

Summer - 2009

# Red Wolf Journal

## THIS ISSUE:

- Pup season report
- Bud Fazio accepts position with Mexican Wolf Program
- David Rabon, new Team Leader
- Recovery Program replaces admin. person
- Exciting new SSP education effort
- Captive Corner
- Red Wolf Coalition (RWC) news
- Outreach activity
- Red Wolf Education and Health Care Facility

More inside . . .

Note: The "Red Wolf Journal" replaces the "Red Wolf News."  
[Comments welcome.](#)

## From the Field

Greetings from the Red Wolf Recovery Program! The restoration area reports a healthy 2009 pup season with four pups (three females and a male) from Lincoln Park Zoo, Chicago, IL, fostered into two wild packs and four pups were born to a captive pair at Sandy Ridge (three males and a female) and are doing well as you can see from the photo below. They are so big now! Eleven wild litters produced 41 pups and the captive population reported 12 pups born among 3 litters (including the 4 fostered pups).

There are currently 75-80 radio-collared red wolves in a total population of about 130 in the 5-county restoration area in northeastern North Carolina. As of this publication, there are 180 red wolves in the captive population.



Kim Wheeler photos: Pups at Sandy Ridge: then and now.

A total of four males and one female red wolf from St. Vincent National Wildlife Refuge in Apalachicola, FL, were released into northeastern North Carolina's wild population this year. Hopefully they will find mates and acclimate well to their new home.



Snow is not a common occurrence during an eastern North Carolina winter. However, Kim Wheeler, Executive Director, Red Wolf Coalition, took this photo of a 2009 winter scene at the Sandy Ridge facility. This red wolf does not seem to mind the white stuff at all.

## From the Field (cont.)

### Mortality

Field biologists report eight red wolf mortalities in the wild population since early June, but due to the time of year (heat, bugs, and reduced flight time for budgetary reasons) cause of death could not be determined. This number includes breeders as well as dispersing yearlings.

## Program Highlights

### Change in Leadership . . .

Many of you have heard the news that Bud Fazio, Red Wolf Recovery Program Team Leader, accepted a position with the Mexican Wolf Recovery Program. During Bud's tenure with red wolf restoration, he often came in contact with the western Mexican wolf project so is already familiar with many of the program's issues and goals. He and his family are settled in their new home and Bud is getting acclimated to the western work environment.

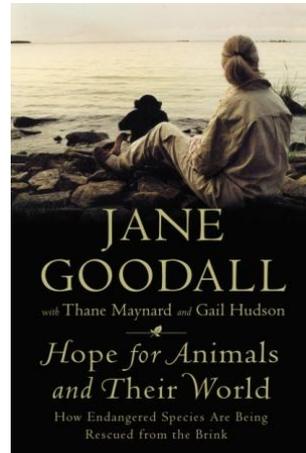
David Rabon, currently working for the USFWS Ecological Service office in Raleigh, NC, was selected as Bud's replacement. David is quite familiar with red wolf restoration and recently completed his PhD on the subject at North Carolina State University. We will welcome David to the Manteo office in mid-October. Art Beyer has been acting Team Leader, again, and doing a terrific job.

### DOT Study



The recovery program has been part of a North Carolina Department of Transportation (DOT) state/federal partnership to monitor wildlife activity along Hwy. 64. The DOT is investigating the possibility of widening the highway corridor from Columbia to

Manns Harbor, NC. As a result of this partnership, DOT has purchased 40 satellite collars to monitor red wolf activity in the study area. USFWS wildlife biologists, ARNWR staff and interns, Duke University, and Virginia Tech  
**(continued on next page)**



### Jane Goodall Book

“Hope for Animals and Their World” *How Endangered Species are Being Rescued from the Brink* is the title of Jane Goodall's latest book and is co-authored by Thane Maynard and Gail Hudson. A chapter

on red wolves is included in the text. Anticipated publication date is September, 2009. More information is available at [http://www.hachettebookgroup.com/books\\_9781600248689.htm](http://www.hachettebookgroup.com/books_9781600248689.htm).

### SSP Update

Will Waddell, Species Survival Plan (SSP) Coordinator, recently sent out a Red Wolf SSP Update and mentioned that the federal Omnibus Bill provided funding to relocate the Graham facility in Tacoma, WA, with a portion of the funds going to the Western North Carolina Nature Center in Asheville, NC.

The SSP report indicated that “about five years of work preceded the spending bill to secure public and private funding to relocate the Graham facility to Northwest Trek Wildlife Park.” This site is managed by MetroParks Tacoma, the same local municipality that operates Point Defiance Zoo and Aquarium. The federal grant paperwork has been received in Tacoma and hopefully will soon follow at the Asheville site. More to follow as the \$870,000 in funding is spent on projects.

## Program Highlights (cont.)

are part of this effort. It will take over a year to analyze the data and complete a proposal. Since satellite collars cost about \$3,000 compared to \$300-\$400 for VHS, the recovery program is grateful for the opportunity to participate in this project. Data received from the DOT study is likely to enhance red wolf research for the USFWS program as well.

The picture and information were taken from an ARNWR news release distributed by Bonnie Strawser, ARNWR Visitor Services Manager.



The route encompasses over eleven miles of barbed wire strung above the guardrail on US Highway 64 through Alligator River National

Wildlife Refuge. DNA analysis of the hair will tell researchers what species, and even what individual animal, left this hair as it crossed over the guardrail.

