

Winter 2014

# TREK TRACKS

PUBLISHED FOR THE FRIENDS OF NORTHWEST TREK WILDLIFE PARK



## Gifts of nature

### Perfect presents for everyone on your list

If you're seeking the perfect present for a family member, friend or coworker, you can find memorable gifts or stocking stuffers at Northwest Trek.

#### Memories that last:

Memberships provide an entire year of unlimited visits to the wildlife park—and a lifetime of memories to savor. Prices range from \$50 and up, and every membership package is a great value.

A Household Membership, for example, allows two adults and all dependents up to age 18, entry to the wildlife park all year. It's a bargain at just \$115. Ditto for the Grandparents' Membership.

*Continued on page 2*



**Northwest Trek**  
Wildlife Park

METRO PARKS TACOMA



## *Holiday season is a great time for animal watching*

A grizzly bear sniffs and then bites into ornaments made of fruit and other natural materials during Winter *Wildland*. Creative keepers made the goodies especially for the bears.

## Bring your Family to See our Family

Giving thanks for the great outdoors.

Spending time with those you love.

Making memories to last into 2015.

When turkey leftovers are getting old, or when the holiday gifting is over and it's time to think of family fun, Northwest Trek can pull you outdoors with the force of animal magnetism.

Your favorite wildlife park is open weekends during the Thanksgiving-New Year's holiday season. And Winter Break? We've got it covered. We're open Dec. 26-Jan. 4, giving families 10 straight days of end-of-one-beginning-of-a-new-year fun. *Continued on page 2*



## Bring your Family *Continued from page 1*

Hours are 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. each open day.

Just consider what you might see and do.

- Watch black bears Benton and Fern, who arrived at Northwest Trek in the spring, lumbering through their forested exhibit.
- See the Canada “Lynx Boys,” brothers Sherman and Omak, chasing each other around their exhibit, climbing on logs and playing peek-a-boo around trees.
- Check out a young opossum who’s new to the Trek family of animals.
- Hop aboard a heated tram for a tour through the beautiful Free-Roaming Area. Bison are shaggier, resplendent in their winter coats. And the landscape looks a bit different. Some trees dropped leaves during the fall, so they’re dressed for the season.
- Try to spot bison and elk calves and bighorn sheep lambs that were born in the spring and summer and see how much they’ve grown.

Plus, **Winter Wildland** is set for the end of December.

Already, zookeepers and other staff members are working on a menu of natural enrichments for the animals and fun activities for kids and adults.

Winter *Wildland* is the perfect post-holiday gift for family and out-of-town friends and relatives.

Unwind amid tall evergreens, the beauty of Horseshoe Lake, the merriment of animals receiving special treats and the wonder of nature all around you. Much better than fighting crowds in a shopping mall.

So, this holiday season, bring your family to see our family. Everyone’s dressed in their winter best and just waiting for—you.

## Gifts of Nature *Continued from page 1*

**Photo and Keeper Tours:** Go online at [nwtrek.org](http://nwtrek.org) and scope out Photo Tours for shutterbugs and Keeper Tours for your action-oriented friends and family. Don’t know what date will work? Gift cards will do the trick.

**One-size-fits-all:** Check out the gift shop for an array of Northwest-themed art pieces, toys and other unique gifts for all tastes and ages.

**A helping hand:** Donations to the Northwest Trek Animal Enrichment Fund help buy special treats and “toys” for the animals to enrich their lives and stimulate natural behaviors. Get the scoop at [nwtrek.org/animal-fund](http://nwtrek.org/animal-fund).

## Winter Wildland

Treats for animals, fun for you  
Friday, Dec. 26-Sunday, Dec. 28  
9:30 a.m. - 3 p.m.

**Spirit of adventure:** Zip Wild zip lines will be thrumming come spring. The adventurous among your friends and family will fly high when presented with the promise of a tour around one of our five zip line/challenge courses.

*Get all the membership information at [nwtrek.org](http://nwtrek.org) and place your orders online, or call/email Jeannie Clay at 360-832-7170 or [jeannie.clay@nwtrek.org](mailto:jeannie.clay@nwtrek.org) for additional details.*

*For more gift ideas and details, go to [nwtrek.org/gifts](http://nwtrek.org/gifts).*

## ANIMAL UPDATES

# Black bears and Canada lynx brothers get names

For the first time in decades, some of Northwest Trek's animals have official names.

