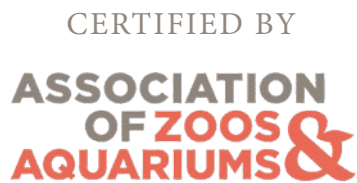




COLORADO WOLF & WILDLIFE CENTER

APRIL 2023 • CONSERVATION • EDUCATION • PRESERVATION





The Colorado Wolf and Wildlife Center

is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization certified by the Association of Zoos & Aquariums (AZA). Look for this logo whenever you visit a zoo or aquarium as your assurance that you are supporting a facility dedicated to providing excellent care for animals, a great experience for you, and a better future for all living things.

The contents of the material we include in our newsletter does not necessarily reflect the views of CWWC. We collect information from other organizations, the web, news feeds, and/or other sources. We choose articles that are in the related field of education and conservation.



TO SUBSCRIBE to our monthly newsletter, go to wolfeducation.org and sign up on the newsletter page.

CONTACT US

tours@wolfeducation.org
PO Box 713 Divide, CO
80814 719.687.9742

| SOCIAL MEDIA HAPPENINGS |

Stay up to date with the animals at CWWC, wolves and wildlife in the news, and advocacy opportunities.



Subscribe to our YouTube Channel: ColoradoWolf&WildlifeCenter We post videos of the training and enrichment we are providing for our animals, and educational vlogs about wolves.



Follow us on Facebook: Colorado Wolf and Wildlife Center to get updates on new YouTube video postings, read feel good stories from other wolf/wildlife organizations, and learn about new wildlife findings in the research field.



Follow us on Instagram: @cowolfcenter to see pictures of our beautiful animals, stories of what we are doing around the center, and ways you can help wild wolf populations.. Keep your eye on our story for fun videos of the day to day lives of our wolves and keepers.



Follow us on Twitter: @Wolves_at_CWWC to see photos of our animals, read fun facts, and hear about events happening at CWWC.



Follow us on TikTok: @cowolfcenter for the videos you won't see on our other social media pages.

We hope to give you something to look forward to every day!



PHOTO: Benjamin Huseman



PHOTO: Barb Burton



▲ *top left:* Living in the mountains with wildfires is a part of life, but so are severe winds that can whip for days with 50 to 70 mph winds. It is very important to take down dead or sometimes lighten up a tree that has heavy limbs especially between two wolf enclosures.



BEHIND THE SCENES AT CWWC



▲ *top right:* Darlene doing one of her favorite things on the wolf ranch. Fire Mitigation.

◀ *bottom left:* Rick is hard at work building a retaining wall due to erosion. 10 pallets of block so far. Each block weighs 90 pounds. Total weight is 28,000 pounds of pure labor not counting packing in the road base in each block. When finished, it is estimated to be around 40,000 pounds of block. Volunteers anyone?

PAW-DAY WITH THE WOLVES!



CWWC held it's first ever Birthday Celebration Event this month and it was a blast! Wolves are usually born some time between April and May. This means that all of our wolves have birthdays within about a month of each other. So why not have one big party to celebrate everyone?! That's exactly what we did. Our Paw-Day with the wolves included a meet and greet with ambassador wolf Raven; followed by a home-made, canid-friendly cake just for her. As guests were guided through the tour trail, the animals received pupcakes and their own presents. These presents were simply a taped up cardboard box with a couple pieces of bacon inside and a bow on top. Not only did the animals thoroughly enjoy ripping open their gifts, but our guests got a laugh or two out of watching. Join us next year in April for this fun-filled event.



10 THINGS *you didn't know* ABOUT BUMBLEBEES

Answering Common Questions about the Humble Bumblebee

Robin Sweetser | almanac.com | March 22, 2022

The bumblebee is the largest and gentlest of bees—and a pollination champ! We answer some common questions about bumblebees—and find out which flowers can attract (and help) our fuzzy friends.

After reading about the drastic decline in bumblebee populations in my state, I feared I would not see the black-and-yellow bombers this spring, so I was greatly relieved when they visited my early-blossoming ‘Purple Gem’ and ‘Olga Mezitt’ rhododendrons.

There were so many bumblebees and they moved so fast from flower to flower in search of pollen and nectar that it was hard to get one to stand still long enough to get a good picture. They are fast workers and, because of their larger bodies, can carry larger loads.



Bottle Gentian Flowers

1. Are Bumblebees Good Pollinators?

Yes! Bumblebees are excellent pollinators—much more efficient pollinators than honeybees, in fact. They mainly forage for pollen rather than nectar, and transfer more pollen to the pistils of the flowers with each visit.

