American Wolf - A Must-Read! Updates: Ashima, Rajan, Akela & Nala Colorado Gives Day is Back



Fall 2017



SAVE THE DATE!

April 21, 2018 The Hilton Ft. Collins, CO

Join us as we indulge in a night of tropical elegance filled with gourmet food, unique auction items and special guest speaker Montana State Senator Mike Phillips. Senator Phillips is Director of the (Ted) Turner Endangered Species Fund. In his earlier years, he was highly involved in wild wolf reintroduction programs,

including the Yellowstone project. He currently serves on the Science Advisory Team of the Rocky Mountain Wolf Project which is working to reintroduce gray wolves to Colorado. Join us for his inspiring and educational talk. And breaking news: Nate Blakeslee, author of *American Wolf* that is reviewed in this issue, will also speak and be available for a book signing!

Proceeds raised at the gala benefit the wolves we love, as well as helping with the move to our new property. Consider a ticket to our gala as a nice Christmas present for you or a loved one! Information on reservations, meal options, donation and sponsorship opportunities is available at www. wolfsanctuary.net/a-truly-wolf-affair.



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IRS Tax Exempt Status Under Section 501(c)(3) Colorado Nonprofit & Tax Exempt Corporation United States Department of Agriculture, Licensed Colorado Parks and Wildlife, Licensed American Sanctuary Association, Accredited Community Shares of Colorado, Member

<u>Mission</u>: To improve the quality of life for wolves and wolf dogs through:

- **Rescue -** Save captive-born wolves and wolf dogs who need sanctuary in order to survive;
- **Sanctuary -** Provide a lifelong home at W.O.L.F. in a natural habitat that takes into account each individual's physical, medical & emotional needs;
- Education Provide the public with education about the plight of wolves and wolf dogs (both captive-born and wild) to help foster a greater understanding of them and their value.

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Letter from the Director

Dear Supporters:

Fall is here at W.O.L.F., and we are busier than ever. However, I would be remiss if I didn't use this opportunity to say "thank you" to so many wonderful people who give their time, money and love to help our animals have healthy and happy lives.

I want to thank all of our W.O.L.F. supporters who attended the land use hearing on October 18 before the Larimer County Planning Commission for our new property at Red Feather Lakes. We received a split decision--half for, half against. We will have a final hearing before the Larimer County Board of Commissioners on December 4th, 2017, and we hope you will again join us at that meeting in Fort Collins. We'll post the location and time on our Facebook page and other social media. We greatly appreciate that our supporters were able to demonstrate the professionalism of W.O.L.F. through their courteous and polite behavior to those who oppose us.

Another big "thank you" to the work groups we've had all fall. We have been so lucky to have groups like Otterbox,



Colorado State University Pre-Vet Club, and Constant Contact help us with facilities maintenance projects. These groups provide an enormous service to W.O.L.F. We also want to say a big "thank you" to the hundreds of supporters and visitors who stopped by our booth at this year's Rist Canyon Festival, Elk Fest in Estes Park and the Tour de Corgi in Ft. Collins. We loved making so many new friends and greeting old friends at these great outdoor events If you missed us this fall, be sure to check out our public events on Facebook and our website.

In this edition of W.O.L.F. you will find animal updates from Michelle Proulx, our Director of Animal Care and Public Education. Be the first to know how our baby wolf dog Ashima is doing, and see how she is rapidly growing into a mature young female with attitude. We also have a review of a remarkable new book, *American Wolf* by Nate Blakeslee. It is a "must read" for anyone who is concerned about the fate of wolves in the wild in America. Blakeslee tells the true story of the iconic wolf called 0-Six who was born in Yellowstone National Park in 2006. At an early age, she became the leader of the Lamar Canyon pack which she helped to bring back from near extinction. Blakeslee tells the gripping story of her life and her untimely death in 2012 when she ventured just outside the boundaries of the Park and was shot to death by a hunter waiting for an opportunity. The book reads like a compelling novel, and you will not want to put it down. And exciting news! Nate will join us at our Annual Fundraiser Gala on April 21st, 2018 where you'll have an opportunity to hear him talk about his amazing book.

