

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

General Information:
 360-832-6117 | nwtrek.org

Summer/Fall Hours
Through June 30
 Monday-Friday: 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m.
 Saturday-Sunday: 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m.
July 1-Sept. 2
 Daily: 9:30 a.m.-6 p.m.
Sept. 3-Oct. 6
 Monday-Friday: 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m.
 Saturday-Sunday: 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m.

JEANNIE CLAY, *Membership Coordinator*
 360-832-7170
 Jeannie.Clay@nwtrek.org

KRIS SHERMAN, *Newsletter Editor*
 253-404-3800
 kris.sherman@pdza.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.



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Summer 2013

TREK TRACKS

PUBLISHED FOR THE FRIENDS OF NORTHWEST TREK WILDLIFE PARK



Slug Fest at 30

It's a sluggy, slimy, silly-bration.

Slug Fest celebrates its 30th anniversary June 22-23 with two days of activities that can best be described in Hollywood movie-promotion terms.

THRILL TO TENTACLE-WAVING BANANA SLUGS!
STROLL THROUGH A 50-FOOT LONG SLUG TUNNEL!
CREATE A SLUG-BEAD ZIPPER PULL!

Yep. It's Slug Fest 2013. Northwest Trek staff put on their Tentacle-Thinking Caps months ago to prepare for a celebration as memorable as, well, a three-decade-long slime trail.

They built a 50-foot-long, 9-foot-high "slug" for kids and adults to walk through.

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Baby Boom



Sean Griffin/Lightscares Photography

Bison calves. Check.
Moose calves. Check.
Bighorn sheep lambs. Check.

It's summer in the meadows, forests and fields of Northwest Trek, and that means it's a great time to hop aboard a tram with baby sightings in mind.

Several bison calves and bighorn sheep lambs arrived in recent weeks and are in the Free-Roaming Area, babes sticking close by their mothers.

Sharp-eyed tram riders might spot wobbly legged deer fawns, too. And it's always fun to look for a mother duck and her ducklings trailing behind—or a goose and her goslings. *Continued on page 2*



Jesse Michener/Northwest Trek Wildlife Park

It's a Wild Adventure

One-of-a-Kind Company Picnics and Retreats
 Northwest Trek Wildlife Park



for contact information: nwtreksales@lancercatering.com • 253.334.6490

FAMILY CAMPS

An awesome overnight adventure

July 6-7; July 13-14; July 20-21; July 27-28
 Aug. 3-4; Aug. 10-11; Aug. 17-18

Details at nwtrek.org



- Registration includes park admission.
- All runners entered in raffle for great prizes.
- Entry fees benefit programming and conservation efforts at Northwest Trek.

Reserve your spot today.
 \$30 before midnight Oct. 2.

nwtrek.org



Continued from page 1: Baby Boom

And this year, two orphaned moose moved in. The two yearlings, an approximately 600-pound female from Alaska and an approximately 500-pound male from Idaho, trotted into the 435-acre Free-Roaming Area in April, immediately curious about their surroundings.

They were rescued last summer and brought to Northwest Trek, where they were cared for off exhibit while they grew a bit. Each is now about a year old.

They bring to four the total number of moose in the Free-Roaming Area, three females and one male.

Between the moose calves and the animal population boom, it's a great time to grab a camera, pack the binoculars and take a tram tour, or register for one of the many memorable Keeper or Photo Tours offered at Northwest Trek.

"It's always exciting when we see calves and lambs roaming the park," head zookeeper Ed Cleveland said. "We know visitors will enjoy looking for and watching all of the baby animals this summer."



Five orphaned fox kits find new home at Northwest Trek

Five orphaned fox kits are settling into their new home at Northwest Trek Wildlife Park following their rescue by wildlife officials in Idaho.

The siblings, born in April, arrived in late May.

They're in a behind-the-scenes area and will not go on exhibit until they're older, Zoological Curator Heidi Hellmuth said. Check nwtrek.org and [facebook.com/nwtrek](https://www.facebook.com/nwtrek) for updates.

The kits, hidden in an irrigation pipe, were orphaned after their mother was shot and killed while stealing chickens.

"We are happy that we are in a position to give these orphaned kits a home that they need," Hellmuth said. "They will be instrumental in helping to educate the public about their wild counterparts."

Continued from page 1: Slug Fest

On your march through the humongous mollusk you'll learn interesting facts about the creatures.

Staff molded hundreds of slug "beads" from clay, so you can turn one into your very own zipper pull, creating the effect that a slug is crawling up your jacket.

And they've readied the race track for the ever-popular human slug races, in which participants inch their way along plastic sheets in a battle for slimy supremacy.

There also will be tentacle-wearing trams (that's right, even the Free-Roaming Area tram tours get into this act!); the singing of the Slug Anthem ("Slu-uuugs are goo-ooo-ooo-eeeeee" instead of "Oh, say, can you see!"); live slug presentations and other activities.

And, of course, the star of this show, the Pacific banana slug, will be on full exhibit. The marvelous mollusk grows to just under 10 inches long. Slugs are an important part of the forest-floor ecosystem. These detritivores, or decomposers, consume leaves, animal



droppings and dead plant material, recycling those substances into soil humus.

Slug Fest wears its Mighty Mantle of Supremely Silly Summer fun well. It began modestly in 1982 with a genuine Slug Derby at Slime Acres. In 1983, with a new course, clubhouse, weigh-in area and lounge facilities for slugs, the quirky summer event became a full-fledged festival. Over the years, slugs became the educational focus, and the slug races turned human-powered.

"We try to add something new every year, to keep Slug Fest fresh and fun," said Northwest Trek Events Coordinator Gabby Huffman. "We're certain it will be a sluggy success."

What: 30th Anniversary of Slug Fest
When: June 22-23
Hours: 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m.

Climb, scramble, soar on the Zip Wild side

Zip Wild is a whole lot wilder for 2013. Four aerial challenge courses await adventurers from 6 through adult. All are high-octane, adrenaline-pumping fun.

THE LINEUP:

Super Kid: Ages 6 and up. Basic beginner course, sized for kids. \$19.95.*

Discovery: Ages 8 and up. Entry level, with two zip lines, 10 obstacles. Just right for a taste of adventure. \$29.95.*

Adventure: Ages 10 and up. Up to 55 feet in the air. A great workout. Lots of zip. \$39.95.*

Sensation: Ages 18 and up. The BIG one. Eight stories high. Very challenging. Extreme fun. \$59.95.*

Summer hours: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily.

Reservations: nwtrek.org.

*All prices are in addition to Northwest Trek admission or membership. Zip Wild is operated by Deep Forest Challenge, LLC.