Many crops are well suited to natural pollination by bumblebees, including cucumbers, peppers, tomatoes, seed crops, strawberries, blueberries, raspberries, melons, and squash. They are especially attracted to tube-shaped flowers and some flowers have evolved to be almost exclusively pollinated by these beefy bees.

The bottle gentian (*Gentiana andrewsii*), for example, has developed bottle-shape flowers that never open fully, which means that a strong bee must pry its way into the flower to pollinate it.

Female worker bees do the collecting of nectar and pollen. They perform a unique service called “buzz pollination” by grabbing the pollen producing part of the plant in their jaws and vibrating their wing muscles to loosen trapped pollen. Bumblebees’ wings beat more than 130 times per second!

If you can get one to hold still long enough, look closely and you’ll notice the pollen basket (or “corbicula”) on its rear legs where it stashes a load of pollen to carry back to the nest. Crops such as tomatoes, peppers, berries, and cranberries bear better fruits if they are buzz pollinated. The flowers on berries are enclosed, so it takes a bumblebee’s long “tongue” to get to the plant’s nectar.

2. Which Flowers Attract Bumblebees?

Bumblebees have to work harder than ever to find food and

shelter due to habitat loss and the overuse of pesticides.

To attract bumblebees and other native bee species, **consider native plants**—such as asters, coneflowers (*Echinacea* spp.), lupines, bee balm (*Monarda* spp.), and spring ephemerals. However, bumblebees are not fussy; anything that produces nectar and pollen works for them! If you plant even a small area or a few containers with flowering plants, the bees will find them.

Plan your garden to have a long season of bloom. Bumblebees are able to fly in cooler temperatures and lower light conditions than other bees, making them among the first pollinators you’ll see in the spring and the last ones flying in the fall. Unfortunately, this ability also makes them more vulnerable to agricultural pesticides and herbicides, which are usually sprayed in early morning and later in the day to avoid harming the honeybees that are active during the middle of the day.

- For **spring**, try planting crocuses, Virginia bluebells, lungwort, comfrey, hellebore, California poppies, columbine, low-growing phlox, or spring ephemerals.
- For **early and late summer**, plant coneflowers, sunflowers, black-eyed susans, bee balm, gentian, larkspur, or tall phlox.
- For **fall**, when it gets harder to find nectar, try planting fall bloomers such as salvia, wild geranium, anemone, basil, chives, cilantro, and parsley.

3. How Do Bumblebees Fly?

There are about 45 species of bumblebees (*Bombus*) in the United States alone. These large bees are round and fuzzy with short, stubby wings.

You have to wonder how these big round bees fly so well. A recent study showed how the tiny wings keep the bees aloft: Bumblebees flap their wings back and forth rather than up and down. Apparently, bumblebees’ wings are more similar to a helicopter propellor than an airplane.

4. Do Bumblebees Make Honey?

Yes, but not enough to be a source for human consumption. Bumblebees make a small amount of honey, just enough to tide them over a few days of bad weather. They can maintain about a week’s worth of food in their bodies, so they need to forage regularly to survive. **Early-blooming trees and shrubs, like fruit trees, pussy willows, and serviceberry**, are especially necessary to give the newly emerging queens some nourishment as they wake up and start their new colonies. The whole hive dies off in late fall, leaving just new, mated queens to start new colonies in the spring. If even one new queen dies, a whole potential colony will be lost.

Despite the fact that they don’t produce much honey, the pollination service that bumblebees provide is worth far more than any amount of honey!

5. Do Bumblebees Sting?

Bumblebees rarely sting, though they are able. They are generally very docile. They do not form swarms like other communal bees and they only sting when truly provoked.

Only female bumble bees have stingers. But they are so good-natured that getting a female to sting you is a major undertaking.

continued on next page...

Photo: Michael Hodgins



According to BumbleBee.org, a bumblebee will even warn you before it stings. It will stick up a middle leg if it's annoyed by your presence, which means "back off!". They will really only become aggressive if you are bothering their nest. Bumbles can sting more than once, however, their sting lacks barbs and a stinger is not left behind.

Ever noticed how bumblebees just "bumble around" in the early morning, moving slowly? Their Teddy-bear fur and their ability to regulate body temperature allows bumble bees to be out and about on cold mornings, but they can't fly until they have warmed up.

At this point, they may even sit quietly in your hand and let you gently pet their furry bodies.

