

Cry of the Wild

FIFTEEN YEARS



Spring 2003, Volume 53

Newsletter of Wildlife Forever

National Wildlife Refuge System Centennial



Theodore Roosevelt's vision created the first NWR 100 years ago.

Anniversaries offer a chance for reflection, for considering the “big picture”. Celebration often accompanies anniversaries and during 2003, Wildlife Forever marks 15 years of pursuing the mission of conserving America’s wildlife heritage through conservation education, preservation of habitat, and management of fish and wildlife.

Better yet, the National Wildlife Refuge System, a federally protected network of critical habitat areas in all 50 states is in its 100th anniversary year in 2003. To mark the occasion, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has launched a “centennial celebration” honoring America’s 540 national wildlife refuges.

President Theodore Roosevelt fostered this conservation legacy when in 1903 he set aside Florida’s Pelican Island as a refuge for birds that were being decimated to collect feathers for ladies hats. From that tiny beginning the refuge system grew to a vast network of habitats, offering hundreds of threatened or endangered species a chance to recover, providing wetlands for millions of migratory birds, and protecting fisheries.

TR’s National Wildlife Refuge System safeguards plants and animals from cactus to caribou, butterflies to bison, and salmon to songbirds.

Roosevelt’s public land conservation impulse began during trips out west

where he saw the near extinction of once vast buffalo herds. He saw that humans possess the power to wipe out animals species. Along with enacting hunting and fishing seasons, bag limits and licensing, sportsmen like TR knew that habitat reserves would be required if the nation’s rich wildlife productivity could remain part of the American experience.

Wildlife Forever members have their own 15-year legacy of partnering with the refuge system and their managers in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife.

Since 1988, Wildlife Forever has invested nearly \$1,500,000 in partnership grants to benefit wildlife refuges. Moose, waterfowl, upland birds, Kodiak bears and Alaskan salmon are some of the critters who have benefited from your generosity and the leveraged dollars Wildlife Forever funds have attracted. Habitat types, such as marshes, bottomland hardwoods, riparian and travel corridors and grasslands have been enhanced, restored or expanded on over 30 refuges and special management areas.

A profile of Wildlife Forever projects begins on page 3 of this newsletter. We hope you reflect upon and cherish your own involvement in Theodore Roosevelt’s refuge legacy!



From The Field

NWR System Centennial

With this issue of Cry Of The Wild, we welcome nearly 15,000 new Wildlife Forever members from the North American Fishing and Hunting Clubs. Your membership contributions are Wildlife Forever's primary source of funding conservation and education projects across the country.



All Wildlife Forever members can take pride in knowing that better than 87% of all dollars spent go directly to support fish and wildlife conservation. Charity Navigator, America's largest independent evaluator of charities,

recently recognized this exceptional level of efficiency. Visit the Wildlife Forever web site and click on the "4 Star Charity" logo to see how Wildlife Forever compares to other conservation groups.

This issue is dedicated to the 100th anniversary of the National Wildlife Refuge System, often called: "America's best kept secret".

Sometimes we forget just how wonderful our 540 Refuges really are. We get busy with our kids, our job and the many issues that can make life so hectic. And we seldom touch the dirt, listen and see wildlife. What a shame! These are public lands open to anyone who wants to visit. Most provide hunting and fishing opportunities. And nearly all are free.

Get out and explore one in your state. Many are located near large cities and are an easy drive.

Wildlife always comes first on the Refuges and you can enjoy hunting, fishing, birding and photography.

Yours in conservation,

Douglas H. Grann
President & CEO

Hunting: An Important Wildlife Management Tool

Does Wildlife Forever support hunting? That is the most frequent question we get and it's no surprise. With the pressure being applied by anti-hunting organizations both publicly and politically, prospective members and donors want to make sure that their money does not go to an organization that is working to destroy one of their favorite outdoor activities.

As a conservation organization, Wildlife Forever's answer on any issue is related to wildlife conservation. In this instance, the answer is "Yes", because of the importance of hunting as a way to manage wildlife populations. As wildlife habitat becomes scarcer, the carrying capacity of the land becomes a greater issue. Hunting is one important way to effectively manage wildlife.

Wildlife Forever promotes the importance of hunting in a number of ways. In the battle for public opinion, Wildlife Forever educates the public about the important role hunting plays in conservation. Most notable is Wildlife Forever's CD-ROM curriculum (distributed free of charge to over 6,000 schools and nature centers). This acclaimed series of lesson plans presents the important role of wildlife management to children in grades 4 - 6. The curriculum is now also available for sale. Wildlife Forever members are encouraged to purchase copies and donate them to their local schools. For more information, visit the Wildlife Forever web site (www.wildlifeforever.org) or simply give us a call at (763)253-0222.

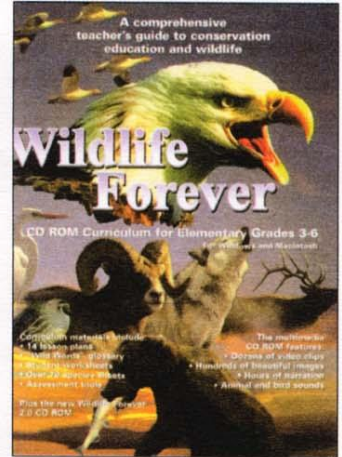
Wildlife Forever has been a leading sponsor of The Governors' Symposium On North America's Hunting Heritage since the beginning back in 1992. The purpose of these gatherings is to develop ways to preserve and build our hunting heritage. The next meeting will be held in Houston, Texas in December 2003.

