

# Paw Prints **HOLIDAY EDITION** 2016

Tis the holiday season and this year we've combined the November and December volunteer newsletters into one. There are some comings and goings, changes a coming (which will be revealed only at the party), and many, many great efforts to celebrate! You should really come out to the annual Holiday Party to catch up, eat great food and even take home some surprises. You really, really need to come out!

## **Holiday Party**

Be there on Saturday, December 10 for the annual Trek Volunteer Potluck Christmas Party.

Bring a dish to share and we'll meet out at the Hellyer Center to share some yuletide cheer.

The shuttle bus from the maintenance yard starts running at 11:00 am on that day, and we'll eat around noon.

It ought to be a lot of fun!  
Join us for a great celebration!





Gary Geddes, longtime Northwest Trek Director and more recently Executive Director of Zoological and Environmental Education for Metro Parks Tacoma will be retiring at the end of December. Since 1981, Gary has been instrumental in the growth in attendance (over a 240% increase since he arrived), the addition of many exhibits including cats, bears, coyotes, raptors and Kid's Trek, and building a deep conservation initiative (which has seen Trek's stewardship efforts extend out into the community and has even netted national accolades for pygmy rabbit and Oregon spotted frog restoration programs). Gary has guided Northwest Trek and Point Defiance Zoo through some pretty tough financial times, and he retires knowing that the 35 years he has dedicated to these organizations has left their futures very, very bright. Gary isn't officially retiring from his passion for conservation. He says, "Although I am leaving one conservation organization of which I am extremely proud, I will remain active in the community and find new ways to participate in the protection of wildlife and the environment. Most importantly, I'll have more time to spend with my family, particularly my growing grandchildren."

Thank You Gary for all your leadership, dedication and commitment.

### Park Notes:

- We had to euthanize the badger this week. She was losing her fight with cancer and after extensive treatment, we couldn't assure a high quality of life going forward.
- Rich Sartor, IT specialist, and Brianne Shaw, Lead Naturalist, are also leaving Northwest Trek to pursue other interests
- We have hired a new zookeeper, Maritza Almquist. Look for her in an animal enclosure near you!
- Look for the Northwest Trek truck in the annual Christmas parade this year in Eatonville. Contact Chip if you are interested in actually being in the parade.

### Birthdays:

Belated birthday wishes go out to our November Volunteers. Hopefully they had a great special day.



Judith Hansen November 22



Marlene Pool November 22

There is still time to wish an on-time Happy Birthday to these volunteers. Last year, I thought it'd be a good idea to update some of these photos, since these long time volunteers might enjoy to actually be recognized when they come out to volunteer. Hey, maybe we can take new photos at the Holiday Party....just think....December birthday photos in gaudy Christmas sweaters...could be really great! December, as we all know, is when we celebrate Awareness Month of Awareness Months Month.



Starting at left, Sharon Miller is first up with a December 2<sup>nd</sup> birthday.

Below left to right, Terri Terrault celebrates on December 16<sup>th</sup>, and Sharon Aguilar parties on Christmas Eve December 23<sup>rd</sup>.

*In case you are thinking about birthday presents, December is also root vegetable and exotic fruit month. Hint, hint.*

