



WolfPark.org

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# The Wolf Park News

## Growing Old is Not for Sissies

by Pat Goodmann

Wolves in the wild have an average lifespan of three to five years. At Wolf Park, our wolves live twelve to fourteen years on average, and three wolves--Ohtsu, Trillian, and Deneb--lived past their seventeenth birthdays. Old wolves face health problems that wolves in the wild are unlikely to face. Their senses are not as sharp as they were. They commonly experience arthritis, gradual loss of kidney function, and sometimes cancer, as Socrates did. Although they have these additional health problems, Wolf Park wolves receive extensive health care, so old age is not just the gradual loss of health and bodily efficiency; it is still a time when the wolves can enjoy themselves. They often even enjoy some of the treatments that help relieve the discomfort of aging, especially non-traditional therapies.

Deneb especially liked her chiropractor. She received regular visits as her spine stiffened and tended to arch up. She was once so energized by her spinal adjustment that afterward she loped around the enclosure excitedly, ran back to Gale, and somersaulted into her lap. Dr. Zeigler, Gale, and I all burst out laughing. "That's the happiest old animal I've ever seen!" was Dr. Zeigler's reaction.

Our wolves have also had massage and cranio-sacral therapy, which relaxes them and helps with range of motion and circulation problems.

Plus, it feels good! Orca remembered Carrie Craddock when she returned to give him a second session of massage after his spinal injury in 1997. He bipedaled rapidly to her and bounced his forefeet, excitedly soliciting more massage. Tristan impressed us with how much he enjoyed Sandy Prantl's cranio-sacral therapy; he even let her work on his lower back, an area that he tended to defend, sometimes with snaps of his jaws!

Better living through chemistry is part of getting older, as medicines and supplements help delay or repair the ravages of time. Thus, in addition to physical therapies, sometimes pain killers are an important part of managing arthritis. Our wolves mostly get Tramadol with an occasional substitution of, or boost from, Meloxicam. We also do what we can to help maintain the joints through supplements. We give the wolves Dasuquin, donated by Nutramax, and Adequan, donated by Craig Merrick. A relatively new supplement, which we like very much, is System Saver donated by Judy Baker of Biotrope, INC. These help slow the effects of time and wear on joints.

Getting animals to take oral medication by hiding it in food has been used by people for decades, possibly generations. The drawback to this method is that if the animals have the unpleasant experience of

biting into a tasty bolus only to find an icky tasting pill, they may become much more suspicious and picky. Thus, we have to study the wolves' individual quirks to ensure the pill goes down unnoticed. Sometimes the size of the bolus needs fine-tuning. Sometimes what it is made of is of paramount importance. Sometimes delivery decides the outcome. Occasionally a wolf objects to lumps disturbing the texture more than the taste. After once finding an unexpected capsule, Deneb took to mincing all boluses finely with her incisors. Fortunately, we had only to pull the capsule apart and mix the powder evenly through the bolus. Once we had to persuade Betsy to take vile tasting liquid orally. Nothing we mixed with it induced her cooperation. Instead, we found that she would take small sips of the medicine in exchange for whole-body massage.

In addition to arthritis, an old wolf's senses often lose sharpness. This means that it is harder for an old wolf to read our social signals, which can lead to unnecessary misunderstanding and emotional upheaval. It's not good manners to startle an old wolf by suddenly appearing next to it with no warning, so when entering an enclosure, we may need to call repeatedly and make a slow approach to make sure the wolf knows we're there.

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Wolf Park is a not for profit organization dedicated to improving the lives of wolves in captivity and in the wild through behavioral research and education.

Wolf Park was founded in 1972 by Erich Klinghammer, PhD.

Editor: Catherine Ozment

The Rocky Mountain wolf population was removed from the Endangered Species List last spring, and no sooner had these wolves lost federal protection than they began to be killed. With just 1500 wolves in this recovering population, environmentalists decried these actions and sued the government to re-list this population. In July, U.S. District Judge Donald Molloy issued an injunction against the delisting, putting the wolves under federal protection again. He did so on the basis of concerns about Wyoming's management plan not offering enough protection, and issues around the sharing of genetics between the wolf populations out West. Under Wyoming's plan, wolves in a large portion of the state are classified so that they can be killed on sight, and for no reason other than that they exist, essentially being treated like coyotes. Only wolves inside of Yellowstone National Park receive full protection.

For a sense of how our work here at Wolf Park ties into the work being done in the wilds of the Rockies and on Isle Royale see my other article

in this issue of Wolf Park News (Page 8).

Research on wolves and other wildlife and their ecosystems needs to be viewed from a much larger, in fact a global, perspective. I care not only about the animal life on this earth, but also about the survival of our own species.

For this reason I call your attention to a new book by Pulitzer Prize winning author Thomas L. Friedman: "Hot, Flat and Crowded, Why we need a green revolution and how it can renew America."

"Hot" refers to global warming and it's effects, "Flat" refers to the fact that we are all on the same surface across the globe, and "Crowded" refers to the increasing human populations and their demands for more energy. It is a dismal picture, but Friedman also outlines the solutions. Politicians of all nations and their citizens need to be aware of and act on the suggestions in this insightful book. That is why I urgently recommend it to all our members.



The annual Winter Wolves Event will be on Saturday, **January 17**. This event allows the public to see the wolves during their most active time of year, and possibly in the snow, something many visitors inquire about during the summer season. In all of their glory at this time, the wolves are sporting their thick and beautiful winter coats. The Winter Wolves offers a variety of events such as lectures on wolf behavior (as this is an opportune time) and cold weather adaptations, and tours in the chilly air. We usually do a demonstration of how we butcher deer and feed the wolves too. It is better to see this in winter, minus the flies!

We offer hot chocolate and cookies so visitors can warm up between programs. This event is an opportunity for visitors and members to enjoy the wolves, and also to offer the Park financial support during a time that does not normally proffer much revenue.

We are looking forward to seeing you this winter! Our holiday celebration is coming up on December 13. We offer open hours on December 27 and 28, the weekend after Christmas, for those with some free time over the holidays, or with visiting friends and family. Share your love of wolves with the people around you! We also offer programs on February 14, during our human celebration of love, and the wolves' annual breeding season.

## Kiri - From Grumpy Old Man To Social Butterfly



Kiri is the oldest of our remaining "Chinooklings". Like his two younger brothers, Miska and Apollo, Kiri was an inky black in his early years. And like his younger brothers he had a limited number of friends during most of his adult life. "Chinooklings" are famous for being difficult to get along with, like their father, Chinook, a one time alpha of the main pack. Both Kiri and his litter brother Socrates were taken out of the pack

in 1996; they lived together until Socrates passed away this spring. We were concerned for Kiri-- how was he going to take being alone for the first time? As it turned out, we needn't have worried...

The relationship between Kiri and Socrates had always been tumultuous. They were noted for getting into "shouting matches" with each other. A lot. Not that they came

to blows, we only know of one time that any bites actually occurred. Kiri was always the dominant one in the relationship. Socrates didn't care for that arrangement. Kiri's size helped him stay ahead of Socrates. Kiri is our largest wolf; he was in the neighborhood of 120 lbs at his peak. Socrates was a relative lightweight at around 80 lbs.

