



WOLF
PARK

WolfPark.org

Winter 2008

The Wolf Park News

Breeding Season Watch: A Reminiscence

by Pat Goodmann

Unlike people, or even dogs, wolves only have one time each year when they can mate and conceive. For all species, the importance of this part of the life cycle can't be underestimated, and it is one of the greatest driving forces of any living organism. So for us to learn about this aspect of wolves' lives is also of great importance. I have been observing the wolves of Wolf Park every breeding season since 1975, more than 30 years, and I would like to share with you some of the ups and downs of this ever fascinating time of year.

Even after thirty years, the wolves will always surprise you. Breeding season occurs in late January and February, and it starts off with the females showing external bleeding. Or not. A couple of years ago Karin wasn't bleeding and wasn't bleeding and wasn't blee... waitaminute—there she was tied with Apollo.

Wolves usually become sexually mature at two or three years of age (or, more accurately, about 22 months or even 34 months). This is entirely true, except when they reach sexual maturity at 10 months! Gemini was one of those precocious young females, and because she was an "early bloomer," we got to have Betsy, and from Betsy and Sergei came NK, Chani, and Sierra – a very special wolf family.

Just as the start of the season can take you by surprise, the end of the season can take an unexpected turn. We've often thought it was a pretty good bet to stop watching a female after three days without any mating. But on a couple of occasions we thought that one female had "gone off the boil," since the males had left her for another female who had just started to "boil." Then after the males'

interest in that second female started to die down, they returned to the first female (with whom we thought they were finished) and mated a little more.

Once the wolves begin mating, we begin several weeks of 24 hour observation. So what do we look for during this time? Courtship and mating, of course, but we see a lot of other things because the wolves do more of everything during breeding season, except rest.

For example, females' marking postures often change. When they do raised-leg urination outside of winter, they squat as usual, and while squatting, lift a leg. In the winter, however, they will stand up straight or nearly straight and lift a leg.

During this time of year, wolves also differ in how willing they are to allow visits from humans, even familiar ones. Some, like D'Artagnon, welcomed us into the enclosure—but for the wrong reasons. He was raised in a zoo around humans and kept away from canines until he was five or six months old; they did not know they were creating a wolf who would never relate very well to his own kind. He

showed to humans the full range of social behaviors that are normally shown to other wolves. By the full range of social behavior, I mean the full range of social behavior. D'Arty was shocked and

Renki

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 by Erich Klinghammer, Ph.D, Director in 1972.

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Wolf Park Wolves

At Wolf Park the breeding season is on. Normal courtship and mating will occur, but there will be no pups. Kailani, the only female in our main pack, has been sterilized, because she is closely related to the other wolves in the pack, and reproduction could result in wolves that are inbred. The next time we do have pups, they will come from an outside source, so that we can introduce new genes into the pack.

This is also the first year that we do not have enough volunteers on hand to mount a 24-hour observation schedule for the breeding season, as we have done annually for about 30 years. Pat Goodmann will work to collect the more pertinent data. Meanwhile, we will be working on the analysis of the data from the previous breeding seasons.

Wolves in the Wild

The wolves in the wild have done well under the federal government's management. Since the reintroduction of wolves to the Northern Rockies in 1995, the population there has grown to about 1500 wolves. Now the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is saying that the wolf population exceeds the recovery goals and so they are seeking to delist the wolf in 2008 in Montana, Wyoming, Idaho and parts of Washington, Utah, and Oregon. This means that these states would be responsible for wolf management within each of their boundaries. As part of that management, the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks plans to establish a hunting season on wolves, once the USFWS delists the wolf.

In January the federal government changed some of the rules under the Endangered Species Act. These rules are called the 10j rules, and they govern experimental reintroductions. The change in rules will allow the states of Idaho, Montana and Wyoming to kill hundreds of the wolves in the Northern Rockies if they believe the wolves are causing damage to prey populations. The states of Wyoming and Idaho have made it clear that they would prefer to have smaller wolf numbers in their states than they currently have. The change in the "10j" rule opens the door to this massacre. The states would only have to prove that wolves are part of the cause of the inability of elk and deer to meet state management goals. Human hunters go after prize specimens of elk while wolves mostly kill young, old and the weak and sick adults. Wolves typically do not harm prey populations, and can even help them stay healthy, but the prey species are managed for the benefit of human hunters.

There is also a beneficial effect the introduction of wolves has had on the entire Yellowstone ecosystem. This includes changing the behavior of elk, which has impacted plant species, and benefiting grizzly bears and many other species by adding the biomass from their carcasses to the ecosystem. The federal government spent millions to reintroduce wolves into Yellowstone and the surrounding region, and now more money could be spent to kill most of them off again.



This December Wolf Park held its sixth annual Christmas Party for kids and wolves. A waving, smiling Santa arrived in a red convertible driven by Mrs. Claus. Excited children helped trim the Main Pack's Christmas tree with edible ornaments made out of cheese, summer sausage, cheese whiz type goo, peanut butter, colored spaghetti "tinsel," and Christmas cookies. Some enterprising culinary artist had whittled a creditable Christmas star for the tree out of a block of Velveeta.

Staff member **John Davis** carried the pack's tree in, dropping edible ornaments in its wake. The pack was locked in the holding pen so that they would not loot and pillage the tree until it was in place. Renki had been afraid of going into the holding pen where he would be with Wolfgang and Wotan who would surely make him "play" rounds of "can you feel it when I do *this*?" Therefore Renki was first to the tree. With a look of intense pleasure, he carefully lifted the star from the top of the tree and ate it. Then the pack was released and pandemonium ensued. The tree was undecorated by busy and appreciative wolves. Dropped ornaments were picked up by the staff and discreetly passed along to wolves like Ruedi, who was a little afraid to go near the tree at first, because of Wolf-gang and Wotan. The treats must have been especially good this year.

Not even the spaghetti tinsel was left by Howl Night.

After the pack received its tree the children were invited to take a break from the cold and meet Santa in the education building. There Santa drilled them in fractions and geography. Just kidding. He passed out gifts and asked the children what they would like to receive for Christmas. If the children wanted to they could sit on Santa's lap. There were warm drinks and snacks for humans, who might understandably need something warming, and something to eat, since there is often something inspiring to the human appetite about watching wolves pleasure in their food.

Visitors up for some healthy exercise, and seeing more wolves, got to tour East Lake and watch the wolves there get their trees. The coyotes got a Christmas tree too, provided by volunteer **Ashleigh Smith**, one of their puppy mothers. We were amused to see that *this* year it was larger than any of the wolves' trees. Previously only the main pack got a tree and the other wolves got individual goodie bags. This year Ashleigh made the trees from boughs pruned and recycled from regular Christmas trees and stuck in stands. The results were a series of little bonsai-like "trees" endearingly reminiscent of the Christmas tree bought by Charlie Brown in his annual Christmas Special. They were decorated with treats and delivered to all the enclosures at East Lake *



About Our Photography

All photographs in this newsletter were created by Monty Sloan, unless otherwise noted. Aside from Monty's great eye for capturing wildlife with a camera, he is one of our expert handlers and grower of fine hot peppers. Visit WolfPhotography.com to see more of his amazing artwork. Or check out his *Photo of the Day* at WolfPark.org.