I also want to take this opportunity to introduce the newest member of the W.O.L.F. Board of Directors – Liz Smokowski. She is currently the Chief Executive Officer of the Longmont Humane Society, and she brings a wealth of animal welfare expertise to our W.O.L.F Board. Welcome Liz!

And one final note -- don't forget to mark your calendar for December 5th. It is Colorado Gives Day, one of W.O.L.F.'s largest fund raisers of the year. It's easy to give and you can make your donation online!

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Property Update

By Carol Mahoney

W.O.L.F. is in the final stages of the Special Use Review process for our new property near Red Feather Lakes, north of our current location. We completed a hearing in front of the Larimer County Planning Commission in October which ended in a tie vote. However, the County Planning *staff* did make a recommendation in favor of granting W.O.L.F. a special use permit to move the Sanctuary to the Red Feather Lakes property.

The final step in the Special Use process is a public hearing with the Board of County Commissioners on December 4th. It's imperative that as many supporters as possible attend to show their support that night as this meeting is THE final decision on W.O.L.F. getting approval for our move. There

are some neighbors who oppose our move due to unfounded fears and misinformation. If you can't attend, please write a letter in support. Contact info@wolfsanctuary.net for details.

In the meantime, W.O.L.F. received a grant and is working with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to help decrease hazardous fuels, improve forest structure and wildlife habitat elements at our new location. The services provided by NRCS under the grant will reduce fire impact and benefit the wildlife, watershed and residents nearby. We want to be good stewards of the land and good neighbors!

Please consider a generous donation toward our new animal enclosures and property improvements, which may costs as much as \$500,000. We are already about 15 percent of the way there, but we need your support to ensure we reach our goal.

Meet Our New Board Member



By Carol Mahoney

W.O.L.F. is pleased to announce the addition of another board member, Liz Smokowski, who is the Chief Executive Officer of Longmont Humane Society.

Liz has had a passion for animals and animal welfare all her life, including training and education with an Associate degree of Science in Animal Health. She has worked as a Certified Veterinary Technician, has a bachelor's degree in biology with a minor in business management and an MBA from Regis University.

Though Liz started her career in medical device, OTC and biopharmaceutical regulatory work, she switched to nonprofit leadership over 12 years ago. Ms. Smokowski began her service at Longmont Humane Society as a board member, which allowed her the opportunity to combine her multiple skills into her current position as Chief Executive Officer. (Continued on page 10)

Animal Update: Ashima, Rajan, Akela & Nala

<u>Ashima</u>

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Ashima is now six months old and a full-time resident at the Sanctuary. She has grown into an athletic and energetic youngster who relishes the freedom she is now able to enjoy with her leg being completely healed. It is impossible to tell that she ever had any issues



with her leg at all! While still on the small side, she has a good appetite and is growing well, and there is no evidence of stunted development in the leg she broke.

In late August it was decided that Ashima was finally healthy enough for a companion and a number of options were discussed. Ultimately, Spartacus was determined to be the best match. Ashima was thrilled to finally have a canine



companion. At first Spartacus was overwhelmed by Ashima's energy and spent much of his time disciplining or avoiding her. However, as the weeks passed and Ashima got over her obsessive need to be hanging off of Spartacus 24/7, they have started to enjoy one another's company.

They both love to interact with their caretakers and go for walks. They also enjoy playing

By Michelle Proulx

with one another and will race around their enclosure playing chase or wrestling. Ashima's favorite game is to follow along behind Spartacus, biting at his legs and pulling his tail, or jumping up to drape herself over his back while chewing on his neck in an attempt to get him to react. When he does, however, Ashima will try to hide behind one of her caretakers until Spartacus leaves and then start the game again. We are hoping that with Spartacus' help Ashima will be able to continue to be an ambassador for the Sanctuary.



