

WOLF VISIONS

Education vs. Extinction



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WOLF EDUCATION

EYE TO EYE WITH MAGPIE



Magpie at the Grand Canyon



Tierra

2007 marks the 19th year that Mission:Wolf has offered people nationwide an eye-to-eye educational experience. In 2006, the Ambassador Wolf Program completed the longest adventure in our history.

Wolf Magpie, with chauffeurs and interpreters Tracy and Kent, managed to visit over 30,000 people spread across 25 states. Programs were held at various venues including schools, museums, agency offices, businesses and nature reserves.

Spring '06 started with events across the northwest and a focus on wolf recovery in the Northern Rockies. By May we were in Arizona working to support the recovery of the Mexican Wolf.

Summer kept Magpie busy amid daily encounters with visitors and volunteers at the refuge. In the Fall we started events in upstate New York and ranged up to Maine.

We worked ourselves south to Cape Cod & Rhode Island and ended October at our annual "Friends of M:W" event just north of New York City.

In early November we stopped for a presentation at the USFWS near Wash., DC before starting a rapid journey south to Florida. Magpie was the center of attention at Defenders of Wildlife's Carnivore Conference and public demand across the country for an experience with nature and a wolf is tremendous.

Co-founders Kent Weber and Tracy Brooks continue to lead the program and have provided over a million people across thirty states the opportunity to look into a wolf's eyes at close range – even nose-to-nose.



Magpie, the M:W Ambassador Wolf

No video, lecture or book can replace the feelings a person experiences in the presence of a live wolf.

Magpie has matured into a confident and dignified leader. She and her sister Raven were bred for a movie project but not used. As four-month old pups they were adopted by M:W and raised by veteran Ambassador Wolf, Rami.

Magpie's outgoing and self-assured personality around people allows her to lead the program and carry on the legacy of an Ambassador. However, due to being born in captivity, she is thus imprinted by humans and cannot be reintroduced into the wild.

Magpie's presence impresses and inspires many people and helps to develop compassion for animals. The future of wolves depends on the knowledge and respect they receive by our society as a whole.

Our message is to help people understand the job wild wolves do to keep nature healthy and balanced (please see *trophic cascade* on pp 10-11). This understanding is essential for both the return of wolves and for the protection of many other species' fragile habitats.



Jennifer McCarthy greets Sabretooth

People that are interested in wolves often own or like dogs too. Many dog trainers have discovered that there is a direct relation between wolf and dog behavior and use this understanding to train dogs more easily. This year we have had several dog trainers visit us to study the wolves to gain a better understanding of their cousins, the dogs.

Rachael Messiter came all the way from England and works with Jan Fennell-the Dog Listener. Ambassador wolf Magpie ventured to the annual Bark Busters Conference where Magpie lived it up as she walked into a room with 200 dog trainers and lovers. After the conference, over 40 Bark Buster trainers ventured down to M:W to observe the rest of the pack.

Jennifer McCarthy, "World Class Dog Trainer," also came to volunteer and study the wolves to learn how far the dog has evolved from them. Jennifer demonstrated how, through domestication, dogs have become more humanlike and less like the wolves. The M:W staff picked up training tips that help all of us work more consistently with the resident and rescue wolf-dogs. Jennifer donated her time and vehicle to transport Rocky to Aspen Animal Shelter. She also did some training to prepare him for a life in a home. All of these people have contributed time & money to help Mission:Wolf-Thanks!

www.janfennellthedoglistener.com

www.barkbusters.com

www.jmdogtraining.com