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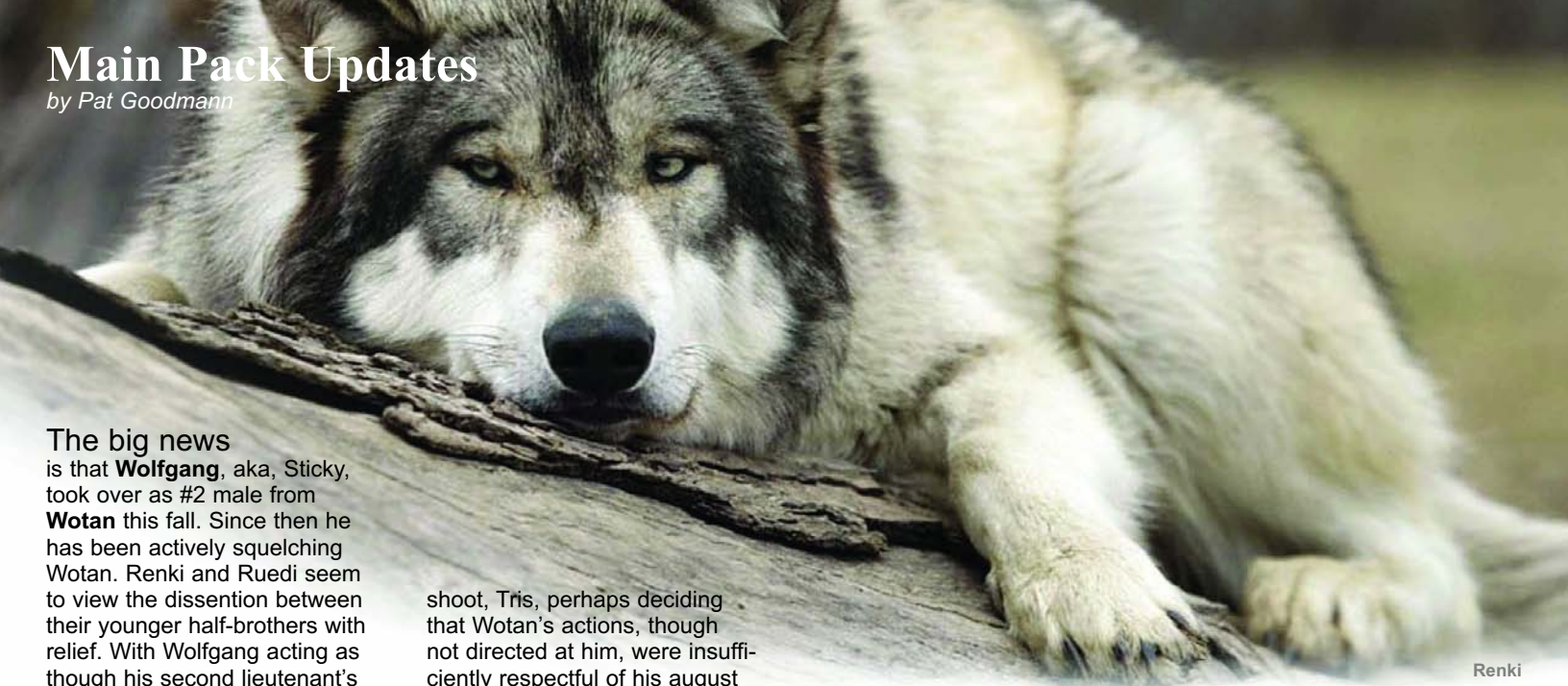
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Main Pack Updates

by Pat Goodmann



Renki

The big news

is that **Wolfgang**, aka, Sticky, took over as #2 male from **Wotan** this fall. Since then he has been actively squelching Wotan. Renki and Ruedi seem to view the dissention between their younger half-brothers with relief. With Wolfgang acting as though his second lieutenant's bars have gone to his head, he pays less attention to Ruedi and squelches Wotan and Renki more. This is not so nice for Renki, but it does mean that in addition to Tristan sometimes rescuing him, the Renkster is also sometimes "rescued" by Wolfgang.

At the age of nine, **Tristan** is becoming a Grand Old Man. His face is grayer. He still has energy but he saves it for important things such as doing really well on several wolf bison demonstrations this year. He has been a little grumpy with all the young males, but he has often been friendly with them too. Wolfgang and Wotan still both seem very happy to greet Tristan, lick his face, and parade around with him. Renki and Ruedi will often run to him if their younger brothers are threatening them. When Wotan started to make a ritualized attack on Renki during a photo

shoot, Tris, perhaps deciding that Wotan's actions, though not directed at him, were insufficiently respectful of his august presence, leapt on Wotan and wrestled him down into the mud. Tris followed up this impressive display by standing on his hind legs in the pond, as if imitating the Creature from the Black Lagoon, including the Dripping Black Ichor Effect. It was quite an impressive display. All the wolves still show deference to him. (Well, **Kailani's** deference and courtship tends to remind me of human adolescents and children who, when they like someone of the opposite sex, may tease them without let-up. Her liking is shown by bedeviling him: "pokepokepoke pokepokepoke chase me chase me can't catch me pokepoke-poke chase me.")

Despite their adversarial politicking, **Renki** and Wotan often performed together in our wolf-bison demonstrations this fall. Out in the pasture, with things to explore, and a mission, should they choose to accept it,

they usually get along, and even back each other up. It's a nice way of getting them to practice affiliative behavior with each other instead of letting Wotan pass most of his waking hours looking for chances to pound Renki. But when we played host to Jan Fennell, the British author known as The Dog Listener, and two of her students, Wotan policed Renki's behavior. Renki was just having fun, teaching one of Ms. Fennell's students to Listen to Wolves. One Dog Listener was wearing a fleecy pullover which Renki liked very much. At first she accidentally gave Renki the idea that he was welcome to fold and spindle the pullover, with her in it, but when, as instructed, she played with his mouth, he stopped bugging her. Wotan, the gracious host, also made it possible for her to enjoy her visit without being spindled. Wotan got Renki to

leave. Renki hung around on the fringes of the action and kept coming back so Wotan's presence was helpful.

During the fall photo seminars, **Ruedi** continued his campaign to win the hearts and minds of humankind. He sat and waved charmingly for treats. He posed with people. He kissed. He all but batted his much-admired pale green eyes at humans. Several times this fall Ruedi has been very wound up and in this state, jumped up on people to bestow kisses. These are very special, because Ruedi does not jump up often, and should be treasured by anyone who receives some. *

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

(L to R) Wolfgang, Ruedi, Wotan, Kailani, Tristan, Renki



East Lake Wolf Updates

by Pat Goodmann

The highlights in **Ayla's** life are when she has visitors – human or lupine. We gave her several play dates with her litter brothers Ruedi and Renki through the fall, including going on wolf bison demonstrations with Renki. On September 23

she went into the bison pasture with Renki. She kept trying to run under his belly as part of ecstatic greeting, and, as a result of trying to run under him, more than once went rooty-kazooty, play-running around with him partly draped over her back. They did not do much with the bison, walking instead around the edge of the field after testing a young bull and then heading to the stock tank to cool off. Ayla had rolled in bison dung, so she emerged dripping green goo, and looking very happy.