Members of the public voted on names for the 6-year-old black bears who arrived last spring. The brother and sister are now Benton and Fern.

And two Canada lynx brothers, who arrived over the summer, are Sherman and Omak. They're named after areas of Washington in which the small wild cats roam.

All four are well settled in their new homes. Benton and Fern have about an acre of forest in which to roam. The playful lynx brothers hang out in a Cat Country exhibit where there's lots of room for them to run, play and even take an occasional swim.

"Giving these vibrant, young animals



Canada lynx brothers Sherman and Omak get in some play time in their Cat Country exhibit.

names increases the connection members of the public might make with them," Northwest Trek Deputy Director Donna Powell said. "We hope our visitors go home with memorable experiences, more knowledge about these animals and a greater awareness of the need for conservation."

## A young opossum finds a home

Look for a new face during Trailside Encounters this fall. A 5-month-old opossum arrived last month.

She weighs in at just about 6 pounds now—a huge change in a short

amount of time. Opossums are about the size of a Gummy Bear at birth, keeper Wendi Mello said.

The female opossum loves fruit like grapes and bananas and likes mealworms and fish, Mello said.

Opossums are nomadic, generally solitary animals more interested in nosing out a meal than interacting with humans.

"People often have a negative perception of opossums, based on backyard encounters," Mello said.

"It's very satisfying to help people learn about the role these animals play in nature," Mello said.

## CONSERVATION CORNER

# Oregon spotted frogs get a head start on life

Northwest Trek staff helping to save endangered species

Dozens of tiny Oregon spotted frogs hopped into their new lives at a Pierce County wetland this fall.

Staff members released nearly 100 of the endangered animals in September after rearing them from tadpoles in a controlled environment away from predators and other potential enemies. Northwest Trek is a pioneer in the recovery program for the native frogs, whose numbers are drastically dwindling.

More than 5,000 frogs – already given a head start in life—have been released in six years.

Two years ago, Northwest Trek received the prestigious North American Conservation Award from the Association of Zoos & Aquariums for its pioneering participation in the Oregon spotted frog project.





**Northwest Trek**  
Wildlife Park

**METRO PARKS TACOMA**

Northwest Trek Wildlife Park  
11610 Trek Drive East  
Eatonville, WA 98328-9502

**General Information:**

360-832-6117 | nwtrek.org

**Winter Hours**

**Open:**

Fridays - Sundays: 9:30 a.m. - 3 p.m.

**Closed:**

Mondays - Thursdays

**Special Holiday Openings**

Friday, Dec. 26 - Sunday, Jan. 4

Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Monday, Jan. 19, 2015

Presidents Day, Monday, Feb. 16, 2015

JEANNIE CLAY, *Membership Coordinator*

360-832-7170 | Jeannie.Clay@nwtrek.org

Northwest Trek, accredited by the Association of Zoos & Aquariums, is a 725-acre zoological park devoted to the display, interpretation, research and conservation of North American native wildlife.

**Connect with us on:**



PRESORT STD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
TACOMA, WA  
PERMIT NO. 702

## COMING UP IN EARLY 2015

Here are a few events coming up soon at Northwest Trek. Find the entire list for the year at [nwtrek.org](http://nwtrek.org).



### **Kids 'n' Critters:** Feb. 14, 15, 16

Plan ahead for Presidents' Weekend. Up to four kids get in free with each paying adult, and there will be gobs of family fun.

### **Career Day: March 7**

High school and college-age students interested in animal-related occupations receive free admission to Northwest Trek and a chance to learn about how zookeepers work and what they do. Reservations available in January at [nwtrek.org](http://nwtrek.org).

### **Photo Tours: March 8, April 11, May 9**

A bison looms large in your lens. A moose fills your viewfinder. Mountain goats will seemingly pose for you. Grab your camera and hop aboard a tram for an exclusive tour that provides plenty of time for getting amazing photographs of Free-Roaming Area animals. Go to [nwtrek.org](http://nwtrek.org) for a complete list of 2015 Photo Tours.



You're invited!  
**Celebrate Northwest Trek's 40th Birthday**  
Friday, July 17, 2015 - Sunday, July 19, 2015