



© PHOTOS at 1020

SEQUOYAH, 9 MONTH OLD ALASKAN TUNDRA WOLF

The Wolf Mountain Nature Center

MARCH 2016

It's Our 10th Anniversary!

Welcome 2016! This year is special to us as it marks the 10th anniversary of the existence of The Wolf Mountain Nature Center! We are both excited and proud to have reached this important milestone. Of course, we are especially grateful to: our incredible volunteer staff who have put in literally thousands and thousands of hours of work; our friends, confidantes, and mentors at other wolf sanctuaries throughout the nation who have so generously offered ideas, guidance, and support; and our visitors and supporters who have spread the word about our facility and shared with others the knowledge and experiences gained while at the center. It would be remiss to not also acknowledge our founder and visionary, Will Pryor, whose dream of educating the public about the incredible spirit of the wolf began many decades ago. Who knew the dreams of a four year old boy would result in such a successful accomplishment?!

Over the past decade, the sanctuary has grown from a pair of wolves in a single enclosure to our current total of twelve Gray Wolves, four Eastern Coyotes, and six Arctic Foxes who all reside in eight spacious habitats (with two more in the construction stages).

As a brief recap of our canine residents: 2006-wolves Nakoa & Natani arrive; 2008-Natani gives birth to Dancing Turtle, Tala, & Tashina; 2009-Arctic Foxes Yana & Yukon arrive; 2010-rescue wolf, Hunter, and Eastern Coyotes Loki & CeAnn join the center; 2011-wolf brothers Cayuga & Seneca arrive; 2012-CeAnn gives birth to Denahi, Kaliska, Kenai, & Sitka; 2014-Arctic Fox kits Annu, Blizzard, Matu, & Snowflake are born; 2015-wolf pups Dyani, Okwaho, Sequoyah, & Tamarack join the packs.

Throughout 2016, we will have various activities, programs, and events celebrating our 1st ten years as a wolf sanctuary and educational nature center. One of our programs that we are most excited about is the opportunity for guests to "Camp with the Wolves" where visitors camp in their tent not far from the wolves! More details about that on page four of this newsletter.

Again, thanks to everyone who has offered support to us during our early beginnings. We are excited in anticipation of what the next decade will bring to Wolf Mountain Nature Center! Come visit soon and howl with us!!



Above, Michelle (who later became the center's Director) introduces Nakoa as a pup in 2006. Below, Nakoa's son, Dancing Turtle, a gorgeous eight year old Alaskan/Arctic wolf in 2016.



Wolf Photography Day!

Our first Wolf Photography Day of 2016 occurred early on a brisk, snow covered Saturday morning on February 27th. Participants met in our warm classroom for coffee & muffins while listening to a brief introduction to the center and the wolves, and to learn the morning's agenda before heading out for a 15 minute hike through the woods to reach the photography platform. As visitors were attaching camera lens and jockeying for the best position, staff were busy hiding food throughout the nine acre enclosure for the wolves to "hunt". At the signal, the wolves were released into the "hunting grounds" and the noisy click-click of camera buttons being pushed filled the air. Soon new friends were sharing their favorite pictures with each other and us!



Our photography platform comfortably holds 10-12 photographers and is situated deep in the woods on a raised platform that allows for picture-taking of the main pack of wolves without enclosure fencing obstructing views. Watch our Facebook page or website for details as upcoming photo sessions are scheduled. Reserve your spot quickly as these sessions fill up to capacity very quickly.



Help Wanted!

Do you enjoy being outdoors? Are you gifted with landscaping or construction skills? Is public speaking a strength? Do you possess a love of and concern for nature and the environment? Have you felt the sacred spirit of the wolf?

We need you! Our center is run 100% by trained volunteers and college interns who have any or all of the above passions. Some folks help every week and others are limited to only a few hours each month, but all are deeply appreciated!

Check out the "volunteer" tab on our website or talk to either Pam or Will at the center for our current volunteer needs. College interns should apply soon for summer 2016 credits.

Please note: volunteers must be at least 16 years old. At this time we are not in need of animal caretakers, but do need maintenance workers, landscapers, Environmental Educators, and Naturalist Tour Guides.



Life and Times of the Arctic Fox



On a gorgeous winter afternoon on March 6, 2016 we held our popular "Life & Times of the Arctic Fox" program. Attendance for this special activity was five times more than anticipated and our humble little classroom was filled to capacity and beyond, with many visitors overflowing into the adjacent gift shop! Will, our head Animal Curator and Biologist, led a PowerPoint discussion focusing on the Arctic Foxes' physiology, social structure, effects of climate change, and interactions with other animal species. Afterwards, everyone went to see the center's six pure Arctic Fox while Will monitored a food enrichment activity at the two fox habitats. Giggles of visitors could be heard throughout the center as the younger foxes chased each other across wooden walkways and slid down tubes in competition for the best tasting mouse (dead of course) or raw egg.



© imagequaine.com

Easter Egg Hunt for the Animals!



On Sunday, March 27th, the animals were lucky enough to go on their very own "egg hunt"! Since the Easter bunny was too exhausted to possibly hide any more eggs (and since wolves, coyotes, and foxes absolutely LOVE bunnies), Wolf Mountain's animal caretakers decided to help out and hide colored eggs throughout the enclosures as another form of animal enrichment activities!



You are invited to a Birthday Party!

Sunday, May 1, 2016

Noon to 4pm

Join us as we celebrate the spring birthdays of our canine residents. Watch them open their gifts and gobble up their special cakes. Visitors receive free cake too!



Camp with the Wolves!



New for our 10th Anniversary—camping with the wolves! Bring your own tent & sleeping bags and spend the night under the starry summer sky with the wolves nearby! Currently we have two definite dates scheduled (July 16-17 and August 20-21) & may add more depending on interest and staff availability. Besides camping out, guests will be able to assist staff with animal feeding chores, enjoy dinner over a campfire, participate in our evening howl program, enjoy a movie in the classroom or storytelling in our tipis, receive a guided tour of the facility, hike through our woods to the photography platform and more! Total cost per person is \$150 if paid in full by June 30 (\$175 after). Overnight guests must be at least 12 years old. This is a "reservation only" event and has a maximum of ten participants per camp-out. We will begin accepting reservations (with a non-refundable \$50 deposit per person) May 1. For more information and details, call the center evenings at 607-627-6784.



What do ya think? Should we howl yet?



Naw...let's wait until they're sound asleep first!