Echo and the other wolves got their pumpkins for “Howloween” on October 27. The pumpkins, according to the wolves, were especially nice this year. Echo got at her treats by biting her pumpkin apart.



Miska and Marion

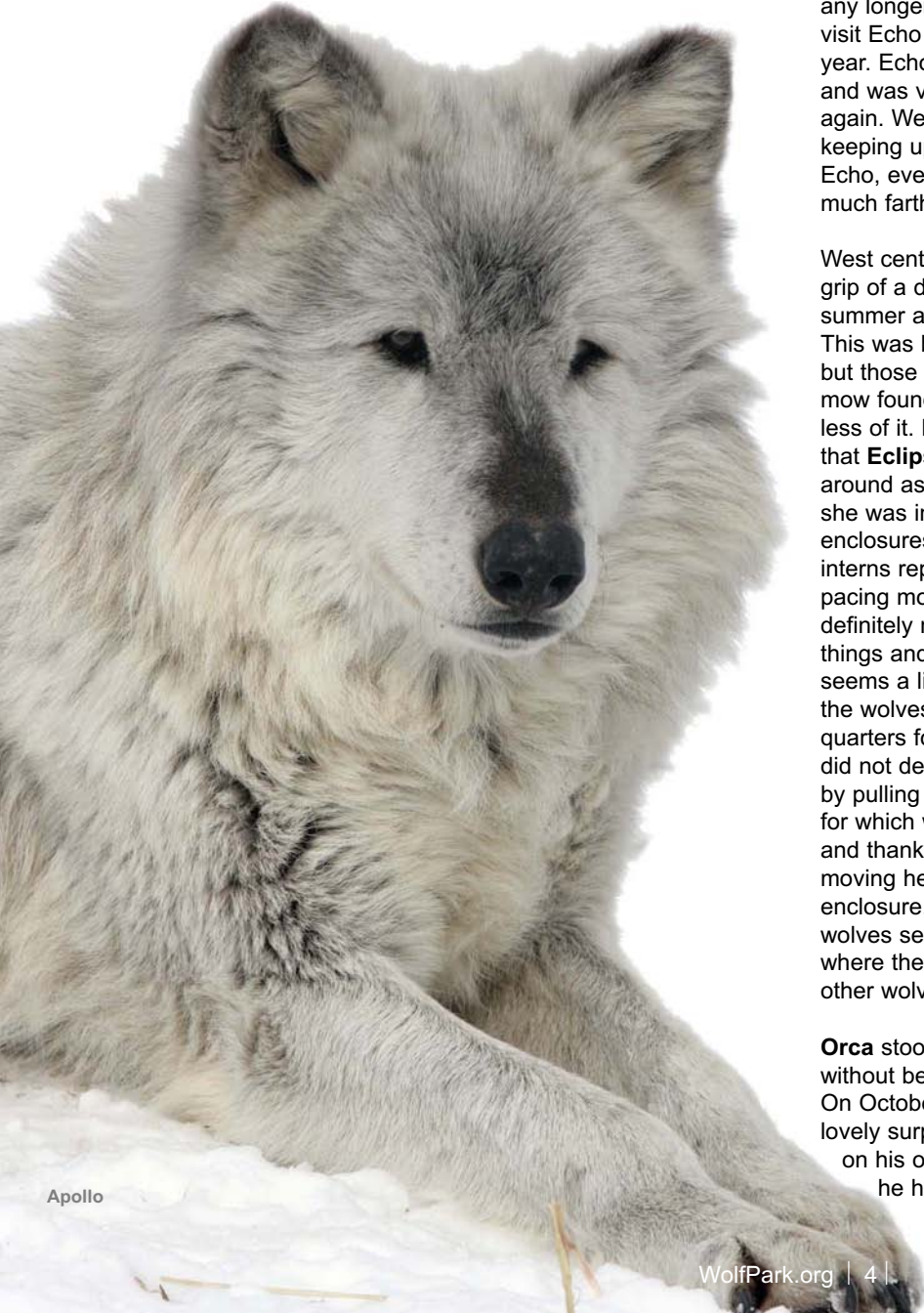
Echo also got a duck this fall. She seemed a bit non-plussed about dissecting it though, so staff member Nick slit it for her and then she really tucked in and enjoyed her duck dinner. We owe Echo's presence at the park to her puppy mother, Lois Shriver, who kept tabs on her since 1992 and reported to us that the zoo might not want her any longer. Lois was able to visit Echo in mid-November this year. Echo still remembers her, and was very excited to see her again. We are happy that Lois is keeping up the connection with Echo, even though they live much farther apart now.

West central Indiana was in the grip of a drought for weeks this summer and the first part of fall. This was bad for the farmers, but those of us with lawns to mow found that we had to do less of it. Less mowing meant that **Eclipse** was not moved around as much and although she was in one of the larger enclosures at East Lake, the interns reported that she was pacing more. That enclosure is definitely not in the thick of things and perhaps that is why it seems a little less popular with the wolves – at least as living quarters for a long time. Eclipse did not deal with her situation by pulling up skirting this time – for which we were grateful, and thanked her belatedly by moving her into the center enclosure. Most of the wolves seem to like that one, where they are surrounded by other wolves.

Orca stood up a couple of times without being boosted this fall. On October 3 he gave me a lovely surprise by standing up on his own when we thought he had finished for the day

and was about to dismiss us with thanks: His right hind leg is still holding him back – sometimes he is willing to weight it during therapy, and sometimes - despite my efforts at arranging his feet and gently pushing him more to the right to make him do some weight loading – he isn't. The right knee rotates in, which makes it hard for him to stand and orient the toes properly.” I have been trying to counter his knee's rotation by gently holding his hock in the proper orientation and also sometimes bracing the lower part of his leg with the lower part of mine. This seems to help. When he loads his right hind leg it is less likely to fly out behind him in a vigorous, but unintended, kick.

Though **Socrates** still feels well most days, the writing is on the wall. He had a swollen muzzle accompanied by lots of snot and nosebleeds this fall. Dr. Julia thinks Socrates' nose problems are due to an aggressive, malignant tumor. Surgery would have a miniscule chance of getting all the cancerous tissue so we are just trying to keep him comfortable. The good news is that he still acts as if life is worth living. Kiri is being nicer to him than I think Soccy would be to Kiri if their situations were



Apollo

Name	Sex	Birth Year
Echo	Female	1992
Kiri	Male	1993
Socrates	Male	1993
Orca	Male	1994
Karin	Female	1994
Apollo	Male	1995
Chetan	Male	1995
Miska	Male	1996
Eclipse	Female	1997
Erin	Female	1998
Marion	Female	1998
Ayla	Female	2004



Eclipse

pills. Then he has other days where he is snuffing and wiping his nose. On some days he gulps his pill laced treat food and at other times he looks at it dubiously as if wondering why I expect him to want to eat this any more than he would want to eat a canoe paddle. I tell him that, remembering some of the things he chewed up as a youngster, he might want to eat a canoe paddle...