Kiri being dominant helped us as well at times. He tended to squelch the worst of Soc's behavior. But as it turns out, being with Socrates may have actually been stressful for Kiri.

Since he has been alone, he is more relaxed than anyone can ever remember seeing him. Now that he is behaving in such a relaxed way, he has been taken out on walks, and meet-and-greets with interns. The interns all love Kiri. They have been thrilled to have the opportunity to finally meet him.

Kiri seems to be enjoying this social activity as well. He has even enjoyed a couple of sponsor visits. All in all, life is good for Kiri these days.

## Pass it — Don't Trash it.

Put this *Wolf Park News* to work by sharing it with others.

- \* Do you have a neighbor who loves animals?
- \* Do you go to the veterinary office and wish that there was something interesting to read while waiting in the waiting room?
- \* Do you know of a retirement community that is looking for wonderful things for the residents to read?

Give others the opportunity to see our newly designed and informative newsletter. Passing it on will keep one less item from ending in a landfill AND will also let others know about Wolf Park. Its a win win win situation! Pass it on!



## Kailani

Kailani keeps seeking opportunities to dominate all her brothers. Wotan is her primary target, probably for three reasons: 1) he annoys her, 2) Tris and Wolfgang are both likely to squelch him so she has double the opportunities to assert herself with other wolves providing inadvertent back up for her power-plays, and 3) he really annoys her. Kailani will try to pin all her brothers, seeking whom she might dominate. It works to some degree on Wotan, Renki, and Ruedi, probably because Tris is close. But when she tried it on Wolfgang, she got nowhere with him except he grinned and pawed her tail. On June 19, Ruedi had been play wrestling with Kailani and then bowed and danced on the resting Tristan, getting him up. Then they rallied, with a chorus of bullfrogs in the background.



## Tristan

Tristan has turned ten but that doesn't stop him from wanting to go on wolf bison demonstrations. We usually don't take him because the young bison sometimes want to chase the wolves, and in hot weather that can be especially hard on older wolves. But the last Sunday in June Tris really wanted to go and performed his amazing eel-between-Renki's-legs maneuver, getting into the airlock, from whence wolves go to the bison demonstration. In awe of his maneuver, we took him. It was a cool day and not humid so we were not too worried. Tristan & Son did not get down to business immediately; they took their time exploring the pasture first but then a young bull decided it was wolf chasing time. He did chase Tristan. He chased Renki. He chased Tris and Renki. Tris did a very good job at avoiding bison, but he was tired when he got home.



## Wolfgang

Wolfgang is still adamant that he, not Wotan, is, and shall remain, the beta male. When they are not discussing this, they get along nicely, often jointly working to keep Renki and Ruedi squelched. Some other things haven't changed either. We'd still say that Wolfgang has sticky fingers if he had hands instead of paws, he's still unfazed by Kailani's half-baked attempts to dominate him, and he continues to show off his "Leaping Lizards" backwards jump for treats.

## Wotan

In early July we, and the main pack, had a treat. Yellowstone-based biologists Linda Thurston and Nathan Varley visited the park. They got to meet the pack and vice versa. Yellowstone is a good place to view wolves, but good viewing often means that they are a quarter of a mile from the animals and viewing through a spotting scope. It is very different here where the wolves get up close and personal. Wolves and humans all had a ball, especially when we howled and a wolf howled right back in Nathan's face. Renki, who got twinkly and tried jumping on the nice biologists to demand attention, was summarily squelched by Wotan and Wolfgang.

## Ruedi

Ruedi looks for opportunities to play with his pack members, and he's surprisingly dexterous at object play sometimes. During the July 5th Howl Night program, videographer Tom O'Dowd brought in a cardboard pizza "plate" which Ruedi got and kept, despite Wotan and Wolfgang's efforts to intercept. He made very shrill cries of protest when they tried to take it, and he managed to keep it by moving at a trot and turning his head away from them, successfully keeping it out of their reach.

## Renki

Renki has continued to be the lowest ranking male in the pack, except when he and Ruedi have a playdate together with Ayla. We arrange these playdates when we need the pack out of the Turtle Lake Enclosure to do maintenance, and don't want the wolves to "help." When the brothers are in with Kailani, Renki happily asserts himself for a few hours, Ruedi shows no sign of caring, and when they go back in with the pack Ruedi can once again aver, "No! It is you who will show deference to me!"



Name	Sex	Birth Year
Tristan	Male	1998
Kailani	Female	2004
Renki	Male	2004
Ruedi	Male	2004
Wolfgang	Male	2005
Wotan	Male	2005



Echo



Kiri

They may also find it hard to read the signals of other wolves. Aurora was a wonderful puppy aunt until encroaching blindness robbed her of the ability to see what the puppies were doing when we took her to the nursery. Aurora could not react to their social signaling, and the puppies reacted with fear, then aggression. Despite blindness and increasing deafness, Aurora still enjoyed social grooming and going for walks with seeing-eye humans. If put into a new enclosure, she spent a long time exploring it, slowly and carefully using her nose and feeling her way with feet and whiskers. However, that loss of sensory acuity did not rob her of mischief—she even tried to steal the two-way radio clipped to my pocket. In her sighted days she would occasion-

ally scan a group of human companions, slap on a wild, goofy grin, and start grabbing insteps. After she could no longer see feet, she still easily located human knees, and, with the same manic grin, subjected them to inhibited grabs, and appeared to enjoy the reaction.

Sometimes old wolves lose their voices, but, as the campfire song goes, "All God's critters got a place in the choir," explaining "some sing low, some sing higher...some just clap their hands, or paws, or anything they got." Pharyngeal paralysis is a condition in which a wolf, or dog, can no longer control its vocal cords to make audible sounds, and as long as the animal can eat and drink normally the condition does not require surgery. The wolves will still try to vocalize, but it sounds like whispering. They do not appear to be frustrated, or otherwise beset or bothered by this. Kiri and Socrates had a very stable relationship marked by highly ritualized aggression, in which they displayed rather than actually puncturing each other. Their rituals included what I called "drive by shoutings" when they would stand broad-side to each other, strike what looked like the lupine version of muscle poses and bellow loudly enough to be heard at either end of the park. Once they lost their voices, they had to conduct such shoutings in stage whispers.

Loss of kidney function is common in old dogs and in old wolves (and in old humans). As the kidneys gradually lose more and more of their efficiency, old wolves often compensate adequately for several years by drinking lots of fluids. In winter, although wolves can and will eat snow, I like them to have fresh water offered twice daily. On days when we de-ice buckets the wolves may be watered three times a day. My theory is that if we make drinking easy, then the old wolves are more likely to keep what kidney function they have, longer.

Socrates had an endearing fondness for warm or tepid water during cold weather. He'd wait at the bucket while we de-iced it and then drank heartily when we replaced the ice with water. Deneb was another story. Once we laboriously de-iced her bucket and put fresh, luke-warm water in it. Deneb inspected it and then pointedly ate snow. We had to laugh.

