



From the Director's Chair

An Update from Executive Director Kim Wheeler

I am hoping to make this section a permanent part of our newsletter. This gives me the chance to catch you up on all my adventures and the great people I meet along the way. Since I took this position, it has been really busy. I have had the opportunity to visit a lot of schools and talk to kids about red wolves. My presentation includes showing a red wolf and coyote pelt. The first thing the kids want to know is how the animal was killed. I have started letting the kids come up with their own story as to what happened to the animal. The kids have come up with some really creative stories.

Spring is here, the wolves are denning and it is time for the howling season. I hope that all of you will plan to join us for an evening of red wolf fun! We have the howling schedule listed on our website at <http://www.redwolves.com>. We encourage participants to register online so that the group is not too large to manage and everyone enjoys the howling.

We had a howling for Earth Day on April 22, 2006. The weather was threatening rain, but it held off for our event. I am pleased to announce that the wolves were in very good voice and howled for the group. I am responsible for trying to get the animals to howl, so I feel a tremendous amount of pressure. I continue to be impressed with the good questions the groups ask and enjoy their participation in the presentations. The highlight of the night was when our youngest howler, three year-old Carter, howled into the night two times. He acted just like a pro. He cupped his hands to his mouth and howled. My howling job might be in jeopardy!!

This March I had the opportunity to take a trip to Yellowstone National Park to wolf watch. It was an amazing trip and we were able to view wolves everyday. When the wolves were not in view, the coyotes were fun to watch. If you ever get the chance to visit Yellowstone, please go.

On another note, there is some very disturbing news regarding our wild red wolf population. In the 2004-2005 hunting season, several breeders were lost to hunters' bullets. With a population at around 100, the loss of even one wolf is obviously detrimental to the survival of the red wolf population. Together with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Red Wolf Recovery Team, we are going to intensify our hunter education programs.

I love all the emails and photos everyone has been sending me. I had a group of kids from New Zealand that were working on an endangered species project and wanted information about red wolves. I just never know where the emails will come from next!

Please stop by and say "Hi" if you are in the Columbia area. Our office is located at 212 Main Street.



<p>Red Wolf Stars in IWC Traveling Exhibit</p>	<p><i>The International Wolf Center's</i> (IWC) "21st Century Wolf" exhibit will be traveling the United States in the coming months. It was first installed at the Minneapolis/St. Paul Science Museum and displayed there through April 2006. This exhibit, a joint project of the IWC and the museum, features six beautifully crafted mounts: an arctic wolf, a wolf of the northern Rockies, a Mexican wolf, a wolf of the Upper Midwest, a coyote—and a red wolf!</p> <p>Each canid is mounted on a base that accurately represents its habitat. An interpretive panel gives an overview of each animal's natural history and the challenges to its long-term survival. The exhibit is designed to travel to nature centers, schools and museums. The Red Wolf Coalition hopes to bring this exhibit to northeastern North Carolina in the not-too-distant future.</p> <p>As the twenty-first century evolves, wolves and humans will be in ever-closer contact with one another as wild lands become more fragmented and scarce and as human populations encroach on the space needed by the wolves and other large carnivores, including bears, lynx, wolverine, and mountain lions. Should we make room for these animals? How can this be accomplished? What steps can be taken so that wolves and humans can co-exist? The exhibit challenges each of us to consider these questions and to take steps to conserve wild lands and the wildlife that thrives in these "last best places."</p> <p>Northeastern North Carolina, with its rural landscape and unique beauty, is home to the only wild population of red wolves in existence. We all have a chance to work together to ensure that these animals are never again on the edge of extinction. At the same time, the Red Wolf Coalition is working to find ways that red wolves can be of economic benefit to the region, and we have exciting plans! For more information on the exhibit, and to learn how you can help bring it to northeastern North Carolina, please contact the Coalition at redwolf@redwolves.com or 252.796.5600.</p>
<p>Fall Appeal a Howling Success</p>	<p><i>The Red Wolf Coalition sends out a heartfelt thanks</i> to all those who contributed to our fall fundraiser. We received more than 150 donations totaling \$15,422! These funds will help further our mission to increase awareness about red wolf recovery through howling safaris, educational programs, informational kiosks, newsletters and our website. These funds will also help us to reach our long-term goal of building a state-of-the-art wolf education center. Thanks again for your generous support!</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Wear a Red Wolf on Your Vehicle!</p> <p><i>Want to wear a red wolf on your car or truck?</i> The Red Wolf Coalition is designing a "vanity plate" especially for red wolf supporters. These special license plates can be purchased when the time comes to renew your current plates, or when you buy a brand-new vehicle.</p> <p>Watch for updates about their availability on the RWC website (http://www.redwolves.com). In order to issue the plate, the North Carolina Department of Transportation requires 300 advance applications. That should be no problem since hundreds of red wolf fans live in the state. If you are interested in having a red wolf license plate, please email the Coalition at redwolves@redwolf.com; we will let you know when the state begins accepting "official" applications for the plate.</p>	