Kiri is a slightly plump bundle of mischief who exudes bonhomie most days. When Howloween rolled around, both Boyz were very eager for their pumpkins. Kiri wanted to jump up on me but just couldn't quite so I held it over my head and let him quiver with excitement and then gave it to him. He still tries to steal things from me – buckets, hypodermic needles filled with Adequan, my cell phone, straw for their huts... He occasionally grumps at Socrates, but Socrates just does not seem to be trying Kiri's patience as much as he used to. Or Kiri's patience is expanding. Either way, Kiri seems pretty content with things right now.



Echo

One hot Sunday in October Monty particularly wanted to take the **Erin** and **Chetan** on a wolf bison demonstration. I

asked if he had time to catch Erin afterwards. "Yes, I have treats" he replied. Well, after giving a thrilling demonstration enthusiastically going after a young bull, Chetan was fairly easy to catch, but we were in the pasture until after 5 p.m. catching Erin. We had to bring Renki up to the corral to help catch her. He greeted her and while she was trying to decide whether to embrace him or give him a chastising bite, Monty caught her. At



Chetan and Erin

that point I think she would have given anyone except Monty a chastising bite! He got off with a warning. Since that was probably Chetan's last performance at the demonstrations since he will be thirteen next season, it's nice that he enjoyed that one so much!

Marion and **Miska** are having some adjustment problems. Any week now, Marion will begin to smell cuter to Miska. But she is not there yet, and he is quite grumpy with her. This is their first fall without Seneca's mitigating influence, and if Miska could put his bad mood into words he'd probably reprise the song from the first Muppet movie, the one with the line about females that goes "can't live with 'em, and can't live without 'em...there's something irresistabullish about 'em...". Except that he clearly finds Marion entirely "resistabullish" right now. But put them together in the pasture for a bison demonstration and they put their crabbiness aside for a while. We took them for a demo in late October, which contained some unexpected excitement. There was a buck whitetail in the NorthWest pasture across from the demo field. Luckily, the wolves did not seem to notice. They noticed the cottontail rabbit though. Wolves sometimes catch rabbits, even during the demo, but this was no dumb bunny. It ran full speed right at the bison -- Marion in hot pursuit. Marion almost ran into several bison, but she managed to turn and run off before the bison could react. That was quite exciting. Finally, we had a visit from Betty, the neighbors Pit Bull. Fortunately that was AFTER the demo was done and the wolves all safely put away..."

Apollo and **Karin** both seemed to enjoy the fall, including getting pumpkins stuffed with treats, and getting their huts stuffed with straw. Hut stuffing is an activity with which wolves typically try to help. In Apollo's case, help means pulling the straw bale away from the human. Sometimes this is by tug-o-twine and sometimes it's by trying to grab the flakes of straw and yank them out of the bale. And marking. Much raised leg scent marking is called for.

Karin held court a few times for admirers this fall. She can stand proxy for Apollo when he can't meet his own sponsors, and I am sure she passes along all messages entrusted to her for him. Since she has gotten elderly (though not yet frail) it is rare for her to be as forward and pushy as she was in her younger days. It has been several years since she has tried to treat a new acquaintance like a sock puppet! Despite her increased restraint and dignity we still warn new volunteers, seminar-ians, or sponsors not to simply stand there passively to be sniffed over when Karin approaches them. *



Orca



Kiri, Socrates and Pat

Breeding Season Watch:

A Reminiscence

appalled when the female wolves courted him, but he was delighted to have us come in with the pack during breeding season.

Seneca, however, was not delighted at all. He might have been fine with us if Marion had not been his preferred mate. Marion went around harassing other wolves and greeting people frantically between courting Seneca. (I occasionally wondered out loud what he saw in her, until staff member Andrew Miller answered, succinctly, "Himself.") At the height of their mutual attraction, Seneca seemed to resent anything that took Marion's attention off him. Sometimes he'd threaten and try to drive away the wolf or human who had Marion's attention. A time or two he simply hauled Marion away by her scruff. We took to staying out of the enclosure as much as possible until Seneca was no longer attached to Marion by an invisible bungee cord. The rest of the pack tried to keep their distance too, but Marion continued to follow them around, getting them in trouble with Seneca. But once breeding season was over, Seneca usually ate a large dinner, took a long nap, and resumed greeting humans happily, smiling and rubbing on us like a big cat.

In addition to this increased bickering among the wolves, we see a lot of aggression, but that does not mean serious fights are inevitable. Aggression may also increase just after the breeding season, as wolves return their attention to pack members who were already being harassed for some reason before breeding season gave everyone something else to do with their time.

A different kind of irritability appears at the beginning of the season, when the males start to take an active interest in females who have just begun blood spotting. Females discourage their attention at first

because they are still "getting ready," but inexperienced males may push their suits and get their noses pinched or be chased across the enclosure by a cute female suddenly turned outraged virago. If an inexperienced male pesters the alpha female, and she does not look on him with favor, he may find himself on his back, having the riot act yelled at him, while he bazoocas piddle apologies.

An experienced male, on the other hand, senses when the female is really ready, and his moderate interest can become such extreme attentiveness that you'd think there was an invisible bungee between him and the female. When they sleep, some wolves curl around their mates in what can only be called spooning. A female's preferred mate may not leave her side for as long as nine days, and during that time, an attentive male may get little opportunity to eat. In his old age, Tornado was an experienced male who knew to "be prepared." Since he could not fast for days as easily as when he was young, he took to carrying around a calf leg while following his beloved Venus, ready to eat if she lay down for a nap.

We watch these kinds of relationships between mates develop across several breeding seasons. Since the 1970's, when wolf conservation caught the public's imagination, one of the most popular ideas about wolf packs has been that only the alphas mate and only with each other. The pack then puts all its energies into raising that single litter and getting them off to a good start in life. I am pretty sure this idea was floating around as far back as the first Earth Day. Only alpha wolves mating, and only with each other is probably true over 90% of the time *in packs that are small nuclear families*. These are packs that consist of only the parents and the surviving pups from the previous spring and maybe some yearlings, and it would be true for the very simple fact that only the alphas (the parents in such cases) would be mature enough to breed.

However, in the larger, more extended families at Wolf Park, we've seen an alpha male with more than one mate, females with a coterie of love-struck suitors (who are all obviously using only part of their brains for those few days), as well as other relationships in which non-alpha wolves mate and sometimes have more than one mate. For example, Venus, our second alpha female, remained devoted to two males for her entire life: Tornado the alpha male, and Ohtsu, the omega male.

Sometimes males will appear to be "foolin' around;" we've seen male wolves trailed by the lupine equivalent of swooning female fans. In the case of Faust, the male heartthrob of the late 1980's, volunteer Pam Rhodes likened his trio of female followers to "a ravening pack of Barbies with only one Ken." Another season, a male widower appeared to be playing the field, but by the next year he had settled into a monogamous relationship with his new preferred mate.

