

# Paw Prints February 2016

Every year we compile statistics about volunteering at Northwest Trek. Thanks to Lois Lindt, who does such a terrific job compiling all the volunteer statistics. When you look at the whole list, volunteers at Northwest Trek donate the equivalent of almost 6 full time employees! That is a tremendous amount of tree planting, fence building, filing, diet prep, educating, mask making and poop scooping! The spirit of volunteerism that Doc and Connie had still carries on through you all. That's a whole lot of love and dedication making Trek what it is. Thank you all so much for everything you do. Here it is in black and white:

## Summary of 2015 Volunteer Hours

Type of Volunteerism	Volunteers	Volunteer Hours
Regular/Scheduled	42	4,201.75
Events	39	354
Interns	11	4,420.75
Foundation	12	480
Partners (community groups)	144	414
Conservation Volunteers	150	519.75
Americorps	8	1,451
2015 Totals	406	11,841.25

The pattern for volunteering at Northwest Trek is becoming pretty clear. People are looking for ways to volunteer that fits their lifestyle, so we've seen a big increase in those that come out more intermittently (take a look at those whopping conservation volunteer and community group numbers). We've seen a steady decline in people preferring to volunteer several hours a week every week (the regular/scheduled volunteers). The good news is that we have more people engaged in the mission of Northwest Trek than ever!

## Bowling



You should really consider coming out on Saturday, February 27 to Yelm's Prairie Lanes and join in the fun. There is a sign-up sheet in the break room, and you must sign up with Chip before the event. \$12 includes shoes, 3 games, fabulous trophies and a lifetime of ridicule (it is a very, very fun time). Or just come and hang out for free if the idea of wearing rental shoes doesn't excite you. We start at 6:00 pm, and all bowlers good and not so good are welcome.

## **Happening at Northwest Trek**

- We had to euthanize our skunk due to a neurologic disorder.
- One of the Snowy Owls will be moving to Zoo America in Hershey, PA.
- Northwest Trek staff are treating the badger for squamous cell cancer
- We'll be sending off our paperwork for AZA accreditation at the end of this month.
- The new sheep pen handling facility has been finished
- Work continues on the Kid's Trek area with the early opening date looming. Big thank yous go out to Emily and Lowell Ashlock, Ken Fabrick, Carl Prather and Michelle Santiago for their help in installing kid proof fencing. If you would like to help put the last finishing touches on Kid's Trek, have we got a few dates for you....:

## **Kid's Trek Volunteer Party**

We are looking for a few volunteers to put the finishing touches on Kid's Trek with a little bit of sweat and blood (well, maybe not blood...that might be a little melodramatic, but you get the idea). The last few weeks before opening, we could use some folks to put the very last finishing touches on the new play area before we open to the public, and we really need folks with that Trek eye towards making everything just so. We're setting aside the Saturdays of March 5, 12 and 19 and Jake will lead a small group of trusted volunteers to put in the fine artistic details in the form of delicate plantings, placing natural objects, weaving willow whips, etc.. No skills are necessary, just bring your dedication! If you'd like to help put the "bow" on this latest exhibit, just e-mail Dan and let him know which date you'd be available. Thanks.

## **Kids N Critters**

We're looking for some volunteers over President's Day Weekend February 13 – 15 to help out with our annual Kids n Critters event. The biggest event of the winter always draws large crowds and hundreds of enthusiastic children...we can really use the help to make the long weekend fun and educational. If you'd like to help out, please let Brianne know.

## **Open House**

We have a new volunteer Open House coming up on Saturday, February 6 from 10 – 11 am. If you know anyone that is considering volunteering at Northwest Trek, please invite them out.