**The company they keep**

Apollo and Karin are an affectionate old pair who, in some respects, remind me of an old husband and wife who are still very attached to each other even after forty or fifty

years of marriage. We don't have to worry about them feeling lonely. However, as wolves age, some, inevitably, outlive their companions. Most of our singletons have always seemed to be more content if they were fairly close to other wolves. This year Socrates and Kiri were parted by Socrates' death. Kiri is now living by himself, but he is close to other wolves, and we are taking people in to visit him. He has become quite the social butterfly. He no longer has to share things with, or guard them from Socrates. He seems so cheerful that it is hard to remember that he and Tease were nicknamed The Grumpy Old Men. Likewise, Orca adjusted quite well to living in an enclosure by himself when he was removed from the main pack after his injury.

For elderly wolves without a compatible wolf companion, trusted familiar humans can fill some of the void. Some wolves are so outgoing that they may want to have a big rally with unfamiliar people. Both Orca and Kiri seem to have figured out that when we go in to visit them, during that time, each is lionized as The Wolf by admiring humans. At the point when Aurora wanted to leave the pack, she wanted nothing to do with wolves, so her preferred social interactions were with people. Back in the last century, I let Aurora meet some visitors; interacting with people, including new acquaintances, was an important part of her enrichment. In the adjacent pen was an elderly single male, Kuro, who had some hot spots or pressure sores, weak hindquarters, and other health issues that indicated he might be near the end of his "quality time." Some of the visitors expressed concern about his physical condition, and one of the visitors correctly interpreted Kuro's expressive behavior: "He wants to come too. Can he?" I explained that Aurora did not like Kuro, but after she had her visit, Kuro could come out and greet. When he got to come out, he strolled into their midst, eyes bright, tail gently wagging, ready to absorb the greetings and affection due him. After seeing him interact with people, those who had wondered about Kuro's health realized that Kuro did not seem like a sick suffering animal, rather one who was still actively enjoying himself. As it happened, Kuro was put to sleep, not too long after that day, being ready to go, but in his own time.

Part of our duty is to help the wolves make the most of their time. When we look into a pup's trusting face, we do not know who will die young, or who will live a long life. We only know that we must help it be a life well lived.



Orca

# Discovery Channel comes to Wolf Park



Udell and Nicole Dorsey, all from the University of Florida, have been working on some cognitive studies with our wolves. One of the questions they wanted to answer was, do wolves respond better or worse than dogs to cues from human handlers. Researchers in Hungary had claimed that dogs were better at following a human finger point than wolves, but Dr. Wynne learned about our Wolf Park wolves and their powerful relationships with their human companions, and wanted to test this further. His research confirmed that wolves can respond better than dogs to human cues, if they have been raised with humans in a manner more similar to the way dogs are raised with humans. Wolves that are less well socialized, and dogs that are less socialized, are also less responsive to humans.

The filming crew, John, Mark and Andre, worked all day at Wolf Park with the researchers, Wolf Park staff, our wolves and even some of the staff dogs. Look for the program on how animals think sometime after the holidays.



Photos by Gale Motter

## Andre and The Hat

When the Discovery Channel film crew arrived, Andre, the videographer found he had packed so quickly that he forgot his sun hat. We assured him that if Monty were here he would loan Andre a hat out of hospitality and the brotherhood of lensmen (secretly they are brothers from the sci-fi *Gray Lensmen Series*), and male bonding rituals. Dana got two of Monty's hats, which were parked in the store room, and offered Andre his choice. Andre passed up the floppy-brimmed cream confection with its little bow, in favor of the powder blue number with the stiffer brim. (Did I mention that these are both ladies' hats? Andre admired Monty's guts in

being able to wear them.) He donned the hat and used the chin strap to hoist one side giving it some Aussie flair, and his T shirt proved to be a blue that precisely matched the hat. He looked very good; Gale, Dana, and I were loud in our praise of his outfit. At the close of the day, Andre was gathering his equipment prior to trying to catch a plane, and he gave us back the hat. We told him that he and the hat (and maybe Monty as well) must have been separated at birth. We implored him to keep the hat. Andre was too polite to point out in so many words that the hat was not, technically, ours to give, but he did say he could not deprive Monty. So while he was out of sight, making one last check for forgotten items, a certain Gale, who shall remain nameless, snuck the hat into his bag. Conscience compels me to admit that, though I did not actually touch the hat, I enthusiastically instigated the act, which could, technically, be termed hat embezzlement. We hope that Andre was pleasantly surprised to find that the hat followed him home and would like to assure him that Monty has received a replacement hat just like it.

In September a film crew descended on Wolf Park to videotape for a new and upcoming program for the Discovery Channel. They came to film our wolves, and interview the group of researchers from Florida that have been doing research here for the past year. The program this footage will be featured in is about how animals think, and is supposed to air in January. The goal was to recreate and document the experiments that Dr. Clive Wynne and his research crew have been doing at Wolf Park with our wolves.

Over the past year, Dr. Wynne and his graduate students, Monique

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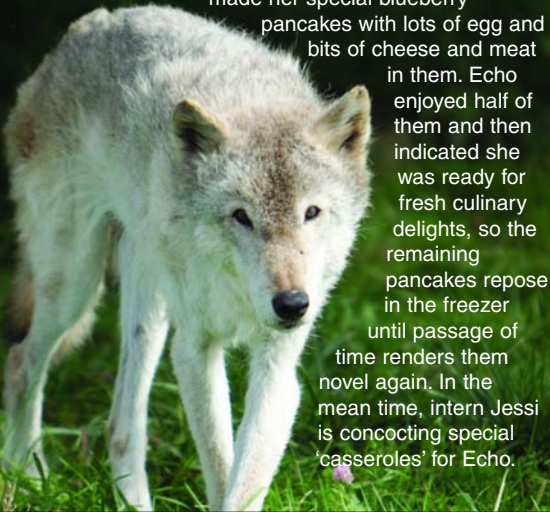
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# Our East Lake Wolves

## ECHO

Echo's puppy mom, Lois, was able to visit Echo this summer, which made Echo very very happy. Lois gave us several useful suggestions for treat food, and brought her some blue berry pancakes, which Echo enjoyed. Now, Blake, one of Echo's fans has made her special blueberry pancakes with lots of egg and bits of cheese and meat in them. Echo enjoyed half of them and then indicated she was ready for fresh culinary delights, so the remaining pancakes repose in the freezer until passage of time renders them novel again. In the mean time, intern Jessi is concocting special 'casseroles' for Echo.

