

# Red Wolf Journal

## 2007 Red Wolf Recovery Program Highlights:

- 31 pups born (11 females; 20 males)
- 21 packs as of 7/2007
- RIT will meet in Oct., 2007
- 4 red wolf pairs released 20 years ago ARNWR
- Red Wolf Coalition brings \$10,000 wolf exhibit to Columbia, NC

- Read new field notes at:  
[www.fws.gov/alligaterriver/redwolf](http://www.fws.gov/alligaterriver/redwolf)

More inside . . .

Note: The "Red Wolf Journal" replaces the "Red Wolf News." Comments welcome.

## Pup Season - 2007



Red wolf biologists spent another spring searching for elusive red wolf litters. During April and May, they searched the 1.7 million acres of the recovery area by land and in the air looking for pups.

To date, they report finding 31 pups; 11 females and 20 males in 11 packs.

The number of packs with pups for 2007 is similar to

that of 2006, but the 2007 litters have been smaller. As of July, there have been 21 packs identified in the 5-county recovery area but some consist of just a red wolf pair. Pack numbers change as single wolves find mates or deaths occur among the breeding population.

This is a very rewarding time of the year, according to the red wolf biologists. Finding pups is a good indication that red wolves are thriving in their home range and population numbers should continue to climb.

From 8 red wolves to 100+ in 20 years, is indeed a reason to be optimistic.

▼ Yes, that's Chris.



2007 litter



## Pup Highlights



### ALL IN A DAY'S WORK

Saved by red wolf biologists! During regular field operations, red wolf staff wildlife biologists found a den of pups, just feet from a farmer's large excavator.

< Ford Mauney, wildlife biologist, with rescued pups >

2007 litter



## Fostering



Chris Lucash introducing a fostered pup into a Beech Ridge pack den.

Fostering has been a valuable component in red wolf recovery efforts for five years. This program continues to meet with success. There has never been a case of pup rejection by the wild parents or siblings.

Increasing numbers and strengthening red wolf genetics are two primary reasons behind fostering events. As most of you know, Species Survival Plan members meet annually to review genetic lines of both the captive and wild red wolf populations. During these meetings, decisions are made to help identify litters for fostering events needed during the next year's pup season.

Two fostering events took place during 2007:

- > A male and female pup into the Beech Ridge Pack. The mom also had one natural male pup.
- > One male pup into the Milltail Pack

During 2006 one fostering event took place. Three pups from the Graham Facility in Tacoma, WA, and one pup from Oglebay's Good Zoo, Wheeling, WV, were introduced into the Sunnyside pack. Graham provided 2 females and 1 male and Oglebay sent 1 female.

## Yearling Gets His First Collar



This Milltail Pack male yearling was trapped over the summer in order to fit him with a radio tracking collar. Often people remark about the size of the collar, but as you can see from the second photo, the device did not slow his fast return to home range territory. Maybe someday a smaller battery with additional longevity will be invented and red wolves and other wildlife will benefit.

## Captive Corner

Red wolf captive population reports from Will Waddell at Point Defiance Zoo and Aquarium state that there are currently 207 red wolves in 38 captive locations across the U.S. There will soon be two more Red Wolf Species Survival Plan (RWSSP) locations added to this number: one in Maryland and one in Illinois.

There were 15 litters in 2007 (RWSSP) with a current total of 51 live pups as of this writing. Pup season is always an exciting time, resulting in increased public and media interest, especially for the captive facilities. In Manteo, we enjoy reading the news articles about the new pups and appreciate the forwarded newspaper articles – or any stories about the new pups.

Video cameras showing pup exploits offer an even greater opportunity for visitors to actually see live canid activity. What an educational tool! Maybe someday, if “National Geographic Magazine” and others get their way, there will be cameras videotaping den activity in the wild population even though this will be more difficult to implement and manage logistics. (More on the captive population and Recovery Implementation Team (RIT) in the next “Red Wolf Journal” edition. The RIT plans to meet this October.)

## Red Wolf Coalition

The Red Wolf Coalition (RWC) has taken on a major project this summer in the form of a wolf exhibit featuring six canid mounts at a cost of \$10,000. The “Wolves and Wildlands in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century” originates from the International Wolf Center (IWC) in Ely, Minnesota.

