

# Wolfnotes

The Wolf Conservation Center (WCC) promotes wolf conservation by teaching about wolves, their relationship to the environment, and the human role in protecting their future. We encourage you to get involved. To visit the wolves, volunteer or donate to the WCC please visit our website at [www.nywolf.org](http://www.nywolf.org)

## Upcoming Events

March 14th marks the beginning of the WCC's HOWL season!



Daylight Savings Time and warmer weather are ushering in a new season of Evening Howl programs! Visit the wolves during their favorite hour - dusk. Join us for a sunset hike to howl with the wolves and enjoy weather-appropriate treats!

*The WCC encourages conservation efforts not only for wolves, but for all wild species. The WCC lecture series continues this March and April with two very special programs:*

### Realm of the Tiger

## Welcome to the first online edition of Wolfnotes!

Every six weeks or so we will send out another edition to let you know about what's happening at the Wolf Conservation Center. For more frequent news and photos, check out our website at [www.nywolf.org](http://www.nywolf.org) and our [blog](#). The print edition of Wolfnotes will still be published twice a year, but our online efforts will provide up-to-date information about all the goings on here.

## WCC Closes Out 2008 and Launches into 2009 -our 10th Anniversary Year - With Two Successful Fundraisers!

Recession . . . what recession? The WCC was determined to start the holiday season off on a positive note in December, and moved forward with "Wine & Winter Wolves," a celebration at the Waccabuc Country Club which featured fine food from some of the best restaurants in Northern Westchester, a wine tasting from Cross River Wine Merchant, and an appearance by Atka, WCC's ambassador Arctic gray wolf!

"We had a space limit of 120 people," explained Debbie Heineman, Executive Director of the WCC, "and all the food, wine, and even the space was donated, so the ticket price of \$75 was not only reasonable, but fully tax deductible. Our goal was to make this event work for everyone involved: the guests, the contributing vendors, the club, and the WCC."

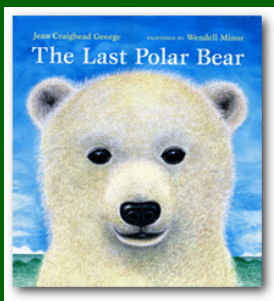
"I've been to many, many WCC events," commented Board member, Graham Wolfson, "and this was one of the very best. Everyone, including Atka, seemed to have a ball." The latter was certainly true: When Atka made his appearance he immediately sampled a piece of venison



**March 29, 2009**

Join naturalist Chris Evers and enter the Realm of the Tiger. Chris Evers, founder of Animal Embassy, educates people about animals and the environment through the use of live ambassador animals and multimedia presentations. Learn about his recent adventures in India and discover the diversity of wildlife and the peril facing these natural treasures today. The wolf is a symbol of our nation's wildlife. Now let's learn about India's tigers and how conservation of this apex predator can safeguard countless plant and animal species for generations to come. Guests will meet some of the amazing animal ambassadors from Animal Embassy and will have an opportunity to visit our own wolf ambassadors- Kaila, Apache, Lukas and Atka.

## The Last Polar Bear



**April 18, 2009**

Celebrate Earth Day with acclaimed author Jean Craighead George! Ms. George, a Newbery Medal-winner for her best known books "My Side of the Mountain" and "Julie of the

straight off the table of Peter Pratt's Inn, and then thought it just the thing to roll in a tuna wrap from Myong before eating it. The adult crowd was as enthusiastic as a class of third graders.

Our second fundraising event was a post-concert "meet-the-artist" champagne reception following WCC co-founder Helene Grimaud's solo performance at the 92nd Street Y in NYC on Feb. 28. Held at Parlor Steakhouse, a trendy new restaurant near the Y, the reception was another sold-out event that attracted 52 WCC supporters from around the world - one of whom, Acija Alfirovic, flew in all the way from Croatia to attend!

## Speak up for Wolves!



Last week, Interior Secretary Ken Salazar announced the federal government's decision to eliminate Endangered Species Act (ESA) protections for wolves in the northern Rocky mountain states of Idaho and Montana, and parts of Utah, Washington and Oregon. Wolves will retain federal protection in Wyoming, where Interior Department officials say recovery efforts have been inadequate. The policy change to delist the gray wolf was made in January before President Obama took office, but its adoption was put on hold so it could be reviewed by the new administration. This decision marks the second time in twelve months the government has moved to lift ESA protections from wolves. Conservation groups successfully sued to get the protections reinstated in July 2008 and more lawsuits are sure to follow. The state-by-state approach to delisting wolves will raise some hackles from both conservation groups as well as the state of Wyoming.