<u>Rajan</u>

For the last year or so Rajan has been having small micro-seizures. While they do not ap-

pear to be causing him any difficulties, Rajan has undergone numerous medical tests to try to determine the cause of his seizures so we can successfully treat them should they become an issue. Everything came back negative, leading the veterinarians to conclude that either Rajan has epilepsy or some



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kind of brain tumor or stroke. The only diagnostic tests that would allow us to know conclusively would be to take Rajan in for an MRI.

Unfortunately, MRIs cost thousands of dollars. While we were trying to figure out what we could do in that regard, one of our volunteers mentioned that she worked at a veterinary clinic that had an MRI machine and would be willing to talk to the hospital to see if they would give the Sanctuary a discount. The clinic was eager to help and an appointment was made.



On August 31, Rajan was taken to the clinic for his exam. His MRI showed no evidence of tumors, swelling or damage to the brain tissue. To make sure all of our bases were covered, a spinal tap was also preformed to test for infections. At the end of the day, it was concluded that the cause of his seizures was epilepsy.

However, the MRI also showed that there was a large mass located in Rajan's sinus cavity. The veterinarians were worried that could be cancerous and recommended surgery to biopsy the growth. Because removing the mass would

be a quick procedure and require little postop care, it was decided that they would do the operation that same day. Everything went smoothly, and the results of the biopsy showed that the mass was not cancerous, thank goodness! Rajan has recovered well from his surgery and is as happy as ever.



Akela & Nala



Nala and Akela have settled in nicely to their new life here at the Sanctuary. They enjoy having the space to be able to avoid their caretakers when they choose and this, more than anything, has led to a marked increase in their confidence. During the first couple of weeks after their rescue they would stay as far away as possible from their caretakers. Now, however, they are comfortable that they will not be pressured or cornered and are starting to act upon their curiosity.

Interestingly, Nala has become the most comfortable approaching her caretakers, usually staying within 20 feet or so of them as they do chores. She is always the first one down when she thinks food will be offered and has no problems taking treats off the spoon through the fence.



Akela is more reserved and makes sure to stick close to Nala if he chooses to approach his caretakers. He is less trusting and, while he will come to take treats off of the spoon, he is always prepared for a quick getaway if his caretakers make a sudden or unexpected movement.

Both of them are full of energy and enjoy playing with one another, riling up their neighbors and seeing how quickly they can chew up a new toy. It is rare for a toy to remain intact longer than 12 hours when in the company of Nala and Akela.



Akela & Nala

Meet Our New Volunteer Coordinator



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Mark Speth came to W.O.L.F. as a volunteer in 2014. His enthusiasm and commitment to working with our animals led him to become part of the W.O.L.F. family in the spring of this year.

What attracted you to become the Volunteer Coordinator at W.O.L.F.?

In the back of my mind I have always wanted to help develop a program that could be an ideal model for facilities to have hands-on enrichment with animals that could benefit from human interaction. When I was approached with the offer to work with the animals that I had already developed a strong relationship with, I jumped at the opportunity to stay with my furry friends.

What's your background?

I constantly caught "dangerous animals" ever since I was a young child. After working with an emaciated bison in an internship right out of high school, I drew my focus in the wildlife field of veterinary medicine. When working on my associate degree in veterinary technology, I made all of my homework/class work projects involve some kind of wild animal, much to the amusement and frustration of my professors. I have milked venomous arthropods, raised cassowary chicks and tiger cubs, worked with alligators and monkeys, gotten certified in dart gun operation and had many othBy Carol Mahoney

er wild animal adventures. Originally I had been gearing up to work with komodo dragons, but my heart was stolen by wolves after completing my W.O.L.F. internship. Along with my Volunteer Coordinator responsibilities, I am currently completing my bachelor's degree at Colorado State University in Natural Resource Management with minors in conservation biology and zoology.