The bulk of the expense was absorbed by the RWC, with contributions from USFWS, Defenders of Wildlife, Tyrell County Ecotourism Board and private contributors.

The exhibit is housed at the Walter B. Jones, Sr., Center for the Sounds Visitor Center at the Pocosin Lakes National Wildlife Refuge in Columbia, North Carolina, in the heart of red wolf territory.

Thanks to the generosity of the IWC, the exhibit will remain in place until the end of October, 2007, rather than mid-August as originally agreed.

This free, self-guided, interpretive exhibit has life-size mounts of the red wolf, Mexican wolf, Arctic wolf, Rocky Mountain wolf, Great Plains wolf and a coyote. There have been many positive responses in the visitor log book, sales have increased in the visitor center gift shop, and more people are learning about wolves!

By keeping the exhibit until after schools start, it is hoped that area teachers will consider bringing students to see the exhibit. Red wolf education programs will also be offered for classes viewing the canid display.

Howling safaris are a hit again for 2007. This season there is a \$5.00 per person charge, but that has not lowered the attendance numbers.

The Red Wolf Coalition (RWC) is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting red wolf recovery through education, outreach and research. ([www.redwolves.com](http://www.redwolves.com)) 252-796-5600

## Outreach Corner

The Red Wolf Recovery Program has participated in a variety of events over the last several months.

The photo below was taken at the annual Dixie Deer Classic held at the Raleigh, NC, fairgrounds. This event attracts thousands of sports enthusiasts including hunters, fishing fans, trophy hunters, guides, and vendors of every sort.



Kim Wheeler, RWC, visiting with hunters at the FWS/RWC booth.

Additional events include the NC Wildlife Arts Festival held in Washington, NC; Music and Water Festival in Edenton, NC; Wright Bros. Memorial education event, Kill Devil Hills, NC.

Discovery Boxes continue to travel to educators across the country. Even though there are three now in circulation, the number of requests can still pose scheduling problems. Two books have been added to their contents, “Wolves and Wild Dogs” compliments of Cornelia Hutt, RWC, and “The Red Wolf” as a result of a partnership effort between RWC and FWS.

The “Far Traveler” teacher curriculum has been updated and is in the FWS Region 4 office in Atlanta awaiting final edits. Much kudos to Cornelia “Neil” Hutt, RWC, for her major editing assistance on this document.

Partnership education efforts between the RWC and the Red Wolf Recovery Program promoted expanded school visits for 2006-2007 as well as community presentations for the following:

- > Providence Elementary, VA
- > Columbia, NC, schools
- > First Flight Middle School, Kill Devil Hills, NC
- > Fairfield Elementary, VA
- > Sierra Club Presentation
- > Festival Park, Manteo, NC

Media coverage has increased over the months as well. The “Virginian Pilot,” Raleigh’s “News and Observer,” Manteo’s “Coastland Times,” and various magazines have all written about a favorite subject: howling safaris.

**All of the education and outreach efforts done throughout the year at captive facilities are very much appreciated by the Red Wolf Recovery Program.**

## **U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service**

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**We're on the Web!**

*See us at:*

[www.fws.gov/alligatorriver/redwolf](http://www.fws.gov/alligatorriver/redwolf)

## **Species Survival Plan Educators Summit**

The Red Wolf Recovery Program is eager to welcome to the recovery area the Species Survival Plan (SSP) Educator Summit. Pamela Rout and Craig Standridge, Red Wolf SSP Advisors and Summit Coordinators, have put together an information-packed agenda with optional activities that include a howling safari and a canoe trip on the Alligator River National Wildlife Refuge. This event is scheduled for October 26 and 27, 2007, in Manteo, NC - a perfect time of the year to visit the Outer Banks of North Carolina.

What a great opportunity for Red Wolf Recovery Program staff to connect with captive facility educators! This will be a terrific forum to trade ideas, exchange information on what works and what can be improved, and put many names with faces.



Alligator River NWR Office  
Manteo, NC

## **Red Wolf Recovery Program Staff**

Bud Fazio, Team Leader  
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, Red Wolf Outreach Coordinator

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

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