<p>Tyrrell Co. Schools Starts Red Wolf Education Program</p>	<p>What thought is given to the ecological balance of the area? That question became central to a Tyrrell County school and community group that wanted to take advantage of an inquiry-based science initiative.</p> <p>Northeast North Carolina is rich in its variety of plants, animals, and natural beauty. Though it boasts a traditional economy based on fishing, farming, and logging, many consider the area poor. At the same time, tourism and an increasing population has created expanding economic opportunities. Some see the area being involved in a tug-of-war between preservation and progress. The goal of this project is to educate students about the importance of maintaining an ecological balance, and to do so using the red wolf as an example of what is required to maintain that balance.</p> <p>From discussions and planning, six objectives have been identified for the project. These are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Increase student knowledge of the ecology of the area. 2. Increase community appreciation of the red wolf. 3. Encourage student volunteerism. 4. Support service learning. 5. Increase student understanding of eco-tourism. 6. Highlight environmentally based career options. <p>The Red Wolf Education project came out of a mini-conference sponsored by The Rural School and Community Trust, the Northeast RESA and the Northeast Regional Office of The Science House (part of North Carolina State University). Eight rural Northeastern counties were invited to send a team of teachers and education partners to a mini-conference focused on community and place-based educational questions and solutions. From that beginning Helen Craddock (Partnership for the Sounds), Vickie Furlough and Dulce Kenady (Columbia High School science teachers), and Pearl Sutton (Tyrrell County Schools) met to develop a student project. After these initial discussions, RWC Executive Director Kim Wheeler was also invited to join the planning group. We look forward to seeing how this teaching and learning project can improve life for humans and for wolves in Tyrrell County.</p>
<p>RWC at NC Parks and Rec Conference</p>	<p><i>The Red Wolf Coalition has been invited to participate</i> in the 62nd annual North Carolina Recreation and Parks Association Conference that is to be held in New Bern this November. RWC speakers will offer wolf ecology and educational presentations to over 500 attendees, and the Coalition will also have a display booth. This is what we call outreach and networking to the extremes for our red wolves.</p>
<p>2006 Howlings Begin in June</p>	<p><i>Join us on a Howling Safari for an unforgettable evening!</i> Learn about endangered red wolves and get the chance of a lifetime to hear their harmonious howls. The howling season begins on June 14 and continues through the summer, with some selected dates in the fall and winter as well. Learn more, and register online, via the Coalition website at http://www.redwolves.com.</p>

Planning for Red Wolf Center Continues

The Red Wolf Coalition, in partnership with Tyrrell County, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Partnership for the Sounds continues to seek support for the Red Wolf Center. In its current form, the Center would be located on Pocosin Lakes National Wildlife Refuge property, about one mile south of Columbia and the Walter B. Jones Center on State Highway 94. A small group of red wolves no longer suited for life in the wild would be kept in an outdoor enclosure at the Center. An enclosure would securely shelter the wolves in an attractive and spacious natural surrounding, and would provide visitors with an opportunity to observe the wolves through a large one-way window and via videocameras.

Along with the viewing enclosure, the Center would contain self-guided educational exhibitry about red wolves and their role in the ecology of North Carolina's estuarine coast. The exhibitry would be complemented with regular and special programs about red wolves and related topics. Additional space in the Center would include facilities for public meetings and community activities, offices for staff and interns, a small gift shop, restrooms, kitchen, and climate-controlled storage.

With its addition to the existing Jones Center, the Columbia Theater, Columbia's quaint small-town downtown, the Eastern 4-H Environmental Center, the Palmetto-Peartree Preserve, and other local initiatives, the Red Wolf Center will truly make Columbia and Tyrrell County one of the premier ecotourism destinations in eastern North Carolina. It may even be possible to extend the current Scuppernong River Interpretive Boardwalk to the Center. This could create a scenic and attractive walkway along the Scuppernong shoreline. Also, adjacent to the proposed Center site is the Refuge's Millennium Forest, a publicly-accessible natural sanctuary celebrating the Atlantic white cedar stands that once flourished across this region.

Benefits of the Red Wolf Center

Construction of the Red Wolf Center would yield a variety of positive impacts on Tyrrell County and the surrounding region. It would serve as an educational attraction for schools throughout the state, bring academics and researchers from many institutions, and provide a unique gathering place for local events. Perhaps more importantly, the Center will be a must-see destination that could draw many thousands of families to northeastern North Carolina each year.

