



HONORING THE SPIRIT OF THE WOLF

The Wolf Mountain Nature Center

IN THIS ISSUE

Wow! What a year it was!

Will Pryor, Animal Curator

We welcomed four beautiful Eastern Coyote pups born right here at the Center (three males and one female). We socialized them from twelve days of age so that they will be able to be comfortable with necessary human interactions such as veterinary visits and humans maintaining their habitat. The new wooded coyote area was completed utilizing donated steel poles from the old Perry Brown tennis courts. Thank you Norwich Schools! This project took us two years to build with most of the work done by ourselves and our volunteers. We hired outside help for four hours. We have a very nice area for our coyote pack and we will be spending a lot of time observing pack behaviors and dynamics.

Our educational room was finished. We now have a classroom for presentations and programs. State of the art audio-video equipment, microscopes and educational displays ensure that the quality programs we wish to offer will now be a reality. This lovely space was volunteer- built from local wood products; the tongue and groove knotty pine and log siding look just beautiful. We invite



you to stop by to see this addition and to enjoy one of our programs.

We made advances on our nine acre wolf enclosure this past year adding new posts around approximately 1/3 of the area.

Our October "Honoring the Spirit of the Wolf Fall Festival" was again a success! Two thousand five hundred people attended the event this year. Thank you to all that visited. Your generosity made this a very successful event.

We experienced an increase in the number of school groups this past year and are hopeful that this will continue. A relationship was forged with Heritage Farms, a local group that provides an amazing program for people with disabilities. Their men's and women's groups came out last summer and worked with us laying the stone along the dig guard in the coyote area.

We hope that 2013 continues to be a time of expansion and increased visits from people that wish to understand the Spirit of the Wolf.

Wow! What a year it was! A review of 2012

Arctic Foxes – Melting Ice – no habitat?

This Issue's guest speaker

Agonistic Pucker

2013 – Our hopes for this year



Spirit of the Wolf Fall Festival 2013



The Matt Nakoa Band performs for festival goers.

Arctic Fox -

With the loss of the arctic ice, what does the future hold for these amazing members of the Canidae family?



The Wolf Mountain Nature Center resident Arctic Foxes, Yukon Cornelius and Yana enjoy a comfortable habitat and the attention our visitors bring.

Melting Ice... no habitat?

Cathy Martin, Hornaday Conservation Award recipient

A visit to The Wolf Mountain Nature Center brings the opportunity to view and learn about our two Arctic Foxes. Visitors return time and again to engage in conversations with our educators about these amazing mammals and to witness their infamous coat color change. With the knowledge gained by these visits, guests are becoming more aware of the threat of the polar ice melt to the Arctic Fox and other animals that make their home in the Arctic region.

According to NASA, we are experiencing global warming (figure 1) and the polar ice cap is melting whether we believe that it is caused by our own misuse of resources or a natural event (figure 2). The Arctic Fox and other animals that call the region home will struggle to survive as their habitat shrinks. According to a study published in the journal *Polar Biology*, researchers from the department of biology and wildlife at the University of Alaska Fairbanks, said: "If future populations of Arctic foxes lose access to sea ice, the primary negative effects would likely be reduced winter survival and reproduction."



We know from our own studies of Arctic Foxes that they are opportunistic and omnivorous feeders. Small mammals make up their preferred summer diet especially Lemmings. They also eat plants, eggs, insects and fish. In the winter, they have been known to follow the Polar Bear, taking advantage of any carrion left behind by this apex predator. If any link in this food chain is lost, what will be the effect?

Perhaps the Arctic Fox will succeed in competing with other mammals that call the Polar Region home. Unfortunately, there is no way to be sure of the continued success of this species as its unique habitat evolves to a warmer environment. Efforts of scientists, conservationists and a caring public may ensure that the Arctic Fox will continue to thrive in the northernmost parts of our world.