What are your most favorite and least favorite W.O.L.F. chores?

My favorite would be my morning walkthroughs of the Sanctuary—I like giving the animals their morning treats. For least favorite, I think it would have to be processing meat in the winter—partially frozen meat and freezing temperatures aren't too fun when you are just wearing latex gloves.

What do you do in your spare time?

Lots of things. I like to hike, kayak, track wildlife, cross-country ski, hunt for rare rocks and minerals, just like any Coloradan. I can also be found geeking it up with my brother playing Dungeons & Dragons with him and his friends and watching anime. Recently I have taken up manufacturing

crystals and gemstones, starting with making simbismuth ple crystals, but I want to try to make opals eventually. am really one of the biggest nerds you can find when it comes to anything nature related.



W.O.L.F.

Would You Like to be able to Donate More to W.O.L.F.?



Here is your chance to do just that without any extra cash coming out of your pocket!

Over the last five years, Colorado Gives Day has been one of W.O.L.F.'s largest and most successful fundraising events. Funds from past Colorado Gives Days have helped us overcome fire, flood and unexpected veterinary expenses. This year your support will help with W.O.L.F.'s move to the new property and allow us to continue making a difference in the lives of wolves and wolf dogs everywhere. Your contribution is the foundation for making this dream a reality! Last year you and others from around the country helped raise \$66,000 through this event; this year we've set our goal at \$75,000.

Why is it important to donate to the Sanctuary on Colorado Gives Day as opposed to any other day? It is a way to increase the value of your donation! FirstBank has a \$1 million matching incentive fund, and W.O.L.F. will receive a portion of that money based on the percentage of **donations we receive on Tuesday, December 5th**.

Even if you don't live in Colorado, you can still donate through the Colorado Gives Day website and make the value of your donation go further. You can even do your own fundraiser through their website! But remember, donations have to be made on the 5th or pre-scheduled for that date. **Only donations credited to that date will allow W.O.L.F. to receive part of the \$1 million incentive fund**. You will have a full 24 hours, starting at 12 a.m. on the 5th, to make your donation. Mark your calendars and help make this a successful Colorado Gives Day!

Help us reach our goal! Visit www.coloradogives.org/WOLF Tuesday December 5th, 2017 starting at midnight.

(Continued from page 4) Liz has had a place in her heart for wolves for many years, admiring them for their beauty and intelligence. After following the reintroduction of wolves in Yellowstone National Park, she and her husband spent vacation time helping to dismantle the acclimation pens that had once held those wolves. Liz feels strongly that education and awareness are key in allowing wild wolves to successfully thrive again as a necessary part of the ecosystem. She also knows that education is vital in dispelling the many myths surrounding wolf dogs and is necessary to reduce the numbers of wolf dogs being bred and needlessly euthanized.

Liz likes to spend her free time reading, hiking or helping other animals on deployment as a volunteer with the ASPCA or monitoring raptors for the City of Longmont. Quoting Liz, she "is excited to work with such a great team at W.O.L.F. and be the best ambassador that I can be!" [We had to let Spartacus and Ashima know that Liz was going to be a human ambassador—their jobs as ambassadors weren't in jeopardy.]

A Must-Read Book!

American Wolf, A True Story of Survival and Obsession in the West



Photo courtesy of Crown Publishing Group

came from the year she was born, 2006. 0-Six became one of the most famous wolves in Yellowstone as the leader of the Lamar Canyon Pack. Under her guidance, the pack thrived until she was shot and killed just outside of the Park in December 2012. The life and death of 0-Six is a story that relates directly to the dangers faced by wolves in



0-Sitx - Photo courtesy of Warren Bargholz

by Nate Blakeslee

American Wolf is a beautifully written book by Nate Blakeslee about the iconic wolf known as 0-Six who lived and died as an wolf alpha Yellowin stone National Park. She was officially listed F832. as but her nickname 0-Six

the West today. They are rapidly losing the protection afforded by the Endangered Species Act, and wolf hunts are now legal in Idaho, Montana and Wyoming. The area where a hunter killed 0-Six in 2012 is now, once again, a legal hunting ground for wolves.

