

Celebrating 10 years of working for wolves, Wolf Haven and wolf conservation.

Tami Williams, Conservation Specialist

Wolf Haven's own *'Julie of the Wolves'*



In the entire 26 years of our history, very little has remained the same at Wolf Haven. We have always had beautiful animals and dedicated staff, volunteers and members committed to our cause. As is true of most non-profit organizations, however, the people that make-up the staff and volunteers change with some regularity. There are notable exceptions to that trend that have stood by Wolf Haven through highs and lows, leaving their mark on this organization and helping to make it the wonderful place that it is.

No matter the changes that have occurred at Wolf Haven, or the news coming from the larger wolf conservation world, you may have noticed the consistent quality of this publication over the last ten years – and in particular the spectacular photos of Wolf Haven and our wolves. The person solely responsible for the look of *WOLFTRACKS* and almost all of our publications for the past ten years is my good friend and former Wolf Haven communications Director, Julie Lawrence.

I met Julie one sunny afternoon, having lunch at a picnic table behind Wolf Haven's administration building. She was the newly-hired Communications Director and I was an enthusiastic volunteer tour guide. For those of you who have not met Julie, you may be surprised by the person responsible for our amazing publication, creator of Wolf Haven's first web site, co-founder of the educational series "Living With Carnivores" and writer of an important paper on the status of Washington's wolves. I sit here trying to think of a word other than "bubbly" to describe my friend's personality – as a consummate professional and serious adult she may not appreciate it – but as a serious devotee of all things pink, sparkly and "Hello Kitty" the "bubbly" cliché could not fit more perfectly. Beneath the bubbles are a professional mind, a true caring for all people and animals and a passion to make the world a better place. A side effect of that personality is the enviable ability to befriend anyone – from well-connected government officials to serious wolf biologists.

Another common aspect (and an attraction) of small non-profit organizations is the necessity of many staff members, no matter their title, to take on any tasks that may need to be done. Sometimes, staff who are hired for one reason, are infected by one aspect or another of our mission and that passion leads to an integral role in something they never dreamed about when they began their time at Wolf Haven. For Julie, student of art history and journalism, wolf conservation and education came to be a major focus of her time as a Wolf Haven staff member. As Editor-in-Chief of *WOLF TRACKS*, Julie often wrote articles on wolf conservation issues. As a perfectionist and



A vision in pink: Julie Lawrence.
By MARC LAWRENCE. Julie (center) with some fellow *Living with Carnivores* participants in 2001.

person who cares very deeply about getting her facts straight, a side effect of writing about conservation is extensive research on the subject. With research comes understanding, and for the right person, a call to action.

Living with Carnivores

The brain-child of local USFWS information officer Doug Zimmer, "Living With Carnivores" was an ambitious educational program intended to help people that worked, recreated and lived on the fringe between development and wilderness learn about the local carnivores in order to avoid conflict. Though there were not any wolves thought to be residing in our state, the possibility existed, and therefore wolves were included in the list of carnivores that needed attention

A photo of Cricket, lovingly taken in March 2008. By JULIE LAWRENCE. See more of Wolf Haven's wolves photos at WolfHaven.org and KittyMultiMedia.com.



(along with bears, cougars and coyotes). Although the idea started with USFWS, the Service was not in a position to expend many resources on the venture so what started as creation of a slide show, brochure and public relations duties for Julie expanded to a key-role in organization and implementation. Julie's role with the program culminated with a presentation at the Defenders' of Wildlife national Carnivores conference in Monterey, California on how to start similar educational presentations. By that time, the program had expanded in some form to three other states.

In her research of conservation issues, Julie took note of the lack of information on the status of wolves in our home state. Although there had been some papers written on various aspects of wolves in Washington, no one had compiled the information or talked openly about the future Washington wolves other than the possibility of reintroduction on the Olympic Peninsula. With a lot of perseverance and taking advantage of her ability to connect with all types of people, Julie put together an excellent paper on the subject that I still receive many requests for, from local government agents to large conservation organizations.

Despite all that Julie has done for Wolf Haven and wolf

conservation, one of the things that I admire most about her is that she has never lost sight of her true passion – photography. Wolf Haven is now just one of the many clients of "Kitty MultiMedia", named for another of Julie's great passions – her five cats. Now that she has her own company, she is still an occasional patient sounding-board for all my conservation ranting and always endlessly upbeat and gentle, as

my editor for the past ten years, about my tendency to "write like [I] talk" and my casual view of deadlines. It has been my experience in this profession that sometimes all it takes to make a difference in a world ruled by politics and science is one passionate person who refuses to be intimidated by the cynics or daunted by the enormity of a task. I am proud to call one such person my friend, Julie. 🐾

conservation |

Linda Saunders, *Director of Conservation*

Lions and wolves and bears – Oh my!



Wolf Haven had the honor of hosting a meeting of the Pacific Northwest Zoo and Aquarium Alliance in January.

The Alliance includes educators from nine institutions, such as the Woodland Park Zoo in Seattle, Washington, the Portland Zoo in Portland, Oregon, the Boise Zoo in Boise, Idaho, Point Defiance Zoo in Tacoma, Washington, Northwest Trek in Eatonville, Washington, and the High Desert Museum in Bend, Oregon.

One focus of the Alliance is rare species recovery and education. For this meeting, the Alliance invited representatives from Wolf Haven International, the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, the National

Park Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Grizzly Bear Outreach Project to be part of a new movement.

This powerhouse group has two missions: to get the word out to the public about the fantastic array of carnivores we have in the Pacific Northwest, including our favorite, the wolf. Secondly, how we, as humans, can coexist with these carnivores and keep them on our landscape. Educational programs were reviewed at the meeting, including Wolf Haven's "Living with Carnivores" program. This program was developed as a cooperative effort by Wolf Haven staff and others in 2001, and was the first comprehensive education program about carnivores in the Pacific Northwest. The program was adopted by state and federal agencies and presented by Wolf Haven and agency staff

throughout Washington for several years. Other programs reviewed at the meeting included Project CAT, a Washington Department of Wildlife mountain lion education program that includes students collecting field information on deer and radio-collared cats, and the Grizzly Bear Outreach Project, developed by Chris Morgan of Insight Wildlife, Inc., a highly successful grizzly bear education program that works from small communities on up to larger urban cities. Woodland Park Zoo and Portland Zoo's "Wild Wise" program of wildlife observation and study by students was also discussed as a potential prototype for the group's project.

Our group hopes to spread the word

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