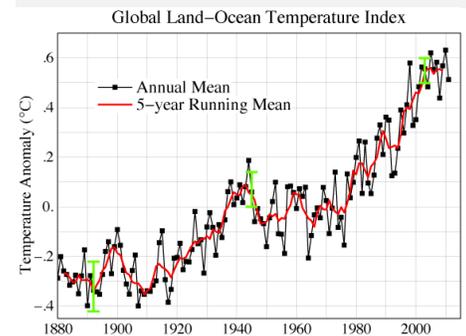
visit

http://science.nasa.gov/media/medialibrary/2013/01/15/2012GISStemp_datescolorbarcentered.m4v

to view an informative video reflecting temperature change

GLOBAL TEMPERATURE TREND *figure 1*

1860 – 2000 (NASA.gov)



POLAR ICE MELT *figure 2*

1860 – 2000 (NASA.gov)





This Issue's Guest Speaker

"Hello! My name is Tashina and I am a female grey wolf living with the East Side pack at the Wolf Mountain Nature Center. As you can see from my very healthy white teeth in the picture below (I floss regularly with deer hair.), I was a very confident girl in this group comprised of four guys and myself. I love having my picture taken (the one to the left is a favorite). I never had any problems or concerns living in my enclosure until these two young, now teenage, wolves came to join the pack.

Up until February, I paid little attention to their arrogant, "know it all" attitudes. In fact, on numerous occasions I had to teach them to respect their elders. I mean, I am going to be five years old this spring and you would think they would grant me some space. But no, they have teamed up to try and bite me on the rump when they feel so inclined and frankly I am sick of it!

Where is that Dancing Turtle, the pack's fearless Dire Wolf-like hunk of a leader when I need him to watch my back? I'm telling you I'm really sick of these two wolves and I am plotting my next move. Someday, soon, there is going to be payback and it won't be me getting bit on the butt! This girl will have her revenge! Girl wolves rock!! "

Agonistic Pucker

Will Pryor, Animal Curator

Tashina, one of our resident wolves, is caught on camera displaying an excellent example of an Agonistic Pucker. This type of behavior is seen more often during the breeding season when much more testing is going on amongst the wolves.

We also see an increase in tail wags that are level with the back or above it. The tail is wagged stiffly which indicates excitement and often aggressive arousal.

Another ploy that seems to take place only with our two twenty-two month old black wolves is for one to distract in front of the target wolf while the other circles around behind and applies an uninhibited bite to the rump area. They will take turns switching positions and biting the other wolf.



Tashina

LOOKING FORWARD



A work in progress...
Help us build the new Wolf enclosure!



Volunteer hours are a requirement for graduation at the Otselic Valley High School. These students not only completed their hours, but returned on their own to continue helping us.

NEW WOLF ENCLOSURE

2012

33%

Our goal for 2013

100%

Your donations will make a difference!

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Visit our website
www.thewolfmountainnaturecenter.org

Call us at 607-627-6784

Visit us at
562 Hopkins-Crandall Road, Smyrna, NY



Far left – our coyote pups this summer – our guests were invited to suggest names, from which we chose those listed in the picture

Left – Cayuga enjoying a winter storm

2013 - Our hopes for this year

Will Pryor

Our howl nights are becoming increasingly popular and we will continue to strive to provide an entertaining program with the opportunity to hear our wolves and coyotes howl. According to those visitors that have participated, the howl of a wolf has no comparison.

We are excited to announce that we have received a donation of a walk-in freezer. To utilize this new addition, we will need to build a small pavilion with a cement floor at a cost of approximately \$5000.00. We are hopeful that donations and grants may see this long awaited piece of equipment put to good use!

Other exciting projects and ideas include a run/walk to benefit the wolves and the addition of solar and/or wind power to provide power for the classroom and gift shop. We also hope to increase the size of the Arctic Fox exhibit.

Why do we tell you about the need for funds?

Without continued public support, The Wolf Mountain Nature Center and its volunteers simply could not provide the level of educational experience that we wish to bring to you.

The Wolf Mountain Nature Center provides an opportunity for area businesses to reap the benefit of tourists stopping by to enjoy what we offer. As we grow, it is our hope that we are a good neighbor to our local communities.

How can you help?

- Donate
- Share
- Visit
- Volunteer
- Sponsor



HELP!

Volunteers with a tractor, bucket loader and/or a lift machine are needed

Fence workers, who are able to do heavy lifting

Educators to teach our indoor or outdoor programs



Wolf Mountain Nature Center