We see a range of interactions even within monogamous

couples. Apollo always liked Karin. She was the alpha female. He was near the bottom of the male rank order. He courted her. She bit him. Eventually he had to be removed from the pack for his own safety. Eventually Karin also had to be removed after losing a dominance fight. When we put them together it was rather like watching Lois Lane realize that Clark Kent is an alter ego. Apollo and Karin have been more fortunate than Superman and Lois Lane, and they have been a very affectionate couple for years.

But not all courtships go so smoothly. At first, Seneca was not much interested in mating with Marion. Marion, however, demonstrated that female choice can have a deciding influence in the outcome of such situations. She simply would not take NO for an answer, and for years they were a very devoted monogamous couple. In fact, until observing the couple one season, I used to think that tales of legendary ties lasting an hour or more, told by dog owners, were the equivalent of fish stories: imagination and exaggeration fostered by the lack of actually timing the tie.



Then Seneca and Marion proved that wolves can tie for a little over an hour. I know this because I held the stopwatch.

Chinook and Altair had a disastrous start to their relationship when Chinook appeared not to understand that Altair couldn't simply let go of him once they had mated. They whirled shrieking and gaping at each other and then tried to run down opposite sides of the fence dividing the old Wolf Woods. They got hung up on the gate post to memorable and what looked like extremely painful effect. It took years, but they did eventually enjoy their breeding seasons together.

Breeding Season Watch is more than observing wolves mate. It includes, but is not limited to:

Trying desperately to see wolves in the dark places insufficiently illuminated by our sodium-vapor yard lights.

Relying on Art Bell and his dispatches from the weird part of the Twilight Zone played softly on your car radio to help you stay awake in the still watches of the night when the wolves are all curled up, tail-over-nose.

Driving back and forth between the east side and the west side of Turtle Lake enclosure, keeping track of all members of the pack.

Monitoring your fluid intake so you don't have to attend to one of those calls of nature that humans (okay, female humans) usually take care of indoors before your watch – three hours at a stretch if you are lucky – is up.

Three hour shifts that turn into thirteen hour watches when drifting snow prevents most of your watchers from driving to the park.

In trying to write this – mostly – fond look back over three decades of watching generations of wolves during their breeding seasons, I ran into the problem of choosing among the torrent of memories. There are so many ideas crowding forward to have their moment in print that they are

performing maneuvers that get them stuck in my mental doorway, like the Three Stooges flailing at each other in a literal doorway: poignant or thrilling moments and reminiscences about the zany Alternative Procedures and Safety Protocols, which had a section labeled "Things that go Bump in the Night." It gets lonely out there in the dark...and when it's quiet, with just Art Bell for company... and then the quiet is torn asunder by unearthly screams. You tell yourself, after pushing your heart back in your chest, "it's only the foxes." But do you really believe that? Instructions covered what to do if Bigfoot showed up. (Measure his feet. How big are they really?) Or if a UFO landed. (Tell them they **cannot** have Monty back.) And that

mysterious Bump in the night? It might be just Dr. Klinghammer. Or the goat. Take cover.

Have we "seen it all?" Past experience leads me to say no. Years ago a middle school kid asked me why I still watched wolves since there couldn't be much left to learn. He said he could understand watching them for a year or three but seven years seemed excessive to him. I told him that watching wolves is like looking through a kaleidoscope. You see a beautiful pattern. You hold the kaleidoscope steady and try to memorize the pattern. You jiggle the kaleidoscope, either by accident or on purpose. The jiggle shifts one or two pieces. Suddenly there is a cascade of pieces shifting, and you have a whole new pattern to absorb your attention. Over thirty years there have been many patterns, many dimensions of relationship. And always the question in the back ground: what is it really like to be a wolf? ✨

Editor: Catherine Ozment



(L to R) Wolfgang, Kailani, Wotan, Tristan and Renki



at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Dr. McConnell is a co-host of Wisconsin Public Radio's "Calling All Pets," and is the behavior columnist for the BARK magazine and a Consulting Editor for the Journal of Comparative Psychology. Dr. McConnell and her friend Jim Billings visited for two days. They had an opportunity to observe, interact and talk about animal behavior with our staff. With so many dog enthusiasts comparing dogs to wolves, it was a pleasure to provide information that is based on our year's research and observations.

To see her response to her visit, visit idogz.com and look for "Wolves, Dogs and Rapture."

Wolf Park enjoyed a visit from Patricia McConnell in January. Best known for her books *The Other End of the Leash* and her recent, *For the Love of a Dog*, Patricia had not made the trek to Wolf Park before, but was glad she finally got here in 2008. In a glowing review of her visit posted on a dog-related web site, she wrote: "Little Red Riding Hood mythology aside, it was heaven being with the wolves at Wolf Park in Indiana."

Patricia McConnell received her Ph.D. in Zoology from the University of Wisconsin-Madison researching dog behavior. She owns Dog's Best Friend Ltd., and is an Adjunct Associate Professor in Zoology