Blakeslee uses the life of 0-Six



Book Review By Susan Weidel

to tell the story of wolves in America and the conflict that is as old as the country itself. He blends in history from the earliest colonial times when wolves were killed for bounty fees and "tributes" or taxes paid by Native tribes to the new colonial governments. Today the situation for wolves is still one of intense hatred by some and a longing for full restoration by others. It is difficult to imagine another animal that has caused such a wide divergence of opinion and emotion.

American Wolf brings the modern-day conflict alive through the use of field notes and interviews with environmentalists, Park biologists, ranchers and hunters. Blakeslee recounts the story of 0-Six as seen through the eyes of each group and shares each of their views in a compelling narrative that reads almost like a novel. 0-Six is the centerpiece of the book, and Blakeslee reveals her in an intimate portrait of a leader and a remarkable wolf who lived on the edge of risk for her entire life.

0-Six came to life especially through the field notes of Rick McIntyre, biologist for the Yellowstone Wolf Project, and Laurie Lyman, who chronicled the day-to-day lives of wolves for Yel-

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lowstone Reports. Blakeslee weaved these notes together to provide a detailed portrait of how 0-Six spent her early days and how she rose to fame as a fierce hunter. She was a highly intelligent alpha leader who founded a new dominant pack in the Lamar Valley. Though she only lived for 6 1/2 years, her life was a series of hair-raising events including death-defying hunts and conflicts with other Yellowstone packs.

In the final year of her life 0-Six and her Lamar pack mates engaged in a struggle for survival with the marauding pack known as the Mollies who came from the remote Pelican Valley. The Mollies routinely had to share their buffalo kill with the grizzlies so they made a move on the Lamar Valley. The Mollies were driven out of the Lamar by the Druids, and in early 2012 they decided to move back. There were many territorial battles between the Yellowstone packs but 0-Six and her pack withstood the challenge from the Mollies. 0-Six made heroic efforts to divert the Mollies from the den where her young pups resided. She jumped off a cliff to lead them away from the den. The Mollies saw her disappear over the abyss and stopped in puzzlement and wonder. They did not realize that the savvy 0-Six landed on a narrow ledge and quickly made her way back to the den without the Mollies on her tail. She and her pack mates were successful in holding their territory, and with 0-Six in the lead, they continued their reign over the Lamar through the remainder of 2012.

In a searing interview with the hunter who shot and killed 0-Six only months after her victory over the Mollies, Blakeslee was able to answer the question "why" that is so often posed by people who love wolves and fight for their protection. The hunter, who used the pseudonym Steven Turnbull, spoke with a bluntness that was chilling. He had the pelt of 0-Six hanging on the wall in his cabin along with his legal hunting tag. He considered it one of his prize trophies and showed off her beautiful wide paws, deeply furred body, and her long snout with all of her teeth removed. Turnbull boasted "I shot her, and I'm not ashamed. I'd do it again!" Why did he do it? Because the hunting of elk was becoming too difficult. When the wolves returned to Yellowstone in 1995, the ecological balance was once again restored, and the elk population was reduced. Prior to the reintroduction, hunters and outfitters were able to make a decent living from elk hunts. They barely had to leave the road in order to get a large bull elk kill. After the reintroduction, wolf predation reduced the elk to a healthy and ecologically sound level. But that level was unacceptable to hunters. They had only known the over-abundance that occurred once wolves were removed from the West in the early 20th century. The post-1995 reality meant the end of an era of easy hunts and gigantic herds. For Turnbull, "hunting big game was what life in Wyoming was all about ... " And as Turnbull put it so succinctly to Blakeslee in their last interview: I'm against wolves...I want to make sure that's clear." And the untimely death of 0-Six, by the shot from Turnbull's rifle, made that unmistakably obvious.

