



Hunter

HUNTER, A 12 YEAR OLD TIMBER WOLF, IS THE CENTER'S RESCUE WOLF

The Wolf Mountain Nature Center

SEPTEMBER 2015

The ~~Dog~~ Wolf Days of Summer

As summer winds down, so too do our many expansion and enhancement projects wrap up. Improvements were made to several of our walkways, new perimeter fencing was erected, more durable people boundary fence was installed, and construction of our relocated welcome cabin progressed. Other successes this summer included the rewarding, albeit exhausting, job of caring for and socializing our four Alaskan Tundra wolf pups. The pups have transitioned into their new packs with the adults and have become a visitor favorite. Read more about the pups on page two of this newsletter.

Saying goodbye to summer also included teary-eyed farewells as several of the center's awesome interns and volunteers returned to college. Carley (an intern from Wells College), Jenna (an intern from SUNY Oneonta), Missy (a volunteer attending Morrisville State College), and Maya (a 2nd year volunteer from SUNY Cobleskill) all worked diligently to assist us at the center during their summer break. While the young ladies graciously accepted any task thrown at them, their unanimous favorite was pup-sitting! Cumulatively, the four donated 450+ hours of service to Wolf Mountain and several earned college credits as a result!

As a non-profit organization with no paid staff, we absolutely depend on knowledgeable, reliable volunteers with a passion for wolves. These four young women exemplified what we look for in our volunteers. We greatly appreciate them and ALL of our volunteers!

Speaking of volunteers, we currently have openings for tour guides and program educators on Sundays from 11 am to 4 pm. If you are at least 16 years old, comfortable with public speaking, and possess a knowledge of wolves, coyotes, and/or Arctic fox, and are interested in volunteering with us, please submit a resume in person during our open hours to either Pam or Will.

Our upcoming autumn schedule is quickly filling up with various special programs: Our 9th annual "Honoring the Spirit of the Wolf" festival, Howl-eeen Night, Turkey-Toss Day, "Winter with the Wolves", and several special photography-without-fencing programs are all being planned for the fall season. Check our website periodically for more details on these and other special events. www.TheWolfMountainNatureCenter.org
Hope you can visit us soon!



Summertime in central New York means sunshine, hot days, crickets chirping, mosquitos buzzing, green grass, flowers, cookouts, watermelon, and hanging out relaxing. It's the least active time of year for our wolves who prefer the much cooler temperatures of the windy and snowy winter months.



Our Newest Additions Have Grown!

As mentioned in our previous newsletter, we brought home to the center four Alaskan Tundra wolf pups this past May. Brothers Okwaho and Sequoyah are a grayish/tan coloring, while the sister/brother pair of Dyani and Tamarack are black phase wolf pups. The four lived at our "puppy palace" for the first two and a half months of age where some wonderfully dedicated puppy parents cared for and socialized with the young pups as they acclimated to their new home at Wolf Mountain Nature Center.

As the pups grew older and became more secure and comfortable, volunteers introduced the pups to collars and leashes in preparation for walks around the center to see, smell, investigate, and mark new areas. Sometimes the pups never ventured farther than six feet away from their enclosure; however, with time, and as confidence grew, the inquisitive pups travelled farther away with a familiar staff at their side for security and protection. Eventually the pups were encouraged to greet the adult wolves through the safety of fencing. As these visits occurred, staff watched for the indications of acceptance from the adult wolves and for signs of submission from the pups; behaviors such as whimpering, lip licking (a behavior done by pups to induce the adults to regurgitate food to be eaten by the young), urination, and laying down exposing bellies assured us that the pups were soon to be new pack members.

In early August, the pups had supervised visits inside the adult enclosures and were readily welcomed by the adults! Nine year old Nakoa quickly became "grandpa" wolf, following the pups' every move, tolerating their use of him for a chew toy and climbing post, and correcting them if teeth were used a bit too harshly. The pups spent hours investigating their new territories and absolutely love to romp in the ponds in 9-acre "Wolf Woods". During the past several weeks, the pups have grown accustomed to their permanent homes and regularly venture up to the public viewing areas to welcome visitors to the center. While now part of their respective wolf packs, the young still exuberantly greet their familiar "puppy parent" humans with lots of whimpering and wolf kisses!



At two months old, the pups are dependent on caregivers and snuggle for comfort and reassurance. By the time they reach four months, they have developed much more independence and confidence and exhibit increasing displays of typical wolf behaviors.



The 9th annual "Honoring the Spirit of the Wolf" Fall Celebration



Sunday, October 11, 2015

11 am – 4 pm

**Watch as the Wolves, Arctic Foxes, & Eastern Coyotes
receive & enjoy their stuffed pumpkin treats!**

Also scheduled: tours of animal exhibits, sled dog demonstrations & competitions, Utica Zoomobile, live entertainment, DEC K-9 exhibit, 3D pumpkin carver, children's tent with face painting & pumpkin painting, food vendors, Native American Indian crafts, tipi program & storytelling, Mother Earth drum & singers, gift shop, & more!

Admission only \$5 per person (5 & under free)

Upcoming Special Programs & Events:

Wolf Photography Sessions



Do you love to photograph wolves? Your opportunity to take photos of our wolves WITHOUT fencing in the way is coming soon! Saturday, September 26, Saturday, October 3, and again on Saturday, October 17, 2015, we are holding our photography program. Beginning promptly at 7:30 am and lasting 2-3 hours, participants will be guided on a short, easy hike through our forest, hiking to our photo platform for picture taking of the six wolves in our "Wolf Woods" pack. Situated high above the fence line, the covered platform allows for unobstructed views of the wolves as they meander through the forest during the peak of fall foliage season. Staff will place food throughout the enclosure as an incentive for the wolves to stay close for photos. The \$75 fee per person includes guided hike, use of photography platform, tours of all animal exhibits, and refreshments. Reservations are required as there is a limit of ten participants per session. For more information or to reserve your spot, please call us evenings at 607-627-6784.

Join us for our next Wolf Communication Program on

HOWL-EEN, Saturday, October 31, 2015

2 pm – 6 pm



Turkey Toss

Sunday, November 29, 2015

Noon – 4 pm

We will be tossing (dead) turkeys & other treats to our wolves & coyotes throughout the day so they can feast in recognition of Thanksgiving. Come join us!

