

# Cry of the Wild



Spring 2004, Volume 57

Newsletter of Wildlife Forever

## Dam Removal Expands/Enhances Native Trout Habitat

The Housatonic River flows freely again through Dalton, Massachusetts, thanks in part to a grant from Wildlife Forever. Wildlife Forever partnered with the FishAmerica Foundation to provide \$10,000 to the Housatonic Valley Association (HVA). The HVA aided Crane & Co., the owners, in the Old Berkshire Dam Removal project that restored the Housatonic to its natural channel.

This innovative project to remove the aging dam was the first of its kind in Massachusetts. It was discovered that the Old Berkshire Dam was leaking around the spillway and needed repair. Since the dam served no purpose, it was decided to take the more habitat friendly approach and remove it. As no dam in the state had ever been decommissioned, no state regulations existed to facilitate the process. Project participants endured a long planning and permitting process that involved multiple state agencies to achieve



Before removal, the Old Berkshire Mill Dam obstructed the flow of the Housatonic River in Dalton, MA.



The East Branch of the Housatonic River now flows freely for the first time in almost 100 years.

a consensus favoring local fish and wildlife.

The area surrounding the dam had to be prepared prior to its removal. Adjacent public utilities and infrastructure were fortified to ensure they could withstand resulting higher river levels. The water level was dropped for the dam inspection revealing an incredible amount of trash previously invisible. This added another step to the process. A volunteer event was organized to clean up trash that had collected behind the dam so that the debris would not be carried downstream by the free flowing Housatonic.

Wildlife Forever's support for this project restored and expanded habitat for native populations of fish and wildlife. As the first dam removal project in Massachusetts, it has also set an important precedent and paved the way for similar conservation efforts. This project has already spurred interest in removing another old dam on the west branch of the Housatonic River near Pittsfield.

Residents in Massachusetts and other states can look forward to more free flowing rivers thanks to Wildlife Forever's support of this ground breaking conservation project.





# From The Field

## Take A Time Out

Do you ever stop to think about how often we use "time" in our daily conversations? "Time is on my side." "Don't waste my time." "Time rushes by..." and well you get the point. Time is precious and everything is changing around us.



Here is another one: "Time Out!" Just a couple of weeks ago I was taking my youngest son, Nathan, to violin lessons. As we passed a lake, we looked for mallards. Nate called out "Swan". I would have missed it. We had to take a

"time out" and circle the lake, stop and scope the birds and sure enough, we found not one but four Trumpeter Swans. We took a "time out" for wildlife and in doing so, an ordinary evening turned into the extraordinary.

Wildlife has that power. I love tapping into nature and giving the gift of the "wild" to ourselves, our children, our friends and neighbors and even to total strangers. Over the past 17 years, that is what Wildlife Forever has evolved into. Helping others connect with wildlife.

Think about some of the most treasured "times" of your youth. Mine are of trout fishing a lonely stretch of cold water in Missouri with my Dad. And then hiking the Ozark Mountains with my mother who revealed the secrets of birds and wild flowers.

We live in a rich country with a rich heritage of wildlife. I share these "times" with you to show you how my journey has been molded by these beginnings. Our involvement and interaction with the wild, in the woods and on the streams of our land create life-enriching experiences. Take a "time out" for wildlife.

Yours for wildlife... forever,

*Doug*

Douglas H. Grann  
President & CEO

## Research And Habitat Projects Support Bear Seasons

Two completed Wildlife Forever black bear projects are helping biologists manage pressured bear populations in mideastern states.

Biologists hope to better understand the true behavior of black bears through a six year study designed to help them better manage Virginia's existing population.

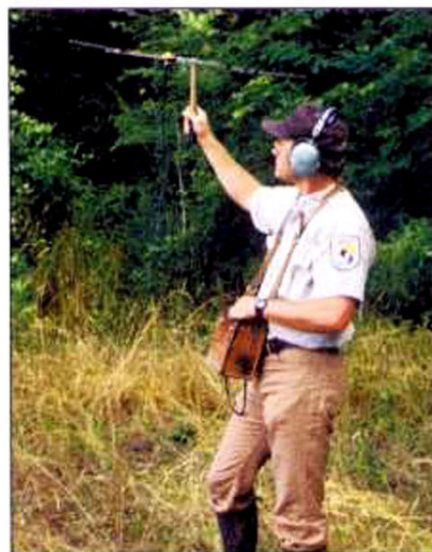
The study included radio collaring 100 bears to discover their movement and habitat use. Biologists also visited black bear dens to determine birth rate, litter size and cub survival. After compiling and analyzing the data, biologists have used managed hunting seasons and habitat development to stabilize the population.