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| ROBERT AKERS | LORI HEBERT | NICK PRENTOFF |
| NANCY ANDERSON | LAURIE HENDERSON | PHYLLIS PRICE |
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| DENNIS BIONDI | ROBERT HOXIE | CHRISTINE RUEEGSEGGER |
| KRISTIN BOSTICK | MELISSA & ASHLEY HUEMMER | LAVERNE & JEANETTE RYMAN |
| EDDIE & NANCY BOWER | GEORGE & ELIZ HUNTINGTON | MADELEINE SAVARY SAVARY |
| PATT BREILING | GERHARD & DONNA IMMIG | SUSAN SCHOCK |
| VICKI BRIGGS | ROLF JAEGER | JOE SEIBERT |
| GINI BRIGHTON | SHARON JEFFERIES | JILL P SENDEL |
| MARIAN BROCK | TINA JENKINS | JANET & EVAN SHAAD |
| CATHERINE BROWN | JONI JOHNSON-GODSY | JAMES SHAW |
| DONNA BURGETT | BRENDA JONES | ALEXANDRA SHELDON |
| GORDON BURGHARDT | JANYSE & BETTE-JEAN JONES | WENDY SHUBERT |
| CAROL & TOM BUTLER | BILL AND CHERI KARN | ROSEMARY SIKORA |
| BEVERLY CALIENDO | PLINY AND JOAN KEEP | JOAN SILACO (2) |
| BOB CHENEY | KIMBERLY KETRING | SHANNON SILVA |
| JAMES CHIALIVA | JOHN KIMSEY | ARLENE SIMALA |
| BITSI CLARK | BOB & CINDY KIRKPATRICK | LYNNE SIMEONE |
| R W COBLE | LINDA KNIGHT | PAUL & CHRISTINA SIMON |
| JOLEEN & LEON COLE | JOYCE KOELZER (2) | MAXINE SMITH |
| BERNADETTE COOK | URSULA KOLB | SUZANNE SNAPP |
| SHIRA COOPER | CHRIS & DALE KRUZAN | EILEEN STACK |
| GAY COPPAGE | MICHAEL KRYCEK | REX STOCKTON |
| RAYMOND COPPINGER | HELENE KUHN | MATT STOUGHTON |
| CAROL CREAGER | TERRI KUSS | LYNETTE SWANSON |
| CINDY CROWELL | RANDALL LANGE | RYAN TALBOT(4) |
| TARA CURRY | W. LANGEDYK | KELLEY TEES |
| MARJORY DAHM | THE BANKY LAROCQUE | LISA TEKMETAROVIC |
| MARY JANE DAMERON | FOUNDATION | KAREN & DONALD TERRY |
| STEVEN DAMOLARIS | JACQUIE LEAMAN | MARILYN TERRY |
| SUSIE DAVIS | RICHARD & CLARICE LEE | CAROL THOMAS |
| MICHAEL DePAULO | DEIRDRE LEMIRE | LARRY THRALL |
| PHIL DEPOY | MIKE LESLEY | DENISE TINGLEY |
| CHARLES DICK | JANET LIDLE | BETTY TRUITT |
| JOHN DICK | RUTH LIMON-BREWER | JOHN TYLER |
| BURTON DICUS | SANDRA & MICHAEL LOVETT | PAUL TYMEC |
| TANIA DORAN | RICHARD LOW | TIM UNSWORTH (3) |
| EVONNE DORRIS | KATHIE LUCY | DIANE VARGO |
| JIM AND MARIA DOUGLAS | PATRICIA MANN | TIM VESTRING |
| PAT DYAR | DEBRA MARBERG | ANNEHURST VETERINARY |
| DON & CELESTE DYBECK | ROBERT & JEANNETTE MARLOW | AMY VIAN |
| WILLIAM EICHENAUER | GUS MARNEL | RUTH WALL |
| SUE ETTELSON | ANTHONY MATELOCK | PETER & MARY SUE WASER |
| JOHN EWING | JANE MATTLIN | JANE, ALAN & ANDREW WEBB |
| KELLY FARLEY | BEVERLY MAURER | VONDA WEILHAMMER |
| PHYLLIS FELDNER | KAREN MCADAM | RICHARD & KIM WELLIVER |
| CHARLES FELISH | KEN McCORT | PEG WHITACRE |
| JOHN & LINDA FEUTZ | MARY MCCOY | MIKE WHITE |
| MARYANN FIELD | RACHEL MCDONALD | JOAN AND AL WICH |
| TINA FIELDS | GLENDIA MCGLOTHLIN | F&S WILLIAMS |
| ANNE FIORE | MICHELE MCGRATH | CRAIG & PAMELA WIND |
| TEDDY & SANTANA FITZGERALD | MARY MCKENNA | LAWRENCE WISE |
| ED FRANKLIN | CRAIG MERRICK | SHARON WOLSHIRE |
| MACK FUHRER | BOB & ELEANOR MILLER (2) | DIANE & LLOYD WORLEY |
| HEIDI FULCHER | WANDA MIRACLE | DEBRA WOZNAK |
| DAVID FULK | JAMES MISENHEIMER | BONNIE WRIGHT |
| DENISA & CRAIG GARNER | DEBBIE MITMAN (2) | JIM YEARWOOD |
| SAMUEL GARRITY | DEBORAH MONAHAN | GLENN ZABEC |
| BERYL GERSCH | CRICKET MORGAN | JACQUELYN ZEHRING |
| BILL & CHERI GHIND | JO ANN MULLEN | JEANNE & DAVID ZUREY |
| GAIL GILMORE | BETTY & JACK MUNSEE | |
| KEVIN GONSALVES | KENDRA MYERS | IN MEMORY |
| PAT GOODMAN | KATHLEEN NAVARRO | OF BETTY BOHANEK |
| MARTHA GORMLEY | STEVE & JUDY NEHRIG | JAMES HENSON |
| LYNN GRABELLE | DENISE NICOLETTI | KELLY REIM |
| MARY & GEORGE GRABIANOWSKI | MARY ANN NUTTER | MARYILYN CASTEEL |
| JAMES GREEN | TRACY OGLESBY | MARCY & ADAM KREOGER |
| JAN GREENWOOD | MARK A. PALMER | ELIZABETH A. SCHULTETUS |
| DEBRA GREULICH | JULIA PALOMBO | JAMES & VICKIE WARNER |
| SHARON GROW | JUDY & SIDNEY PELLISSIER | |
| WILMA GROWNEY | MARSHA PENNER | PILL POCKETS FOR ECHO |
| SHAMEER HAKIM | BILL PERRIN | SANDRA TURMAIL, |
| ANGELA HALL | ROLF & CANDY PETERSON | WOODMAR ANIMAL CLINIC |
| RONALD HALLAM | JOHN PHILLIPS | () DENOTES MULTIPLE DONATIONS |
| MR & MRS VERNON L HALTERMAN | DENNIS & NANCY PILLSBURY | |

Wolf Park Receives Grant from SIA Foundation



Dr. Klinghammer (far left), Alicia and Holly (center) with members of the SIA Foundation.

Wolf Park was awarded a generous grant through the **Subaru of Indiana Automotive Foundation** which will fund our new Environmental Signage Project. The grant was written by volunteer **Alicia Panisiak** with assistance from Managing Director **Holly Jaycox**, graphic designer and volunteer **N. Beth Line** and volunteer videographer **Tom O'Dowd**.

The signage program was created to enhance the visual impact of the Park, increase the educational quality of visits, and improve the sense of the wolves being the focus at all times. Several different types of signs are included in the project. Probably the most visually stunning of the signs will be the large banners on each of the buildings with larger than life-size images of wolves. There will also be two informational kiosks, and new signs identifying the wolves in each enclosure. The signs should be a great improvement to the experience of visitors!

Thomas Easterday, President of the Foundation, explained that the Foundation grants funding to non-profits that improve the quality of life in Indiana in the areas of arts and culture, health and welfare, and education. Wolf Park was one of seven grants awarded this winter.

The new signs should be up by the time we open for our regular season in May. ✨



Both coyotes have been aggressive to people this fall, and friendly. Sometimes the aggression and friendliness are directed to the same person. Because coyotes are so fast and so reactive when it comes to mood shifts, we have restricted who can go in with them to staff and one or two volunteers, and continued the training regimen we started in late August as a means of environmental enrichment and in the hopes that it would allow us to redirect their behavior and channel their excitement as we do with the wolves. Ultimately we hope that this will allow us to take more people in with them, but we cannot promise this.

Willow is particularly drawn to stalk and threaten some volunteers and interns. Since one of the coyotes training exercises is taking treats gently through the fence, we have used it to see if we can get them to stop stalking people and focus on earning treats. **Twister** is having more trouble becoming reliable in his responses because he is more easily distracted and spooks at more things than Willow does. Some days he is brilliant, other days we are hard put to get him to perform asked-for behaviors eight out of ten times. This is our minimum acceptable level of compliance. If the coyotes don't achieve it we can't reasonably count on getting the behavior when we ask for it.