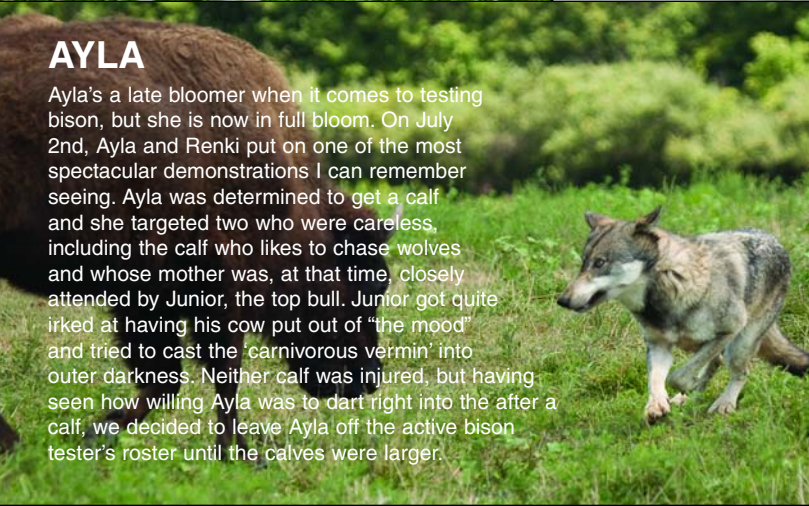


## KIRI

Kiri has cast off the mantle of a "grumpy old man" and donned the wings of a social butterfly. Not only is he doing drive-bys, on leash, on a frequent basis, but we are starting to take more people into his enclosure. He sits in Gale's lap. He has tummy rubs (though not from everyone). He hangs out for ear scratches and goes from person to person getting lots of scratches and massage. At clean ups he wants to swipe things. In mid July Monty and I were tidying his enclosure. Behind my back I heard the sound of a raspberry being blown. After we left I asked Monty if he had blown in Kiri's nose. "Yes," replied Monty, "he tried to get my hat." Kiri is still Kiri .

## AYLA

Ayla's a late bloomer when it comes to testing bison, but she is now in full bloom. On July 2nd, Ayla and Renki put on one of the most spectacular demonstrations I can remember seeing. Ayla was determined to get a calf and she targeted two who were careless, including the calf who likes to chase wolves and whose mother was, at that time, closely attended by Junior, the top bull. Junior got quite irked at having his cow put out of "the mood" and tried to cast the 'carnivorous vermin' into outer darkness. Neither calf was injured, but having seen how willing Ayla was to dart right into the after a calf, we decided to leave Ayla off the active bison tester's roster until the calves were larger.



## MARION

Marion and Miska tolerate each other. She still guards things from him but it's been months since I've caught her being gratuitously mean, such as waiting until he stands up with his paws on the fence to greet us face-to-face and then lunging and biting his belly. She sits politely at the fence for treats and lets Miska have his. Most of the time Marion just wants treats and visits from humans (preferably Monty, but others will do). Marion likes visits so much she lets Gale give her pedicures. Gale carries heavy duty toenail clippers with her these days and makes the wolves' claws

targets of opportunity. Especially those ninja dewclaws. Gale does a lot of the toenails with the wolf standing on the ground watching her wait for a chance to slide the clippers around the end of the toenail, clamp down and, voila, the nail is cut.



the misdemeanor of mowing over at East Lake. One in particular, Brinn, wanted to make friends with her and Eclipse was coming up to her at the fence before her internship was over. In early June we moved her into an enclosure along the loop trail, but one with pens on either side, so she will have wolves on three sides of her and she is closer to visitors. She seems to be handling it well, although of her immediate neighbors only Marion and Erin are likely to fence fight. Karin (and Apollo) are currently in the center pen, and Karin, who has been feeling the heat, is much less inclined to fence fight. To the east of her is sixteen year old Echo, who has given up fence fighting. Though Eclipse is not able to get Echo to fence fight, she is sometimes interested in the buffet of treats Echo gets and sometimes Eclipse gets some of those treats that Echo rejects.

## ECLIPSE

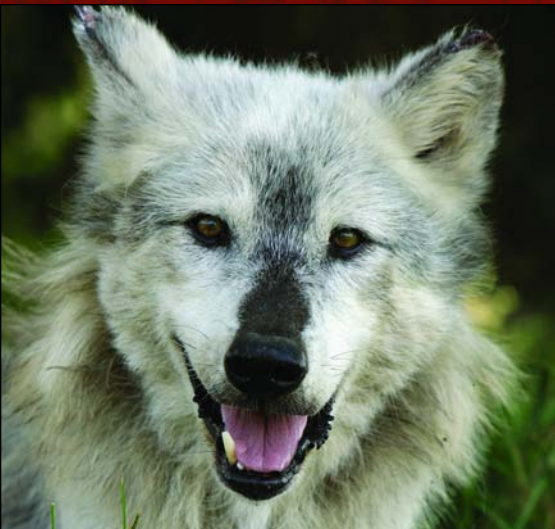
Our shy girl is sometimes willing to approach interns, even though the summer flock of interns committed



## ORCA

Orca is still pottering around bipedally, not having secondary health problems, and willing to work at therapy provided a) it's not too hot, and b) he's got an appetite. His legs are still strong enough for him to stand up without a boost. In early August he stood up when Dana noticed that he had gotten his hind paws under himself, with the pads down instead of the knuckles. She used a treat to lure him into a stand and he stood up! We've also seen him repeatedly trying to walk with his hind legs instead of his forelegs. It is still the problem of his right hind leg over balancing him, plus often not getting his hind feet under him pads down.





## APOLLO

This year we are switching from Interceptor to Heartguard, which is being donated by member Sandy Turmail. Apollo flatly refused to eat a Heartguard Chewable, making him a rare bird among the hordes of wolves and dogs who love them. I tried disguising it with cream cheese and that did not work. So I needled him about it by getting some injectable Ivermectin from the clinic and giving Mr. Apollo a shot.



## MISKA

Despite their détente, Miska still seems to entertain some suspicion of Marion's intentions. He is no Charlie Brown, to gullibly believe some designing female's promises of good behavior, and would simply seize the football from Lucy and shred it. Mostly he is friendly with us but sometimes he is in a bad mood and threatens. In the latter half of August Gale and I went in to clean. Marion pushed her way into the airlock and rather than try to persuade her out right away, we decided to let her stay there and have Miska all to ourselves. Alas, our hopes of a cuddly Moo were dashed. Maybe it was his proximity to an agitated Marion, who was cussing her lack of opposable thumbs and trying to let herself into the corridor. Maybe it was barrier frustration – Marion was there, working on a "project" and he was not. Whatever the cause he suddenly drew himself up and growled in Gale's face, while trying to stare her down. She stood up and the two of us treated him rather as we used to treat Apollo when he growled as we were about to leash him and take him somewhere. We broke off social interaction with Miska and behaved as if he wasn't there, talking to each other about how we'd be happy to pet and massage a nice wolf if there was one around, but there wasn't... Despite that incident, Miska has been mostly nice to us this summer, although he is not always pleased to have his ears creamed with fly repellent.

## KARIN

Karin is still not quite right, but she seems quite cheerful. At the end of August she had only shed her winter coat on her belly, legs, and lower sides. Even using Monty's popular Revolution Rake only removes what's loose and her remaining winter coat was hanging on tight. She has been fortunate in the weather, since fat wolves, and dogs, have more trouble staying cool in hot weather. This summer has been unseasonably nice. We make sure she has ice and we have put her in a cool enclosure furnished with a partly buried concrete cylinder,

which is kept even cooler by the spreading mulberry that shades it. We have her on a good anti-inflammatory, but we suspect she may be developing Cushing's disease. She certainly has some of the most obvious symptoms: weight gain, abnormal shedding schedule, and she does not seem stiff or arthritic. The good news is that, should it be Cushings, it can be managed and lived with.