The students and teachers of the Tyrrell County region are among North Carolina's most under-served. The Red Wolf Center will help teachers integrate study of the red wolf and related conservation issues into their classroom activities and give them access to wildlife specialists and the professional capacity-building that stems from those relationships. Likewise, opportunities for students to view wolves and to visit their sole wild habitat nearby will motivate both learning and the development of an investment in conservation. Over time, partners involved in operating the Center, schools, and other local entities will forge strong relationships dedicated to improving education in the region.

Furthermore, the Center's economic impacts on the Tyrrell County economy could be profound. Although over 100 red wolves roam the Albemarle-Pamlico peninsula, they are rarely seen by visitors to the area. By providing the area's only opportunity to view red wolves, the Center would attract tourists and tourism dollars to the local

(continued next page)

	<p>community, which in turn would provide citizens economic incentives to support red wolf recovery.</p> <p>Two studies give insight into the potential economic benefits of the Center. A 1997 report by William Rosen of Cornell University concluded that red wolves provide a strong attraction for tourists. His survey found that there is considerable interest in visiting locations that provide opportunities to view red wolves in the wild or in exhibits. And, in 2005, researchers Dr. Gail Lash and Pamela Black published their report, <i>Creating Economic Opportunity Through Ecotourism in Rural North Carolina</i>, which included results of extensive surveys they conducted of Outer Banks tourists. The surveys indicated a red wolf facility could bring substantial tourist income to the region.</p> <p>Stay tuned to the <i>Tracker</i> and to the RWC website as the Center moves forward.</p>
<p>RWC to Help Hunters Protect Red Wolves</p>	<p><i>Many hunters can be counted among the strongest of environmental activists.</i> They are often people who enjoy the outdoors, who love and appreciate wildlife and who work to conserve habitat for animals of all kinds. That's the good news.</p> <p>The not-so-good news is that an alarming number of red wolves are being killed by gunshot during hunting season. These deaths are troubling for a number of reasons. The most obvious problem, of course, is the impacts on the red wolf population and breeding. Many of the wolves killed in the previous were breeders—meaning that breeding pairs are being destroyed. When pairs are broken up, packs disintegrate and territory held by those wolves can more easily be taken over by coyotes.</p> <p>Some of these killings are certainly accidents. Coyotes and red wolves are often mistaken for one another. The eastern coyote can be large—much larger and heavier, in fact, than the western coyote. But most of the red wolf recovery area is coyote-free, thanks to the determined efforts of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Red Wolf Recovery Program. In addition, many of the red wolves wear radio-tracking collars, while no coyotes are monitored. So it is safe to assume that a canid in the recovery area is probably a red wolf and not a coyote.</p> <p>The Red Wolf Coalition is working to find ways to keep red wolves from being shot. The Coalition will limit accidental killings by working to help hunters distinguish between endangered red wolves and coyotes. We are making plans to distribute brochures and pocket-size laminated cards illustrating the difference between coyotes and red wolves. We hope to be able to give informational talks to hunting groups and associations as well. As for purposeful killings, we will step up our education and outreach programs to help everyone realize that, far from a threat to livestock or game animals, red wolves provide numerous positive impacts on the ecology of northeastern North Carolina. Furthermore, we must remind the public that it is illegal to kill red wolves, as they are protected as an endangered species.</p> <p>The more each of us can do to spread the word not to kill red wolves, the greater their chances for long-term survival.</p>

<p>Office Wish List</p>	<p><i>We can always use office supplies and other materials.</i> Below is a list of the things we are especially in need of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blank CDs • Copy paper • Avery 8660 address labels • Letter-size file folders • Pens • Avery 27881 business cards • Stamps • Mailing envelopes (all sizes) • No. 10 envelopes • Paper clips • Staples <p>If you would like to donate supplies or equipment, please contact the Coalition at redwolf@redwolves.com or at 252.796.5600. <i>Thanks!</i></p>
<p>Ecotourism Meeting in Columbia, NC</p>	<p><i>On May 10, 2006, the Red Wolf Coalition participated</i> in the “Stakeholder Meeting on Red Wolf Ecotourism in North Carolina” held at the Eastern 4-H Environmental and Education Center in Columbia, North Carolina. Hosted by Defenders of Wildlife and Dr. Joseph Flood of East Carolina University, the meeting focused on advancing ecotourism opportunities for the rural communities within red wolf country. Representatives from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Red Wolf Recovery Program, along with local conservation organizations, community leaders, agricultural landowners and business owners, collaborated to identify the barriers that the community needs to overcome in order to develop ecotourism opportunities. Participants also discussed the potential economic incentives that would reward landowners that engage in red wolf conservation efforts.</p> <p>At the meeting, participants divided into working groups to address specific issues regarding ecotourism, including red wolf education, development and marketing of ecotourism opportunities, and generating economic benefits from this type of tourism. The construction of the Red Wolf Center was highlighted as an important ecotourism venue to promote and educate tourists about red wolves and other unique regional species and habitat. A plan developed from the results of this meeting will to help guide the community to build sustainable tourism, while benefiting the conservation of red wolves. The 2005 report “Red Wolves: Creating Economic Opportunity Through Ecotourism in Rural North Carolina” is available online at:</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>http://www.biodiversitypartners.org/econ/report/redwolf.shtml</i></p> <p>Upon completion, the future plan will also be featured at this site. Support for these projects was provided by the Alex C. Walker Educational and Charitable Foundation.</p>