The Abrams Creek/Chilhowee Bear Reserve near the foothills of Tennessee's Smoky Mountains includes key transition habitat for black bears.

Land development had been encroaching on what little habitat remained outside of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, threatening the black bear population and increasing

bear/human interaction.

Working with the Foothills Land Conservancy, Wildlife Forever helped facilitate the purchase of this important land that is now managed for outdoor recreation, including hunting.



A biologist uses a radio detection device to track bear movements.

PHOTO BY: JESSIE HOLLINGSWORTH, JOHN & KAREN

## Interactive Web Site Provides Tax Saving Answers

Planned giving can be used by virtually anyone to increase current income, reduce various kinds of taxes or pass assets on to family at a reduced tax cost. Although it can be a detailed process and should be done with the help of a tax advisor, Wildlife Forever's interactive planned giving site is a great place to start.

When you visit, you'll discover how other families have used planned giving to their financial advantage. You can also plug your own information into the

planned giving calculators to find out how a particular type of planned gift can help you and your family.

The planned giving site is updated weekly with social security, Medicare and tax news from Washington D.C. You can even sign up for Wildlife Forever's weekly e-newsletter and have that information delivered right to your computer.

All this free information and these services are just a click away at [www.wildlife-forever.org](http://www.wildlife-forever.org).

*Cry of the Wild* is a quarterly publication of Wildlife Forever. Douglas H. Grann, Editor, President & CEO  
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Visit our web page at [www.wildlife-forever.org](http://www.wildlife-forever.org) or  
E-mail us at [info@wildlife-forever.org](mailto:info@wildlife-forever.org)



# Wildlife Forever Annual Report To Members & Donors

January 1, 2003 through December 31, 2003

## The Wildlife Forever Mission Statement

*To conserve America's wildlife heritage through conservation education, preservation of habitat and management of fish and wildlife.*

## Financial Overview



Wildlife Forever ended 2003 with operating revenues of \$1,146,633 and an increase in net assets of \$57,000. Overall, 72% of revenue can be attributed to contributions made by members. We welcomed 26 new Life Members.

During fiscal year 2003, Wildlife Forever spent a total of \$216,233 on grassroots projects. This represents an increase of 43% over fiscal year 2002. Further more, contributions provided funding for projects in 17 states and another 15 projects that support conservation on a national level.

Expenses for administration and fundraising were \$215,864. This was a 33% reduction in overhead that greatly contributed to our ability to fund more projects. Wildlife Forever's conservation support of \$875,160 was 80% of total expense.

Wildlife Forever has its financial statements audited every year. The 2003 audit was completed on January 21, 2004 by the accounting firm of Lewis, Kisch & Associates, LTD. The opinions of the auditing firm are that Wildlife Forever's "financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Wildlife Forever as of December 31, 2003". The results of their tests "disclosed no instances of non-compliance" and "no matters involving the internal control over financial reporting and its operation that [they] consider to be material weaknesses".

Our emphasis, as always, is on the responsible stewardship of the funds our members and donors have entrusted us with.

A copy of Wildlife Forever's Form 990 or the complete 13-page audit report can be obtained by contacting Wildlife Forever. Please include \$3.00 for postage and materials.

Thank you for your support.

Respectfully submitted,  
Douglas H. Grann  
President/CEO

A list of projects is available upon request, or visit the Wildlife Forever web site [www.wildlifeforever.org](http://www.wildlifeforever.org) to see and read about projects in your state.

## Wildlife Forever Board of Directors

**Steven F. Burke**

Chairman

Term Expiration: 2004

**Ward Burton**

NASCAR Driver

Term Expiration: 2005

**Douglas H. Grann**

Wildlife Forever

Term Expiration: 2003

**Dale Schultz**

S.T. Specialty Foods

Term Expiration: 2006

**Scott Grieve**

Big Island Publishing

Term Expiration: 2005

**Jay Bellinger**

B.E.A.R.S.