6. So, Are Bumblebees Friendly?

We can't speak to human-bee friendships, but bumblebees are a naturally social bee, living together in groups called colonies. Colonies may contain between 50 and 500 individuals, according to the National Wildlife Federation, whereas honeybee hives may have 50,000!

7. Where Do Bumblebees Live?

Bumblebees have small nests, between the size of a baseball and a softball. Unlike a honeybee hive, bumblebees usually nest close to the ground or even underground, in stone walls, under clumps of grass, or in hollow trees and stumps. Abandoned mouse holes are a favorite since they come complete with a warm fur lining.

Bumbles stay close to home. After foraging at various flowers, they carry their collected pollen and nectar back

to the nest to feed.

Unlike honeybees, the bumblebee colony dies in late fall. The queen (who rules the colony) is the only member of a bumblebee colony to survive the winter! She hibernates during the winter months underground and starts a new colony in the spring.

8. Do Bumblebees Sleep?

Yes, of course! Male bees will also sleep outside, after they leave the nest (never to return). Sometimes, it's the female who's caught outside the nest because the temperature cooled so rapidly that she couldn't fly back; she'll wait until morning to bring her pollen back to the nest. Usually, you'll find resting bumblebees under flowers or even inside them!

9. Bee Populations Are in Decline. Are Bumblebees in Trouble, Too?

Yes. Many bumblebees are listed as endangered, vulnerable, or near threatened.

A few years ago, the rusty patched bumblebee (*Bombus affinis*) was the first bee listed as an endangered species in the continental U.S., and it is thought to be extinct here in New Hampshire—the last recorded sighting of it being in 1993! According to the Dept. of Agriculture, the decline in bumblebee populations can be blamed on the 5 "P's"—parasites, pests, pathogens, poor nutrition, and pesticides.

10. How Do I Attract Bumblebees to My Yard?

If you notice a lack of bees in your yard, consider whether your neighborhood uses a lot of pesticides in their lawns and gardens. You may have your answer!

At minimum, try to eliminate pesticides from your garden. A group of insecticides called neonicotinoids have been shown to have a devastating effect on all types of bees. It is a systemic insecticide that can come from pre-treated seeds or sprays applied to bedding plants. The chemical is present in every part of the treated plant—flowers, stems, leaves, etc. Buy organic whenever possible or ask your local nursery to make sure that no systemics were used on the plants you are purchasing.

To provide nesting sites, leave some part of your yard a little wild and brushy. Don't mow or rake there, and leave some plant stems standing over the winter to give the new queens places to hibernate and spots to establish new colonies in the spring.





PHOTOS: Carol Vogel
Blue Huron, Waterton Canyon (top)
Mountain Goats, Mount Evans (left)
Bee, Southwest Littleton, CO (bottom)