In September both coyotes participated in a canine cognitive study done by **Dr. Clive Wynne** and his graduate student, **Monique Udell**, which we wrote about in the previous issue of Wolf Park News. Willow and Twister did very well – perhaps a little better than the wolves! ✨



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

Helping Dogs that look like Wolves

by Jessica Addams

Answering the phones at Wolf Park is an adventure. Over the years the staff has consoled people after their pets have passed away, talked people through their frustration over a neighbor's barking dogs, arranged emergency pickup of foodstuffs after unexpected freezer explosions, and (bemusedly) refused a donation of live emus. While there is great variety in the Park's phone calls, there are also some overarching themes, the most notable of which is the Concerned Rescuer Trying To Place A Wolf Hybrid.

It is very difficult to find a new home for an animal with wolf content. Lack of reliable information about wolf hybrids leads people to automatically assume they are dangerous animals. Regular animal shelters often refuse, or immediately euthanize, wolves and hybrids for liability reasons. Shelters that specialize in wolves and hybrids fill up fast and stay full.

The concerned rescuers who call the Park have generally found the animals on the street, been given the animals as "gifts" from relatives, or are rescuers or veterinarians who had the animals "surrendered" to them. Some are people whose neighbors had the animals chained in their backyards, or animal control officers who had an animal of dubious heritage come under their jurisdiction. Generally, these people did not work personally with wolves, did not know the ancestry of the



Photo by Jessica Addams



Photo by Andrew Miller

Sequoia, (above) a low-content wolf hybrid at Wild Spirit Wolf Sanctuary in New Mexico.

Dena, (left) a "husky-and-something" at Where Wolves Rescue.

animals, and had been told by someone else the animals were wolves or hybrids.

Former staff members **Andrew Miller** and **Jessica Addams** noticed that a large percentage of the animals the rescuers were trying to place sounded, upon description, less like wolves and more like dogs. Photos of the animals often revealed huskies or malamutes! If these animals had been recognized by their rescuers as dogs, they would have gone directly to an animal shelter or breed rescue and been given a chance at getting a new home, just like any other dog. However, since they had been identified as wolf hybrids, they were in danger of being immediately euthanized due to being "dangerous animals". This severely (and unnecessarily) limited their options.

Several books have already been written on the topic of identifying wolf hybrids through physical characteristics and behavior patterns, and many

wolf rescues already talk with local animal shelters, educating their workers about what wolves look like and how to identify a wolf or hybrid. However, the behavior and looks of dogs (and, to a lesser extent, of wolves) are so plastic, or changeable, that identifying hybrids just by sight is an unreliable process, especially with people who have never seen a wolf before. DNA testing, while showing great promise, is still in its infancy and is not currently a viable option for rescuers and casual persons to use in identifying wolves and hybrids.

Andrew and Jessica are seeking to expand the options of animals labeled as "wolf hybrids" by creating a manual for use by animal shelters and rescues, encouraging people to give a these deserving animals a second look. The manual will detail how closely related wolves and dogs really are, and how, since all dogs are descended from wolves, there are some pure dogs (both

breeds and individuals) who normally display wolf-like appearance and behavior. Upon the advice of several wolf rescuers and rescue facilities, they are focusing on how animals need to be placed based on their behavior, not their outward appearance.

To begin the research for their book, they recently spent three weeks traveling the country by car, visiting various rescue facilities to obtain other opinions and background information. They traveled over 8,000 miles, met lots of wonderful people and animals, and had a darned good time. Andrew and Jessica would like to thank Angel Bennett at Wild Spirit Wolf Sanctuary, Danya Leshick of Where Wolves Rescue, Kent Weber of Mission: Wolf, Diana Hiibel and Animal Ark, trainer Mace Loftus, the staff at Best Friends Animal Sanctuary, the staff of W.O.L.F., and everyone else they annoyed and pestered in pursuit of their goal.

Jess and Andrew hope to do a special service for these animals that keep entering the lives of Wolf Park's staff via phone and email. Perhaps this publication will provide some animals with a new chance at a good life as someone's pet. ✨

Good Bye Jessica

Jessica Addams has moved on after 9 years of working at the Park. She filled so many roles we can barely imagine how will replace her! She wrote much of the newsletter, and many other publications. She created ads and press releases, and many other valuable visual items. Jessica worked closely with the foxes, and assisted with wolf care. In addition, she spent many hours on the phone-counseling callers that had questions about everything from our sponsorship program to their ailing pet.

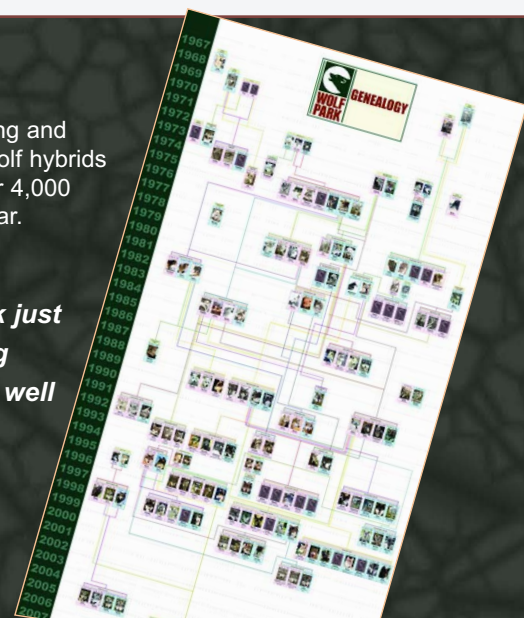
We miss Jessica already, but wish her the best in her future. Thank you Jessica for all you gave to the Park!!

Wolf Park Genealogy

After extensive research and sorting through thirty five years of photographs and records, staff member **Gale Motter** has created a Wolf Park genealogy chart. This new feature can be found in our Education Building. The chart is nothing less than remarkable and informative. The information is presented as a visual time line. The chart includes parentage, birth dates, littermates, names, sexes and locations of our wolves.

Gale is also researching and tracking wolves and wolf hybrids and has compiled over 4,000 documentations... so far.

Coming to the park just to see this amazing genealogy chart is well worth the trip!





Basil is gimpy some days, but this is part of being a very old and venerable fox with two healed breaks in one leg, and a case of arthritis. He is receiving pain medication and Adequan to help maintain his cartilage. On the whole he gets around well. Some days he does not seem very active but that may be due more to social issues than to the state of his joints. When Jess and I gave him his

Adequan in early December, he was quite good, though he was aware of the shot and registered a complaint. After a consolatory cuddle Jess put him down on his porch. Dev streaked over and he went down the ladder to greet her. She lay on her side and greeted him with delight. She and Ember chased him around the enclosure. "Now I know why I don't often see him running around" said Jess,