## ERIN

Erin's ears looked badly bitten only twice this season, a significant reduction for the wolf with the second tastiest set of ears at the Park. We are grateful to those who contributed to let us buy fly predators to control the population of ear-biting flies. Erin being

Erin, we're always aware that she may "shark." She tried to several times this summer and I expect the coming years will be the same. If, by staying calm, and giving her other things to do, we can keep directing her away from sharking to other, more acceptable behavior, I'll be happy. We were pleasantly surprised when Erin did not raise her fin when the Fluffies' automatic waterer malfunctioned and Amanda took it apart and spent an hour squatting over it, counseling it and giving it therapy\*. Erin was interested but not obnoxious. \*The waterer quit malingering after Amanda rolled it.



## CHETAN

In early June Amanda moved the rootballs she's collected into enclosure #12 at East Lake, aka The Fluffies Honeymoon Suite. Now Chetan and Erin have more things to dig dens under. They did exactly that. Chetan often uses one of the dens during the day to avoid Indiana's summer heat, and its biting pests. He will often refuse to leave it while it's hot so unfortunately for our visitors they were most likely to see Chetan's stately white form during our Wolf Park After Hours programs once a month, when he deigns to come out in the cool of the evening.





## *At Wolf Park we study wolves from an ethological point of view.*

This is but one way to study them. This means we describe their behavior and movement patterns and postures as objectively as we can, including vocalizations. Photographs, sketches and video recordings are techniques which leave a permanent record to be examined by anyone. With recordings we make we might also note the situations in which the behavior was observed. Finally comes the interpretation of what we saw. The fact of what was seen is not in dispute, but the interpretations

may vary according to the knowledge and interests of the observer. Looking at behavior patterns, an experienced observer can often deduce the underlying motivations, whether the behavior pertains to courtship, health maintenance, fighting, or parental care.

We created and published an Ethogram, which is an inventory of descriptions of behavior patterns and the situations in which they are observed. Many behavior patterns and postures listed in our Ethogram are illustrated with Monty Sloan's photographs. This Ethogram can also serve as a basis of comparison to other canidae, e.g. coyotes, red

wolves, bush dogs, African wild dogs, foxes and more.

The function of an Ethogram - for any species - is that various observers and researchers can use the same descriptions of the behaviors among themselves, rather than each coming up with their own. This makes it easier to compare one's observations and research using a shared vocabulary. Our Ethogram is utilized by many wolf researchers across the U.S. and in other countries. You will notice that in our newsletter there is great emphasis on individual personality, i.e. behavior profiles. Rank order can be recognized, as well as differences

in the way the wolves interact with each other and with their human companions. Such individual differences can only rarely be recognized in the wild. Ecologists have different concerns from ours. For example, they want to know how many wolves occupy what territory; what prey do they hunt and how, etc. But by understanding more about individual wolves and their differences, wild wolf researchers can understand the behavior they observe better. We believe this is our contribution to wolf research, and we share it with you in our newsletter, sponsor updates, and on our tours here at the Park.

If you really want to understand wolves come to Wolf Park first and then visit Yellowstone National Park. If you spend some time watching our wolves among themselves, then when you see some bits and pieces of behavior in the wild - often at great distances - you will better understand what you are seeing. Besides, just seeing the great variability of the wolves' personalities is impressive.

To read about wolves in the wild I recommend: "Decade of the Wolf: Returning the Wild to Yellowstone" By Douglas W. Smith and Gary Ferguson. April 2005.

To purchase our Wolf Ethogram, go to [wolfparkstore.com](http://wolfparkstore.com), or call the office.

## Youth Programs Offer A Howlin' Good Time

By Amy Beaupre

Wolf Park currently offers Overnight Camps, Day Camps, and our Junior Volunteer program for children. Such opportunities allow youngsters to learn about wildlife, the environment, and community service in a safe, fun, and beautiful place - Wolf Park! So if you have children, know children, or work with them, please share the following information and encourage them to visit Wolf Park and participate in our youth programs.

Our Kid's Overnight Camps and Day Camps are a great way to learn about wolves, foxes, coyotes, and bison as well as other neat things in the environment. Our programs are fun and educational in nature. Activities are chosen based on the age of the children in attendance so that learning is fun and age appropriate. Examples of such activities are tracking games, clicker

training, crafts, decorating t-shirts, and identifying other small local wildlife. Our programs are unique in that children get to assist with animal care by filling water buckets from outside the enclosures, meet foxes under adult supervision, and ride in the infamous "Big Orange Truck" during the Wolf-Bison demonstration during overnights, or a tour of the bison field during day camp.

During overnight stays the children get to have a cook out, roll out their sleeping bags in our educational building, roast s'mores over an open camp fire, and have a "howlin'" good time later into the evening than the day camps. Our day camps and overnights are offered throughout the summer months with each session designated for a particular age group. Please refer to our website for program dates and ages. Overnight camps cost is \$50 per

child and includes meals and craft supplies. (Weekend campers arrive at 1 pm Saturday, and finish at 4 pm Sunday) Day camps cost \$40 and include craft materials with campers bringing their lunches. (Day camps are two consecutive weekdays from 9 am - 4 pm) A Howls and Growls subscription, our kids newsletter, is included in both registrations. Wolf Park can accommodate up to 12 children in each of our programs.

This summer, our day camp participants had the opportunity for off-site adventures!

The younger children visited the Columbian Park Zoo in Lafayette and the older kids visited a local veterinary clinic. In addition to the unique and fun experience provided by Wolf Park, the campers had the opportunity to see other facilities expanding their awareness and knowledge of animal care.

Our Junior Volunteer (JV) Program is for children 8 - 15 years of age who are able to spend time at the park on a regular basis. This program offers the opportunity to learn about our animals, animals in the wild, and assist with activities at the park such as decorating for our upcoming Pumpkin Party and Visit with Santa. Thus the children get to learn, have fun, and provide a service to their community. Junior volunteers meet the first Saturday of the month with some of the kids coming out at other times to assist with tasks around the park.

We look forward to having more children join us in the upcoming year! Wolf Park Youth Programs are definitely a "howlin' good time! Please visit our website, contact our office weekdays 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., or email John Davis, Education Director at [wolfparkkids@aol.com](mailto:wolfparkkids@aol.com) for more information on all of our youth programs.

Back in the 1990's, Dr. Klinghammer would travel to Europe every summer visiting his mother, visiting friends, and giving lectures about wolves. Many of these talks were held at a well-known sled dog tack and harness store, the Klondike Shop in Staefa, Switzerland.

With the passing of his mother and the decline in his health making travel difficult, Dr. Klinghammer could no longer go to Europe and give these well received lectures about wolves. Then a good friend, and a good friend of Wolf Park, Dr. Nicola Osypka, invited me to go to Switzerland and give a couple seminars about wolves like Erich had done many years before. It turned out to be a great trip.

