

Country Squires- Minutes of Meeting on October 8, 2026

President Don Elliott began the meeting at 12 noon. Craig Stockel's Words of Inspiration were quotations on being happy by Groucho Marx and John Lennon.

After luncheon, the minutes of the September 10th meeting were approved unanimously. There were no guests or new member approvals.

After a lasagna & salad luncheon, Program Co-chair Dave Wood introduced our guest speaker Dr. Charles Berger and his traveling companion/photographer Erin. His presentation- "The Mythology, Behavior & Natural History of Wolves" provided an in-depth study of the Canidae species from the 88 yr.old Dr Berger's long practice as a veterinarian in CA. Early in his career, he raised two wolf pups, Farley and Fanny, along with his family and dogs. His fascinating talk was enhanced with numerous anecdotes from observing the interaction those pets as well as colorful slides of the many current and extinct wolf species. A major message was that the survival of the human species was due to its association with wolves due to the natural competitiveness of early man and wolves for the same game.

Interesting Factoids:

1. Wolves have always suffered from bad press, e.g. see Bible/Fairy Tales/Hitler/Werewolf
2. The species evolved from the Miacis, a weasel like creature that existed 55-60 M yrs. ago.
3. Of the original 214 Canidae specie, only 34 exist today, a dozen photos of which were shown.
4. All wolves are born black with blue eyes & live in dens for 4 mos. before joining pack hunts.
5. Dogs dominate wolves when together!!
6. The Eastern Coyote, which is present here in NH, resulted from a 1930 cross (accidental?) between a dog and a Western Coyote in an Ontario park.
7. There are no wolves in NH!
8. All domestic dogs evolved from the Eurasian wolf, present in China and the Fertile Crescent
9. Wolf packs are very territorial and specialize in pursuing different prey amongst packs.
10. The best place to observe wolves is in the Lamar Valley at Yellowstone.

The presentation was in a word – outstanding! The assembled Squires showed their appreciation with a hearty round of applause and two Squires coffee mugs.

In lieu of an honorarium, a contribution will be made to a school in Uganda, where Dr Berger and Erin go to track (and hunt?) gorillas and chimpanzees.

By Art Scutro, Acting Secretary
10/8/2026