**If your hackles are up, please call the US Fish and Wildlife Service and let Interior Secretary Ken Salazar know. Thanks to Defenders of Wildlife, here's some direction:**

### Make your voice heard

Call the US Fish and Wildlife Service at 1-800-344-9453 (between 8:00 AM and 8:00 PM Eastern Time, Monday-Friday), select option "3" (for endangered species) and hit "0" to speak with the operator. Once you are connected, just deliver this simple message:

My name is [your name] and I am calling from [City, State] to express my extreme disappointment in Interior

Wolves," has written over 102 books celebrating the natural world. On April 18th, guests will enjoy selections from "The Last Polar Bear," Jean Craighead George's yet to be released novel that addresses the threat of global warming. Her words, her voice and what a wonderful backdrop for storytelling! Guests will also join in a howl while visiting with ambassador wolves- Kaila, Apache, Lukas and Atka. Pre-registration is required for all education programming. These programs will fill up quickly, so make your reservation today at [www.nywolf.org](http://www.nywolf.org)

### **WCC Curator Bose Joins Red Wolf SSP Management Group**

This summer, when the 42 facilities that participate in the red wolf SSP program gather for their annual meeting, there will be a new member of the management group leading the meeting: WCC Curator, Rebecca Bose.) She will be working with the seven other members to set the agenda and lead the discussion of the major issues going on in the program - as well as making decisions about the 208 red wolves in captivity both at the meeting and during the year.

Red wolves are currently being released in a 1.7 million acre area of North Carolina made up of both privately owned land and three wildlife refuges. In the next decade the SSP program hopes to identify additional release sites, and the ultimate goal is the healthy recovery of the species, which used to range from central Texas, along the southern coast through Florida, and as far north as New England, including parts

Secretary Salazar's decision to implement the Bush Administration's flawed plan to eliminate Endangered Species Act protections for wolves in Idaho and Montana.

I strongly urge Secretary Salazar to stop the implementation of this decision and reconsider his approach to wolf conservation in the Northern Rockies.

## **Valuable Eggs in the SSP Basket**



Trips to the veterinarian can be traumatic, though usually not for the vet. It could have turned out otherwise when a crew from the WCC invaded Norwalk Veterinary Hospital last month to bring in F516, an 11 year-old Mexican Gray Wolf,

to have her ovaries removed. Luckily, the veterinarian in question, Charles Duffy, wasn't fazed at all when 6 WCC members, most of them armed with still or video cameras to record the procedure for posterity, marched in.

While F516 is a remarkably healthy and spirited wolf, she is too old to be able to successfully carry pups to term. Spaying will help protect her health, but there was a little more to the operation than that. F516, is a Species Survival Plan wolf, one of 23 Mexican Gray Wolves at the WCC that may one day be used to increase the numbers of wolves in the wild. Since she is so genetically valuable, the directors of the federal program asked that her ovaries be preserved after the operation so that any viable eggs (oocytes) could be harvested. So as soon as the procedure was over, the ovaries had to be rushed to La Guardia Airport so they could be flown to the St. Louis Zoo and the oocytes extracted.

It's rarely easy to get any animal, even the "mushiest" golden retriever to the vet, but everything had gone smoothly right from the start of the day, with wolf curator Rebecca Bose successfully luring F516 into a holding enclosure, and then a team of volunteers led by Chuck Dyckman safely coaxing her into a traveling crate.

Dr. Duffy, who has rendered invaluable assistance to the WCC for years, flawlessly performed the operation while patiently explaining what he was doing to our crowd of wolf paparazzi. We are truly grateful to have someone like him as a friend of the Center.

of Ohio and Pennsylvania.

**Contributors:**

Rebecca Bose

Joe Darling

James Dodge III

Debbie Heineman

Maggie Howell

Josh Lewis

Wendell Minor

Spener Wilhelm

After the operation, volunteer Mike McGuire had the toughest job: dealing with traffic and airport bureaucracy. Unsurprisingly, he cut through it with his usual affable aplomb and the eggs were soon airborne. That afternoon we received word that 67 viable eggs had been successfully harvested, even more than were expected.

As for F516, she came through with flying colors. Once back in her enclosure she quickly emerged from her crate, took a few bites of snow and then, after a seemingly disdainful glance at us, walked away on slightly unsteady legs. None of us was surprised that within a day she seemed to have fully recovered her usual energy. Perhaps one of the best "side-effects" of the spaying is that she will now be able to spend winters with her mate, M575. We wish them both many years of healthy companionship!

[Click here](#) to watch highlights from that day. This is not a gory video and only a very limited part of the operation is shown, but if you are squeamish you might not enjoy viewing it.