Heidi Mueller, the owner of the Klondike Shop was incredibly welcoming. She and her family really made us feel at home there and really made the entire stay a wonderful experience.

Rather than go all that way and only give a couple weekend seminars, I decided to make a bigger trip and visit as many people and places as possible in a three week period. Aside from my giving two 2-day seminars about wolf behavior and what we do at Wolf Park, we also visited several wildlife parks in Switzerland including Langenberg and Goldau, as well as seeing Mongolian wolves (I got some really nice photos of them) in Zurich, meeting up with old friends and making many new friends.

From Switzerland we took a train to Hungary. When I was in Budapest in July at the Canine Science Forum, I met up with Dora Újváry from the HORKAI ANIMAL COORDINATION TEAM ([www.horkai.com](http://www.horkai.com)) in Gödöllo just outside of Budapest. I did not have

a chance to visit them on that trip, but on this return visit I was able to visit their facility and visit with their wolves. They have quite a number of animals including horses, bears and even European wild boar, but the wolves were my primary interest.

The wolves were quite well socialized, but like the wolves here at Wolf Park, not all were good with strangers. The pack of European / North American wolf crosses was quite good with people, so I got to spend some time with them.

Dora was very helpful, and we also had a chance to sit down and talk to the founder, Zoltán Horkai, who created the facility about 10 years ago. They handle the wolves a bit differently than we do, but they have some really well socialized wolves who have done some interesting movie work. When I saw the film "Blood and Chocolate", I wondered



who trained the wolf actors in the movie as there were scenes with real wolves together in packs (not something commonly seen in movies). Now I know who trained them, and have met some of those wolves!

From Hungary we traveled back to Austria where we spent four days with a good friend of Erich's, Dr. Wolfgang Schleidt and his wife. Dr. Schleidt worked with turkeys, a bird researcher like Dr. Klinghammer started out. Wolfgang (who our wolf Wolfgang is named after if you are wondering) was a wonderful host. He was a great tour guide, and knew so much of the history of Vienna that going out with him was better than any typical tour guide since he was speaking from so much personal experience. At 80+ years old he has a lifetime of memories to share.

There is a new program at an existing wolf facility; it's the Wolf Science Center in Grunau ([www.wolfscience.at/english/](http://www.wolfscience.at/english/)) where they are hand raising and studying four black phased North American wolves who were born at another wildlife park in Austria. Zsófia Virányi was wonderful in helping coordinate everything for our visit and Dr. Kurt Kotschal was very open to suggestions and ideas I had about working with their somewhat shy wolves. The wolves are there to



study cooperation, cognition and the relationships they form with people. The wolves are being raised by people, but also have many dogs to interact with so it is a very different setup than we have here at Wolf Park. I took a LOT of photos.

Website excerpt:  
*Although it is clear that human collaborative skills are exceptional, comparisons with animals may reveal the evolutionary origins and the functional relevance of cooperation. Moreover, such a comparative approach may provide us with the opportunity to understand the proximate mechanisms and the development of cooperation in ontogeny.*

*Thus, to gain a full insight into the evolutionary, emotional and cognitive processes as well as into the development of cooperation, the main objective of our project is to investigate these aspects of cooperation in an integrative and comparative model.*

We also got to visit the Konrad Lorenz Forschungsstelle where Konrad Lorenz did much of his latter research. Then we visited his actual home near Vienna. That was really interesting and the work he started with graylag geese and other animals continues to this day.

In all it was a great trip and I hope to be able to return next year!

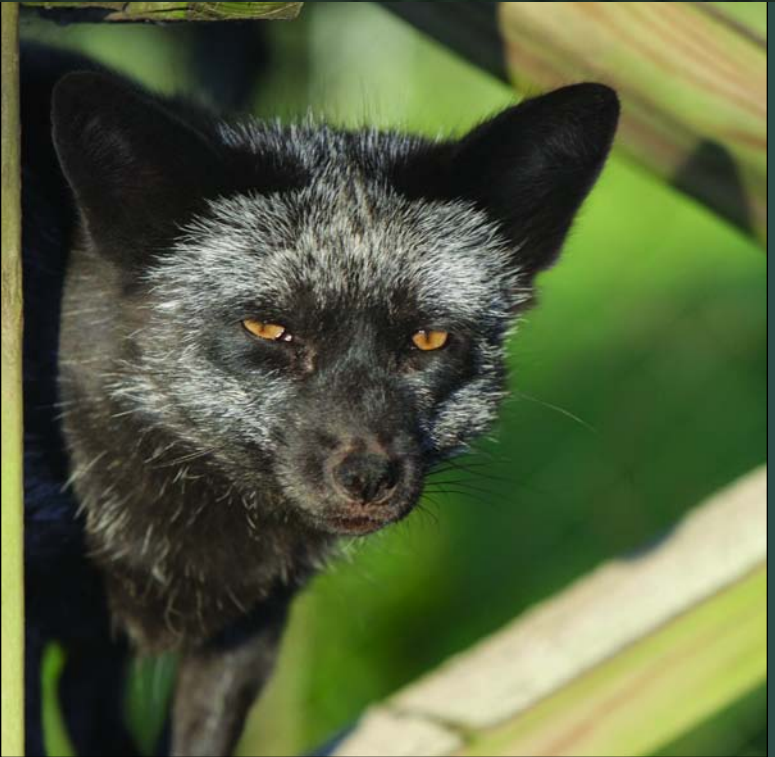
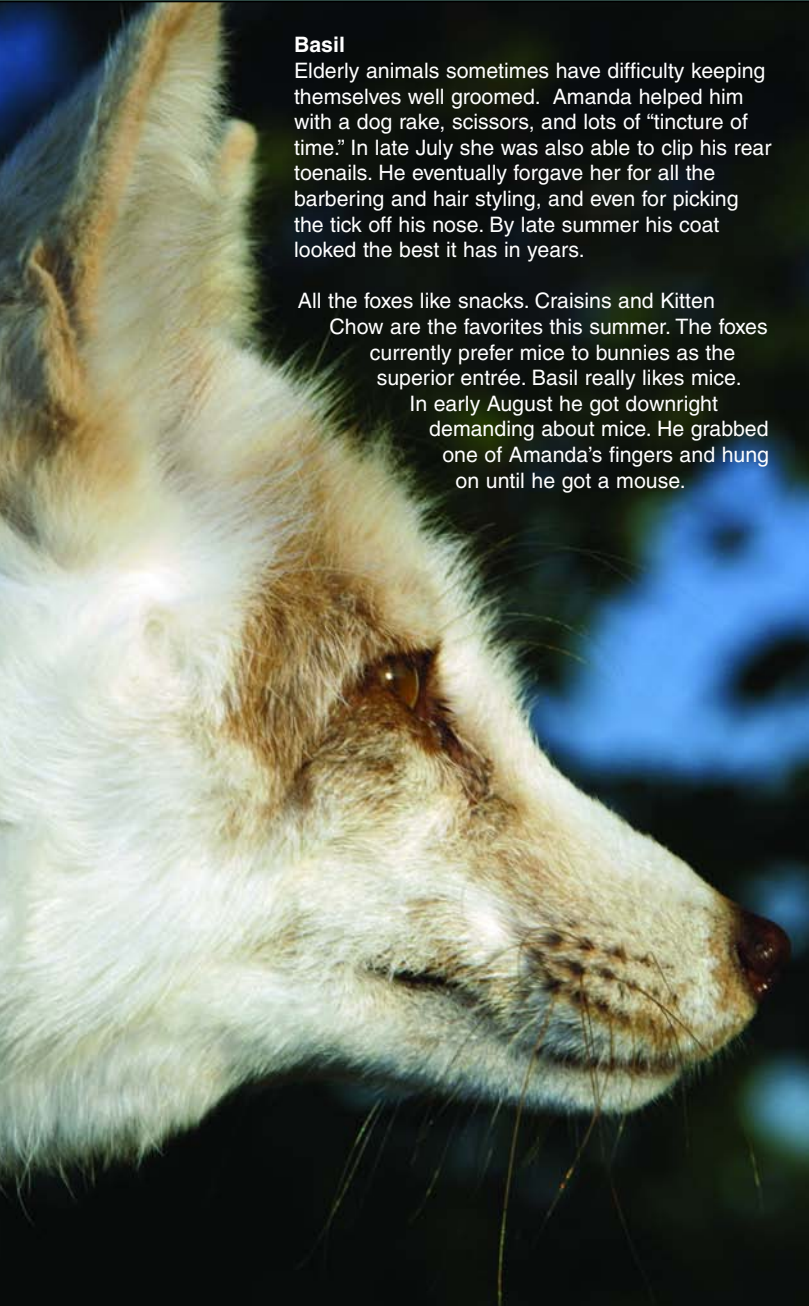