MOTHER'S DAY

With the Wolves

Sunday,
May 14th
9-11am

Wolf Tour,
A Flower for Moms
and Snacks

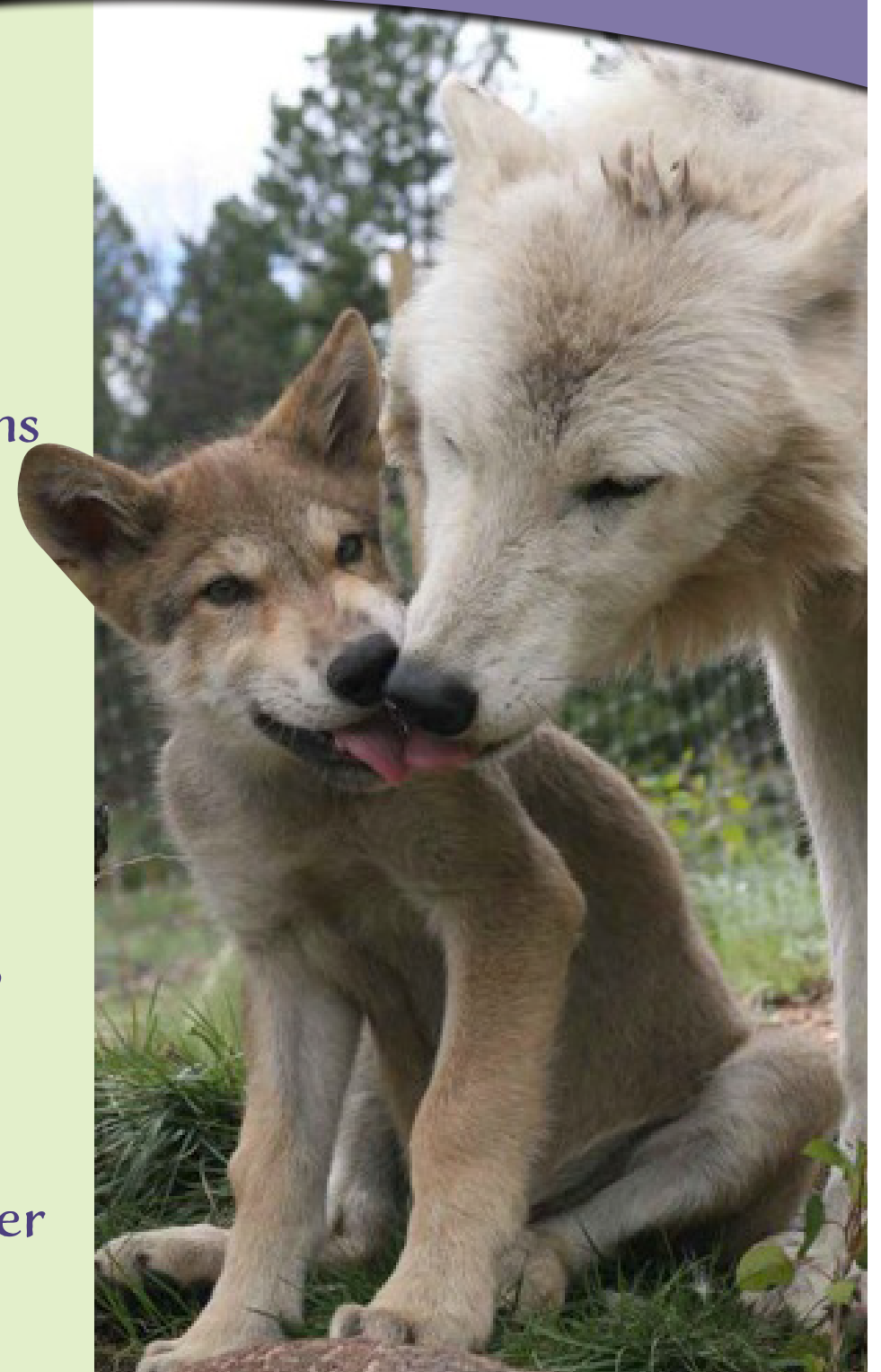


Adults \$40 (12+)

Kids \$20 (6-11)

PREPAY EVENT
RESERVATIONS
719.687.9742

Colorado Wolf
and Wildlife Center
wolfeducation.org



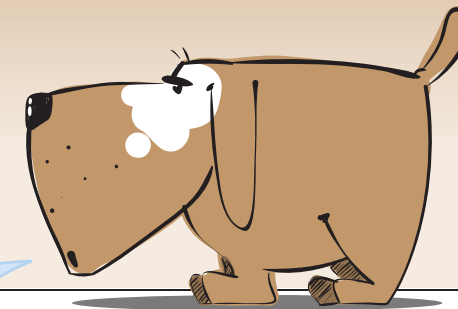
Adoption corner

TCRAS

Teller County Regional Animal Shelter
tcrascolorado.org · 719.686.7707

SLVAWS

San Luis Valley Animal Welfare Society
slvaws.org · 719.587.woof (9663)



[NOTE - Our shelter is still open for adoptions, but we are asking that you call ahead and make an appointment before coming in to the shelter - 719-686-7707.]

BUDDY »

Tall lanky handsome guy looking for constant companionship with dedicated, confident human. Loves outdoor adventures, structured activities, car rides, long controlled walks with furry friends, and learning new skills. Gives great hugs and kisses. Prefers having all the human attention in the home to himself. I'm just a year old so staying focused is another thing I have to learn.



« EMMA

Hello, my name is Emma! I'm an older gal, I've been through some struggles and I'd love nothing more than a nice family to call my own. I'm very sweet and I love people, but I'd rather not be picked up. I enjoy the company of other cats and would love a calm and quiet home.



**SLVAWS
ADOPTION FAIR**
Every Saturday at Petsmart
7680 N. Academy Blvd.
11:00am - 3:00pm

BABY & PRINCESS NEED A HOME!



Bonded pair Baby & Princess need a home together. Baby is an 11 year old chihuahua; Princess is a 9 year old boxer mix. They survived sub zero temperatures in the mountains for 2 weeks. Baby will hide under Princess for protection. They are great with cats (even a special needs cat in the photo) & other dogs. Spayed. Such a loving pair!