Thanks to Red Wolf Coalition Supporters!

Applause and a STANDING HOWLATION from the Red Wolf Coalition to our supporters and friends! The Coalition is benefiting from your involvement and so are the red wolves of northeastern North Carolina. Special thanks and a bow to:

Abby Miller • Andi Nelson • Ann Davis • Ann Ritter • Arthur Lockwood, Jr. • Aubrey Remige • B. Jeanne Horner • Barbara Davis • Barry Braden • Bernadette Cook • Bill & Jerry McAninch • Bobbie Holaday • Buddy Fazio • Carole Jamerson • Catherine Robertson Chris Crowe • Chris & Diane Fascione • Christina Bartholomew • Christina Bolgiano • Christopher Jones • Colleen Coghlan • Clarence Blackwelder • Cynthia & Robert Fure • Daniel & Dell Fascione • Daniel Borinsky • Daniel Murphy • David Avery • David & Tracy Rabon • David Slaydon • David Sullivan • Deborah Reynolds • Diane Hendry • Diane Moses • Doreen Liverman • Edmund Studley • Edward M. Norton • Elise Raschke • Elizabeth Schaub • Forrst Jamison • Fran Kapinos • Gerhard Weinberg • Gina Schrader • George & Nancy Walter • Hallie Wilson • Harriett Woolard • Helen Fascione • Holly Stadtler • Irene Potter • Jacqueline DeTurenne • Jaimie Walker • James Halcums • James G. Vickers • Jan Ferguson • Janice Lane • Jane Strasser • Jean Richter • Jennifer Gilbreath • Jessica Metzger • Joanne H. Baker • Joanna Weitzel • John Davison • John Hinkle • John S. Pickett • John Spruill • Joseph N. Pope, Jr. • Joyce Brukoff • Joyce Holland • Judith Winstead • Judy Strom • Julia Horner • Katherine Wells • Kathy Serfass • Kathy Whidbee Keith Ellis • Kim Wheeler • Kristy Raines • L. David Mech • Laura Hiestand • Lauren Greene • Lee Scripture • Leigh Wilkinson • Leslie Farfour, Jr. • Lillian Benton • Lincoln Larson • Lori Dewar • Lynn Nemeth • Margaret Ellis • Margaret McCauley • Marilyn Stewart • Mark Keusenkothen • Mark Metzger • Martha Schumacher • Martin Vaughn • Melinda Ausband • Michael Bryant • Michele Clancy • Mike Cindric • Monica Kulaga • Mrs. Douglass Swanson • Nancy Bond • Nancy Lewis • Neil Hutt • Nina Fascione • North Beach Outfitters • Pam Pulliam • Patricia Peralion • Peter & Emily Bundy • Peter Kumpe • Philip Johnson, DVM • P. Mark Rickman • Raymond Morton • Richard Peeples • Rod Hackney • Ron Sternal & Nancy Gibson • Ruthanne M. Harrison • Sandra Thomas • Sarah Valentine • Scott Snyder • Shelia Madding • Sim O. Wilde • Sondra Ward • Stephen Durci • Susan Bodin • Susan O'Neal • Susan Shepard • Susan Van Gieson • Susan Werner • Thomas E. Hutt, Jr. • Thomas E. & Loriann Hutt III • Thomas Stroud III • Tom McCaffrey • Vivian Adams • W.H. Kincheloe • Wildlife Kids • Wilhelm Schonenberger • William Disher • William & Lisa Ross • William Reppy, Jr. • Will & Marla Waddell • Nuveen Investments

With so many supporters to acknowledge, it's possible that we've left somebody off our list. If we've missed your name, please accept our apologies—and let us know ASAP!

Yes! I want to contribute to red wolf conservation!

If you would like to become a member of the Red Wolf Coalition, please complete the membership form below and return it with a check, money order, or your credit card information. Thanks for becoming an important part of red wolf recovery!

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Photo courtesy Evelyn L. Mercer

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