The foxes' pond gave some trouble this summer. It was holey in places and its waterfall needed replacing. When Amanda replaced the waterfall, fixed the pump, and rescued the fish caught in the filter, the fish could relax – on one occasion the pond drained and the tails of some of the larger fish were exposed to the air. But they survived. Luckily the foxes prefer mice to fish as well as to rabbits, because the fish were certainly vulnerable to vulpine predation at “low tide!”

## Basil

Elderly animals sometimes have difficulty keeping themselves well groomed. Amanda helped him with a dog rake, scissors, and lots of “tincture of time.” In late July she was also able to clip his rear toenails. He eventually forgave her for all the barbering and hair styling, and even for picking the tick off his nose. By late summer his coat looked the best it has in years.

All the foxes like snacks. Craisins and Kitten Chow are the favorites this summer. The foxes currently prefer mice to bunnies as the superior entrée. Basil really likes mice. In early August he got downright demanding about mice. He grabbed one of Amanda's fingers and hung on until he got a mouse.



## Devon

Petting Devon is always special, because Devon doesn't always want to be petted. But in late June she raced up to Amanda and flopped on her back. Amanda sensed that Dev wanted something, specifically a tummy rub! That was a red-letter event, as was organizing the foxes' vaccinations on July 1. The first attempt to catch Devon failed, but she and Bas ran into an airlock together. Assuming Ember would require the squeeze cage, Amanda put it in the airlock, and then opened the inner door so the foxes could investigate. Devon and Basil explored the squeeze cage separately and together, but Mr. Murphy (of Murphy's Law) must have been laughing because neither of the interested exploratory foxes was Ember. But Amanda had the last laugh because she was able to give Dev both shots as Devon stood near the interior door.



## Ember

In addition to opening a classy barber shop for gentlemen foxes, Amanda also offered salon hours for the ladies. Ember allowed Amanda to brush her a little bit. In addition to snacks, the foxes occasionally catch small prey that gets into their enclosure. Amanda heard that there

was a dead possum, a juvenile, in the fox enclosure, but was not able to find it. She did find that they had caught a bird, and in early June, she found a 3 foot fox snake in their enclosure. (Where else should one look for a fox snake?)

Amanda baited Ember into the airlock with bunnies on July 2 for vaccinations, and Ember, being quite hungry, entered the airlock where both bunnies and hypodermics awaited. Amanda made haste to shut the airlock door and Ember must have known than

that this was a “gotcha.” Within five minutes of shutting Ember in the airlock, Amanda had given Ember both her shots and a bunny. She even touched Amanda's fingertips a couple of times after being released, so Amanda thinks their relationship is as good as ever.



Photos by Gale Motter

It's fun to run across an old friend. This summer, while on my way into Battle Ground, I stopped to look at a snake along the road. The short, stocky snake immediately puffed up, flattened his head and neck to make one look larger, and then striking at the offending creature. Of course, because it is all an act, a snake will never actually strike with an open mouth.

This small harmless snake puts on an Oscar worthy performance when threatened. The play goes something like this:

**Act 1:** Look as dangerous as possible. This includes puffing, flattening ones head and neck to make one look larger, and then striking at the offending creature. Of course, because it is all an act, a snake will never actually strike with an open mouth.

**Act 2:** Because threatening didn't work one must now convince the enemy that one is not worth eating, i.e. "I'm sick and dying". One must look like one is going into convulsions. One must writhe around, with tongue hanging out and finally roll over presenting the belly, which is the only position a good dead snake should be in. If for some reason returned onto one's belly, a proper hognose snake must immediately flip onto its back once more. To be a dead snake one has to be on one's back!



**Twister** can make Willow back down but he often acts apprehensive around her despite his larger size and recent string of successes in backing her down. I suspect she has let him know he can't bully her with impunity; after all, he has to sleep sometime...

The yotes' puppy father, Nick, dearly wanted to go in and visit Twister, who has remained friendly to him through the fence. We managed this

by leashing Willow and taking her to a holding pen down the corridor; she is still very aggressive to Nick through the fence. Twister and Nick had a very touching reunion. Their visit lasted about half an hour. Andrew, their senior puppy dad, also visited them this summer.

**Willow** is more prone to threatening people than Twister is. She still stalks interns but can usually set the threatening behavior aside temporarily to work on Taking Treats Gently Through the Fence. Then she goes back to threatening. Some interns she will take treats from, others cannot give her treats but they can stand next to other people giving Willow treats and she will ignore them while earning tasty morsels. When the morsels are gone, she resumes her regularly scheduled threats. By chance we learned that you should never, never NEVER do a cartwheel in front of Willow if you want to keep her regard. One of our interns spontaneously cartwheeled about forty feet from the 'yote enclosure, and Willow went ballistic! I have seldom been so glad for the extra wide overhang topping their enclosure! Besides spectacular gravity defying leaps, Willow had hackles raised beginning just behind her ears and going all the way down her tail indicating that she was very very very very very aggressively aroused.