Term Expiration: 2004

**Steven Pennaz**

N. American Media Group

Term Expiration: 2004

**Gregg Patterson**

Winrock International

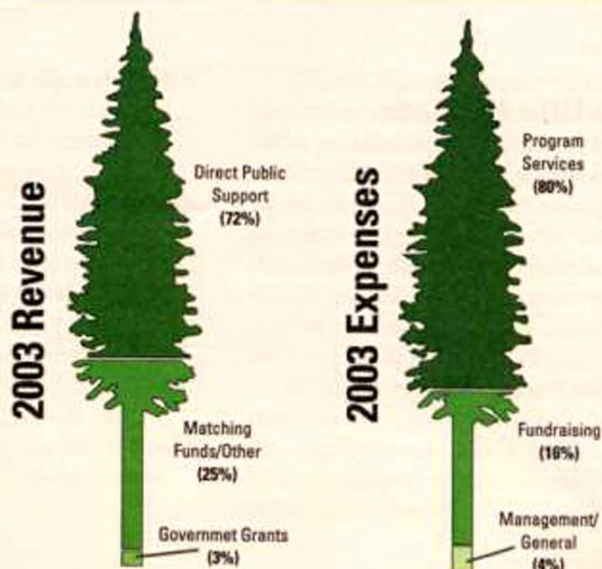
Term Expiration: 2006

Wildlife Forever's Board of Directors are volunteers and are not compensated for the vital support they provide. Board meetings were held at Wildlife Forever offices on March 19, 2003 and October 6, 2003.

### Chief Administrative Personnel

Jim Gallagher, Accounting, Administration

Pete Wuebker, Director of Marketing





## Life Member & VIP Trips Showcase Wildlife Forever Success In America's Great Places

Last July, Wildlife Forever's Life Member and VIP team traveled to Kodiak Island for six days of sport fishing and on site inspection of exceptional conservation achievements. Wildlife Forever grants have played a key role since the 1990s in fish and wildlife habitat protection, bear population surveys, and research into bear/human interactions to make sure the two million-acre Kodiak NWR stays wild and a world class public hunting and fishing destination.

Bear biologists took the Wildlife Forever team into the most remote corners of Kodiak bear habitat plus everyone had a chance to catch their personal best king salmon, halibut, Dolly Varden trout, sockeye and pink salmon at several great locations.

Educational and interesting it was also great fun and . . . YOU'RE INVITED! To add your name to the list of future A-Team members for exciting destinations drop us a line at ATTN: America's Great



Participants of the 2003 Kodiak Life Member/VIP trip.

Places, Wildlife Forever, 2700 Freeway Blvd #1000, Brooklyn Ctr MN 55430 or email to: [dgrann@wildlifeforever.org](mailto:dgrann@wildlifeforever.org).



### Inside:

2003 Report to Members & Donors  
 ♦  
 Trout in Massachusetts  
 ♦  
 Bears in Virginia & Tennessee  
 ♦  
 Great Places Trip

### Welcome Life Members

Each of these exceptional conservationists has made a special contribution to The Forever Fund, in which only the interest is spent. The result is a

conservation gift which will go on forever. Thank you. If you would like details on becoming a Life Member, contact us at (763) 253-0222.

<b>Brent Meyer</b>	ND	<b>Robert Beeman</b>	VA
<b>Tommy Barrios</b>	PA	<b>Albert Behler</b>	NY
<b>Donald A. Glas</b>	MN	<b>James Lentz</b>	PA
<b>Joseph Hall</b>	NC	<b>Raymond R. Beranek</b>	NV
<b>Jim Smith</b>	WV	<b>Jacob Hegerman</b>	MN
<b>Scott Hartl</b>	WI	<b>Gerald Clemens</b>	PA
<b>Donald Karcz</b>	IL	<b>Vincent F. Zirlis</b>	CT
<b>Kenton Getty</b>	IL	<b>Timothy Shuman</b>	PA
<b>Frank W. Brown</b>	PA	<b>Robert A. Morrow</b>	PA