal that I practically wanted to reach out and pet the pups as they rolled and tumbled out of their den for the first time.

This kind of cinematic verite doesn't come without a price, however. During the fourteen-week shoot, the camera crew often waited hours, even days, for their stars to make an appearance-stars who can cover more than fifty miles on foot in one day — while toting cameras and tripods weighing in excess of sixty pounds each. Their rolls of film, weighing in at twelve pounds apiece, come in reels of only three minutes and cost between \$1,000 and \$3,000 to produce. Over 150 rolls were used in the course of the production. Footage of captive wolves was judiciously introduced, allowing filmmakers to get closer than they ever could in the wild and helping to ensure that shots were right on the first take.

Learn more about *Wolves* and other projects of the National Wildlife Federation by logging on to the NWF website (www.nwf.org): By downloading a free video viewing program, you can even preview short clips from the film *Wolves*.

Watch for *WOLVES* at the following giant screen theatres:

Ultra Screen Theatre	Ontario Mills, CA	Oct. 8, 1999
Liberty Science Center	Jersey City, NJ	Oct. 23, 1999
Cinemax Quebec	Quebec City, QC	Oct. 1, 1999
IMAX Theatre Palisades Center	West Nyack, NY	Oct. 11, 1999
Louisville Science Center	Louisville, KY	Oct. 17, 1999
NM Museum of Natural History	Albuquerque, NM	Mar. 1, 2000
The Science Place	Dallas, TX	Mar. 1, 2000
Science Museum of Minnesota	St. Paul, MN	Mar. 1, 2000
IMAX Theatre at Arizona	Mills Tempe, AZ	Sep. 1, 2000
Miami IMAX Theatre	Miami, FL	TBD
Providence IMAX Theatre	Providence, RI	TBD
Destination Cinema	Honolulu, HI	TBD

Mark Your Calendar...

TWIN's 10th Anniversary November, 1999

We would like the winter 2000 issue of *Lobo Lingo* to celebrate our 10 years of timber wolf education and research. We welcome submissions from all subscribers, young and old, for This superissue.

BEYOND 2000
Realities of Global Wolf
Restoration
February 23-26, 2000
Duluth, MN
Symposium hosted by the IWC
and University College at UMD.
Features presenters from
around the world, visual
displays, special screening of
giant screen *Wolves* film. For
more information contact:
BEYOND 2000
University College, UMD
251 Darland, 10 University Dr.
Duluth, MN 55812-2496
218-726-6819
www.d.umn.edu/wo1f2000

TWIN Workshops at Treehaven
January 21-23
February 18-20
March 10-12

For registration information,
contact June at Treehaven:
715-453-4106.

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.