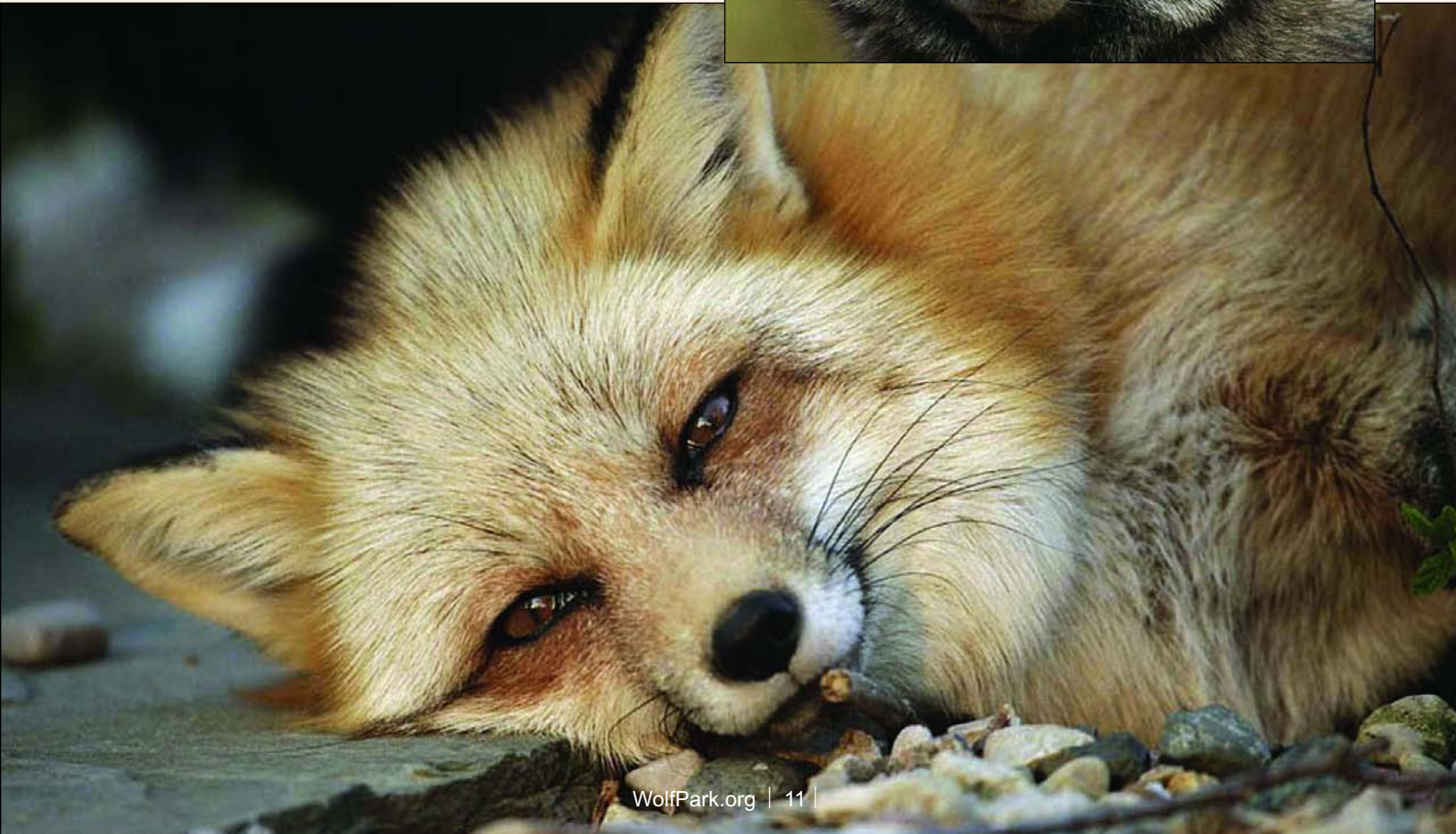
watching him try to evade his adoring female fans.

Devon will often come up and greet familiar people. We wish she would stay longer, for cuddling, but typically, when the treats run out, so does Dev. At least she often stays where we can admire her with our eyes, if not our fingers. While **Ember** is not unfriendly, she just usually has better

All our foxes are Red Foxes
(*Vulpes vulpes*)

- Basil** - Male
Born 1995 (est.) - White
- Devon** - Female
Born 2000 - Silver Phase
- Ember** - Female
Born 2000 - Classic Red

things to do than schmooze with humans. We find this frustrating. Both vixens look like adorable plush toys made for cuddling. But you have to let them approach you. If the foxes are to enjoy the encounter (and believe me you want them to enjoy the encounter) it has to be on their terms. *



2008 Calendar of Events

Visit WolfPark.org for details and updates

2008 Seminars and Kids Camps

Sign up for Seminars and Camps at
WolfParkStore.com

February
16 Guided Tours 1-5 pm
16 Wild Valentine's Howl Night 7:30 pm

March
15 Easter Event (Park Open) 1-4 pm
30 Wolf Park Open House 1-4 pm

April
5-6 Guided Tours 1-5 pm
12-13 Guided Tours 1-5 pm
19-20 Guided Tours 1-5 pm
19 Full Moon Howl Night 7:30 pm
26-27 Guided Tours 1-5 pm

May
1 Park Opens for Season
11 Mother's Day 1-5 pm
Mom's get free admission with child
24 Wolf Park After Hours 7:30 pm
26 Memorial Day (Park Open) 1-5pm

June
7 Dog Days 1-5 pm
14 Wolf Park After Hours 7:30 pm
15 Father's Day 1-5 pm
Dad's get free admission with child
28 Watermelons for Wolves 1-5 pm

July
4 Independence Day (Park Open) 1-5 pm
18 Full Moon Howl Night 7:30 pm
26 Wolf Park After Hours 7:30 pm

August
16 Full Moon Howl Night 7:30 pm
23 Wolf Park After Hours 7:30 pm

September
1 Labor Day (Park Open) 1-5pm
20 Wolf Park After Hours 7:30 pm

October
12-18 Wolf Awareness Week 7:30 pm
18 Wolf Park After Hours 7:30 pm
25 Pumpkins for Wolves 1-5pm

November
14 Full Moon Howl Night 7:30 pm
22 Wolf Park After Hours 7:30 pm
30 Park Closes for Season

December
13 Santa Visits (Park Open) 1-4 pm
26 Guided Tours 1-5 pm
27 Guided Tours 1-5 pm

February
1-3 Wolf Behavior Intensive Seminar

March
1 Photo Seminar
7-9 Wolves for Artists Seminar with Jan Martin McGuire
10 Full Day Photo Shoot
22 Photo Seminar
29 Photo Seminar

April
5 Full Day Photo Shoot
12 Photo Seminar
26 Photo Seminar

May
14-18 Wolf Behavior and Captive Management Seminar

June
13-15 Wolf Intensive Weekend Seminar
17-18 Day Camp for ages 5-7
24-25 Day Camp for ages 8-10
28-29 Overnight Camp for ages 8-10

July
1-2 Day Camp for ages 11-15
15-16 Day Camp for ages 8-10
18-20 Dog Behavior Seminar with Ken McCort
26-27 Overnight Camp for ages 11-12
29-30 Day Camp for ages 5-7

August
2-3 Overnight Camp for ages 13-15
12-13 Day Camp for ages 11-15

October
6 Photo Seminar
10-12 Wolf Intensive Weekend Seminar
13 Photo Seminar
20 Full Day Photo Shoot

November
3 Photo Seminar
14-16 Ray Coppinger Seminar
17 Full Day Photo Shoot
24 Photo Seminar

December
6 Photo Seminar



Open Hours and Admission Rates

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

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