Wildlife Forever is also involved in setting aside habitat that is made available to hunters and all the public.

Most recently, Wildlife Forever joined a group of nearly 40 sportsmen's conservation organizations this week to produce an ad in Capitol Hill's largest publication supporting hunting and fishing on National Wildlife Refuges. The ad in Wednesday's Roll Call was intended to show solidarity with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in response to the lawsuit filed by the Fund for Animals to stop hunting and fishing on refuges.

Hunting and fishing have been allowed and encouraged on National Wildlife Refuges since shortly after the System was created a century ago. The ad highlights the fact that hunters and anglers have contributed more time and money for the conservation of our fish and wildlife resources than any other single group.

Educating the public, finding solutions and providing opportunities for hunting are all ways in which Wildlife Forever, as a conservation organization, is working to offset the efforts of the anti-hunting community. You'd expect no less from the nonprofit conservation arm of the North American Hunting Club.



Wildlife Forever's educational materials help kids understand the importance of hunting to conservation.



Official Limited Edition Ruger Commemorates Anniversary

Wildlife Forever has authorized the creation of several limited edition products to commemorate the 15th Anniversary.

Wildlife Forever has combined the legendary products of Ruger and the expertise of America Remembers, the leader in building collectible firearms, to create a beautifully embellished, severely limited

edition Ruger Red Label 20 gauge complete with a hard case and trigger lock. Only 100 will be built.

The 15th Anniversary edition is a nice complement to the 5th Anniversary edition, which was a Ruger 12 gauge.

For more information, call Pete Wuebker at Wildlife Forever: (763) 253-0222 or send an e-mail to: pwuebker@wildlife forever.org. Include your mailing address.



Ruger Red Label
20 gauge



Left side of Receiver



Underside of Receiver

Payment Plan Available

Wildlife Forever Privacy Policy

CONFIDENTIAL

It is the policy of Wildlife Forever never to divulge the financial information of any donor or member. On occasion Wildlife Forever will rent name and address information to other like-minded organizations. The reason is the revenue list rentals generate for conservation, about \$25,000 each year.

Wildlife Forever does respect the wishes of members and donors by marking records of people who do not want their name and address shared. If you are among them, use the reply form to the right and we will mark your record to exclude you from any future list rentals.

Also, Wildlife Forever is developing an electronic version of Cry Of The Wild that will be emailed to members and donors who request it. If you would like to receive Wildlife Forever's e-newsletter, please indicate that on the reply form below.

Wildlife Forever does not rent or otherwise share e-mail addresses with other organizations, so know your address is safe and will only provide you with news from Wildlife Forever.

- Yes, please include me in your e-newsletter list.
- Do not share my name and address with other organizations.

Name _____

Member #: _____

Address _____

City _____ St _____ Zip _____

Email _____

Mail to: Wildlife Forever, 2700 Freeway Blvd. #1000, Brooklyn Center, MN 55430

Wildlife Forever Members Remember Loved Ones With Memorial And Honorarie Contributions

Michael Hines *In Memory/Honor Of: Henry F. Ginn*
 Richard Tackett *In Memory/Honor Of: Hansford Tackett*
 Barney Hamner *In Memory/Honor Of: H.J. "Chubby" Aaronson*
 Jim Elliott *In Memory/Honor Of: Jack Elliott*
 John Cramer *In Memory/Honor Of: Howard Hill*

Donald Morrow *In Memory/Honor Of: Charles Binkly*
 Judy Taylor *In Memory/Honor Of: Florence Cooper*
 James McAdams *In Memory/Honor Of: James McAdams*
 Rosemary Garlow *In Memory/Honor Of: Gary Garlow*
 Greg Toran *In Memory/Honor Of: Ray Beehler*



Memorials And Celebratory Gifts

You can remember a loved one or special event with a gift to **The Forever Fund**, Wildlife Forever's endowment. This is a special account in which only the interest is used to support our mission. Your gift . . . your memorial . . . your special recognition will continue "forever".

Wildlife Forever will send an acknowledgement to the person or family you designate. Plus, your special gift will be acknowledged in *Cry Of The Wild*.

This gift is:

- A Memorial
- To honor an/a
 - Anniversary
 - Birthday
 - Graduation
 - Other _____

Enclosed is my gift of \$_____ on behalf of: _____
(name of individual to be honored)

Simply complete this information

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Please send an acknowledgement to:

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Wildlife Forever is a registered 501(c)3 nonprofit organization.

Gifts are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

Return this form to: Wildlife Forever, 2700 Freeway Blvd. #1000,
 Brooklyn Center, MN 55430.

NEWS-03-SP

Cry of the Wild is a quarterly publication of Wildlife Forever. Douglas H. Grann, Editor, President & CEO • Pete Wuebker, Director of Marketing • Todd Sauers, Designer • Logo photo by Lon E. Lauber
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