**Coyotes** (*Canis latrans*)  
Its Latin name, *Canis latrans*, means "barking dog."  
**Twister** (Left) - Male - Born April 3, 2006  
**Willow** (Above) - Female - Born April 2, 2006

## Adopt a Wolf Program



### Sponsor Benefits

One Year Sponsorship is \$175

- Select a wolf, fox coyote or bison to sponsor
- Receive quarterly updates and photos
- Our Wolf Park quarterly newsletter
- Invitations to special events
- A keepsake of the animal's hair
- Special educational session about wolf visits
- Personal visits with animal or "stand in" animal (restrictions apply)
- Optional photo documentation of the visit
- Free admission to park for you and your family

### Interns and Practicums

**Jessica Hamman** came to Wolf Park from Chicago where she works as a dog trainer, and attends Northeastern Illinois University. She has been our sole fall intern, so has been very busy with all her jobs, from giving tours to feeding the wolves. Jessi has an interest in both wolf conservation and wildlife rehabilitation.

**Gaby Dufresne-Cyr** came to us from Montreal for a one month practicum visit. Gaby is a dog trainer in Canada. She has been working with dogs for most of her life, and has also had the chance to work with the wolves at Park Safari Zoo.

She was here to learn more about wolf behavior.

**Mark Evans** is originally from Wales, but has lived in Australia, Africa and currently is based out of Canada. He spent a month at Wolf Park this fall learning about wolf behavior and the function of a small wildlife focused non-profit. Mark works for a company that does eco-tourism, and also is involved in documentary filmmaking. He is working to stop the trapping of wolves and other animals in Quebec, Canada.

# 2009 Seminars & Camps

Sign up for Seminars and Camps at [WolfParkStore.com](http://WolfParkStore.com)

# 2009 Calendar of Events

Visit [WolfPark.org](http://WolfPark.org) for details and updates

- February**  
6-8 Behavior Intensive Weekend  
Photo Shoot #1
- March**  
7 Photo Seminar #1  
14 Photo Shoot #2  
20-22 Wolves for Artists with Jan Martin McGuire  
23 Photo Shoot #3  
28 Photo Seminar #2
- April**  
5 Photo Seminar #3  
11 Photo Seminar #4  
18 Photo Seminar #5  
25-26 Kids Overnight Camp for ages 9-12
- May**  
2 Mini- Intensive- Dogs and Wolves  
27-31 Behavior and Captive Management of Wolves Seminar
- June**  
12-14 Wolf Intensive Weekend  
27-28 Overnight Camp for ages 11-12



- July**  
11 Mini-Intensive – Dogs and Wolves  
18-19 Overnight Camp for ages 8-10  
24-26 Seminar with Ken McCort  
Wolves vs Dogs- behavior analysis
- August**  
1-2 Overnight Camp for ages 13-14  
29 Mini-Intensive – Wolf Conservation
- September**  
11-13 Seminar with Suzanne Clothier  
Relationship-based dog training

- October**  
5 Fall Photo Seminar #1  
10 Mini-Intensive – Wolf Conservation  
12 Photo Seminar #2  
19 Photo Shoot #1
- November**  
2 Photo Seminar #3  
6-8 Wolf Intensive Weekend #2  
9 Photo Shoot #2  
20-22 Seminar with Ray Coppinger (TENTATIVE)  
23 Photo Seminar #4
- December**  
5 Photo Seminar #5  
13 Photo Shoot #3



- January**  
10 Full Moon Howl Night  
17 Winter Wolves, open 1-5 pm
- February**  
4-6 HASTI conference in Indianapolis  
14 Wild Valentines— Open 1-5 pm, plus special Howl program
- March**  
29 Wolf Park Open House 1-4 pm
- April**  
4 Wolf Park Easter Celebration, open 1-4 pm  
5 Park open 1-5 pm Tours only  
11 Park open 1-5 pm Tours only  
12 Closed for Easter  
18 Park open 1-5 pm Tours only  
19 Park open 1-5 pm Tours only  
26 Park open 1-5 pm Tours only
- May**  
1 Park OPEN for Season!  
9 Full Moon Howl Night & Wolf Park After Hours  
16 Meet the Director @ 3 pm
- June**  
6 Dog Days  
6 Wolf Park After Hours  
20 Meet the Director @ 3pm  
27 Watermelons for Wolves
- July**  
4 Park Open 1-5 (No Howl Night)  
15 Meet the Director @ 3 pm  
18 Wolf Park After Hours
- August**  
15 Meet the Director & 3 pm  
15 Wolf Park After Hours
- September**  
4 Full Moon Howl Night  
7 Park open today for tours  
19 Meet the Director @ 3pm  
19 Wolf Park After Hours
- October**  
17 Meet the Director @ 3pm  
17 Wolf Park After Hours  
24 Pumpkins for Wolves Halloween Event
- November**  
14 Wolf Park After Hours  
21 Meet the Director at 3 pm  
30 Park CLOSE for season
- December**  
12 Santa Visits Wolf Park, open 1-4 pm  
26-27 Open Hours 1-5 pm

## Are You a Member of Wolf Park Yet?

We offer Individual, Family, Special Group Memberships and Wolf Sponsorship

### Membership Benefits

- Free entrance into the Park for the year
- Our Wolf Park quarterly newsletter
- Invitations to special events
- Discounts on books in our Gift Shop
- Being the basis of support for us!

### Membership Rate:

- Single Membership ~\$35.00
- Family Membership ~\$50.00
- Wolf Sponsorship ~\$175.00

**Wolf Park**  
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(765) 567-2265  
[WolfPark.org](http://WolfPark.org)

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	Pat Goodmann
	Gale Motter
	Monty Sloan

## Open Hours and Admission Rates

	Sundays	Monday	Tuesdays	Wednesdays	Thursdays	Fridays	Saturdays
<b>Off Season</b> December 1 - April 30	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	<b>Howl Nights</b> 7:30 pm (Gates open at 7:15)
<b>Visitor Season</b> May 1 - November 30	Open 1 - 5 Wolf/Bison Demonstration Demonstrations & Lectures Guided Tours	Closed	Open 1 - 5 pm Guided Tours	Open 1 - 5 pm Guided Tours	Open 1 - 5 pm Guided Tours	Open 1 - 5 pm Guided Tours <b>Howl Nights 7:30</b> (Gates open at 7:15)	Open 1 - 5 pm Guided Tours Demonstrations & Lectures <b>Howl Nights 7:30</b> (Gates open at 7:15)
<b>Admission</b>	Children 5 & under Free Children 6-13 \$6.00 14 and older \$8.00	Closed	Children 5 & under Free Children 6-13 \$5.00 14 and older \$7.00	Children 5 & under Free Children 6-13 \$5.00 14 and older \$7.00	Children 5 & under Free Children 6-13 \$5.00 14 and older \$7.00	Children 5 & under Free Children 6-13 \$5.00 14 and older \$7.00 <b>Howl Nights</b> Children 5 & under Free Children 6-13 \$5.00 14 and older \$7.00 <b>Combo Tickets</b> Children \$8.00 & Adults \$12.00	Children 5 & under Free Children 6-13 \$5.00 14 and older \$7.00 <b>Howl Nights</b> Children 5 & under Free Children 6-13 \$5.00 14 and older \$7.00 <b>Combo Tickets</b> Children \$8.00 & Adults \$12.00
<b>Members Are FREE!</b>							



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