* Leonardo DiCaprio's production company Appian Way has purchased options on the film rights for this book. And Nate Blakeslee will be a guest speaker and conduct a book signing at our April 2018 gala.



Estate Gifts Leave a Lasting Legacy for the Wolves

By Susan Weidel

You can make a gift to W.O.L.F. in your will, trust, or other financial plan and help protect our wolves far into the future.

At W.O.L.F., we have been pleasantly surprised to receive a number of estate gifts from supporters who have included W.O.L.F. in bequests through wills, insurance policies, and annuities. We are filled with gratitude for these unexpected and generous acts of compassion that have helped to sustain the Sanctuary and provide for the health and safety of the animals we all love so much.

Estate gifts are often some of the least understood ways to have a lasting impact on W.O.L.F. These gifts may provide tax benefits to donors while simultaneously helping the wolves.

Through a planned estate gift like a charitable trust, you may be able to increase your current income or provide additional retirement income while reducing your income tax and estate taxes. Recent changes in the tax laws may make it more appealing to consider estate gifts. Some of the most common forms of estate gifts include:



- <u>Will</u> You can provide a gift to W.O.L.F. through your will by making W.O.L.F. a direct beneficiary. This type of giving is simple and allows you to designate a specific dollar or percentage amount, a gift of real estate, stocks, bonds, or a gift of any other property which is part of your estate. If you already have a will, you may be able to add a simple codicil (supplement) without the need to redo the entire document. It is always a good idea to review your will and the rest of your estate plan as the circumstances change in your life.
- Individual Retirement Account (IRA) You can name W.O.L.F. as the beneficiary of an IRA.
- Life Insurance Proceeds Another simple way to make a legacy gift is to designate W.O.L.F. as the beneficiary of your life insurance policy. This is a simple and effective way to make a gift that will make a difference for the wolves.
- <u>Charitable Trust</u> You can create a charitable trust and place assets into the trust. There are many types of charitable trusts, and it is best to consult an estate planning expert to determine which type of trust best suits your circumstances.

There are many ways to protect your loved ones and remember your favorite charities. The best way to accomplish your goals is to consult with an attorney who is knowledgeable about estate planning. If you would like more information about W.O.L.F. as you develop your estate plan, please contact Susan Weidel, Rescue Coordinator at W.O.L.F. (sweidel@wolfsanctuary.net). Susan will be happy to provide you and your attorney with helpful information about W.O.L.F. as a 501 (c) (3) tax-exempt organization.

*The above information is not intended as legal or tax advice. For such advice, you should consult with an attorney of your choice.

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Just in Time for the Holidays

Are you wanting to give a gift that is more than just another 'thing' this holiday season? Look no further! W.O.L.F. has many gift ideas and you will be supporting a great cause. Go to www.wolfsanctuary.net/store to view all of our wonderful items. Orders must be placed by December 10th to assure that they will be received in time for Christmas!

And for those who don't want material things, consider getting them an annual membership to W.O.L.F.! It is a great way to help the Sanctuary while also giving a meaningful gift that lasts the entire year.

W.O.L.F.'s beautiful 2018 calendar makes a great gift at only \$12. Supply is limited, so make sure to order today!



T-shirts & Hoodies



The care we provide for our wolves is only possible because of your support. Thank you for helping us thrive over the years. Your compassion is an inspiration to all of us here at W.O.L.F.

Wishing You Joyous bowlidays and a Peaceful New Year

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YESI I would like to become a member of W.O.L.F. and help to care for abandoned captive-born wolves and wolf dogs. I understand that by becoming a member, I will receive a quarterly newsletter, window decal, annual calendar and additional gifts depending on my member level unless I specify otherwise. (Membership is renewable and is tax deductible.)		
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