## Red Wolf Recovery Program Outreach

### Far Traveler

The “Far Traveler” teacher workshop was held on July 23<sup>rd</sup> at Pocosin Lakes National Wildlife Refuge in Columbia, NC. There was a combination of nine formal and non-formal educators from North Carolina and Virginia at the workshop. (Ten is an ideal number but we have hosted as many as 15 participants.)

The Red Wolf Recovery Program and the Red Wolf Coalition (RWC) co-sponsor the workshops and the RWC donates refreshments. Educators participate in activities from the “Far Traveler” curriculum authored by Cornelia Hutt, RWC Chairperson; talk with a wildlife biologist from the Red Wolf Recovery Program; and go home with the “Recovering a Species” DVD, a howling CD, “Far Traveler” curriculum guide, posters, red wolf pens and literature. They become familiar with a “Discovery Box” and its use for red wolf education. This tool is sent to educators through a reservation system. Workshop evaluations help with future workshop development.



Photo donated by Krista Perry. Michael Morse, Red Wolf Recovery Program staff, talking with workshop participants.

### 2009 Events

- September 26 Heritage Days in Kitty Hawk, NC
- October 10 Scuppernong River Festival in Columbia, NC
- November 17 Wildfest in Manteo, NC
- November 21 Farm City Festival in Plymouth, NC
- November 5 RWC and USFWS doing a special howling for Wings Over Water event.

### A Few Statistics

2009 Fiscal Year to date: 14 Discovery Boxes were sent to educators in NC, TX, FL and VA  
26 presentations done for schools, events & community groups  
200+ information requests responded to from the general public and media

# Red Wolf Coalition

The Red Wolf Coalition (RWC) continues to support red wolf conservation in a number of ways:

- Seeks out funding to build enclosures behind the Red Wolf Education and Health Care Facility in Columbia. (Estimated cost: \$80,000)
- Takes the lead on red wolf howlings. The wolves have howled every Wednesday evening but one! (We weren't so lucky in 2007 and 2008!)
- Continue to be a strong partner on outreach fronts (education programs, event participation, community connections, etc.).
- Kim Wheeler, Executive Director of the Red Wolf Coalition, was recently elected as Tyrrell County Chamber of Commerce President, a good community connection. Kim was also the lead nanny at a recent training at the International Wolf Center (IWC) and continues to fill in as caretaker for the Red Wolf Recovery Program when there are lapses in interns.
- Mark MacAllister, RWC Board Member and web site master for [www.fieldtripearth.org](http://www.fieldtripearth.org), announced that this site received "Landmark Website" by the American Association of School Librarians (AASL), a division of the American Library Association (ALA). Mark said, "Other Landmark Websites so honored include Library of Congress, NASA, PBS Teachers, Smithsonian Education, Apple Learning Interchange, and Google Earth--as well as some other long-term projects such as WebQuest and EduTopia – good company to be in."
- RWC acts as a strong liaison between the IWC and the recovery program.
- Mark MacAllister continues to contribute a great deal of his time developing the SSP web site, scanning slides and assisting the Red Wolf Recovery Program with 21<sup>st</sup> century technology.
- The last face-to-face RWC board meeting was held at the Durham Museum of Life and Science, in Durham, NC, and new board member Sherry Samuels provided a guided tour of Museum facilities.

New board members: Sherry Samuels from the Durham Life & Science Museum; David Slaydon, Nylon Account Manager, Unifi, Inc.; and Ann Raspberry, Consulting Ecologist and Geospatial Intelligence Analyst.

## Howling Safaris



USFWS photo: Michele Shrader, Volunteer registering howling participants.

People, wolves, bears and alligators . . . plus snakes, birds, frogs, deer, bugs and jets all make for an interesting howling safari evening on the ARNWR. As we near the end of summer, nearly 700 participants have heard red wolves howl in the night as well as frogs croaking and jets flying. Bears are seen nearly every week as cars caravan slowly through the refuge to the howling site. Visitors often come back the next day for another look. Every now and then an alligator has been spotted in a canal alongside Hwy. 64 or a paddler has seen one on a refuge water trail. Great egrets and many other species of wildlife call the refuge home and are quite willing to share the space with their neighbors – even their human visitors. There is still one more howling to go plus several more free howlings. Additional information can be found at [www.redwolves.com](http://www.redwolves.com).



Alligator River NWR Office  
Manteo, NC

## U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Red Wolf Recovery Program  
P.O. Box 1969  
708 North Hwy. 64  
Manteo, NC 27954

PHONE:  
(252) 473-1131

FAX:  
(252) 473-4836

E-MAIL:  
[redwolf@fws.gov](mailto:redwolf@fws.gov)

WEB:  
<http://www.fws.gov/redwolf.html>

## Red Wolf Recovery Program Staff

Dr. David Rabon, Team Leader (Start date: Oct. 11, 2009)  
Art Beyer, Wildlife Biologist and Field Coordinator  
Michael L. Morse, Wildlife Biologist  
Chris Lucash, Wildlife Biologist  
Ford Mauney, Wildlife Biologist  
Ryan Nordsven, Biological Technician  
Diane Hendry, Outreach Coordinator  
Mary Berrie, Administrative Assistant  
David J. Sparks, Caretaker

\*The red wolf caretaker is a temporary position. Details can be found on-line at [www.fws.gov/redwolf](http://www.fws.gov/redwolf)