

WOLF TIMBERS

EVENTS

SPRING 2011

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INGO

April 22, 1999 - August 18, 2011

A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR...*by Don Knoch*

All of us are saddened by the recent loss of our beloved Alpha wolf, Ingo. No one is ever prepared to lose a friend. He will never be forgotten.

It is hard to believe that summer is nearly over. At the time of this writing, we have only seven scheduled programs remaining for the 2011 season. The weather has been better for our programs than last year. We recently added two new volunteers and are looking to add more.

On behalf of all the Wolf Timbers staff, I want to thank all past and present donors, sponsors, members, volunteers, and friends for their valued support through the years. We look forward to continue the work of bringing to the public a better understanding of these majestic animals.

A WORD FROM *Marty*

We are so sorry for bringing you the news of Ingo’s passing. We realize it has been a long time since we produced a newsletter and we apologize. The majority of this newsletter will be on Ingo, and his life.

On August 21, 2011, a memorial service was held for Ingo at Wolf Timbers beginning at 5:30 pm. There were 32 human participants. It had been raining earlier so we set up for the service to be held in the garage. As we neared the 5:30 mark, the sun came out and we were able to hold the service on the bleachers in front of Nira and Keeley.



Jean Knoch read “Grey Wolf” by O. Fred Donaldson followed by Beth Tedrow’s reading of Ingo’s memorial brochure. Ingo’s ashes were presented and Teresa Finnicum read “Ode to a Dying Wolf” - author



unknown. Marty then read excerpts from Ingo’s puppy chart. Next was “story time” in which Ray McVicker, Nicolette Popa and through Nic, Cyndi Block brought back some memories of Ingo. Christina Marcelli then read “Thinking Like a Mountain”. We followed up with a howling tribute in which Nic, Beth Tedrow and myself went in the enclosure with Nira and Keeley. Nic and myself howled and Beth refrained, symbolizing Ingo’s absence. As predicted, only Taula howled. A majority of us then interacted with Nira and Keeley. Afterwards, we ate as we watched a screen show of Ingo pictures honoring him through our memories and boxes of tissues.

NIRA AND KEELEY WOLF UPDATE

Both Nira and Keeley seem to be doing well, at least from our observations. Both have maintained a respectful weight and are lighter in color from previous years. Nira no longer jumps up on the taller platforms and a “swift walk” has replaced his run. He is still as doppy as ever (in a good way) and will occasionally roll over for a belly rub. Keeley was spotted running in the enclosure the other day. While Nira sat on his hind legs, moving only his head as he watched her run, wonder what he was thinking...They both have been caught “looking” over their shoulder after Ingo passed...I too, catch myself doing the same thing as Nira and Keeley. A presence such as Ingo will never die!

WHAT HAPPENED??? - Marty

On Thursday, August 18, 2011, I returned home from work and found that Ingo, our alpha, had passed on. We knew he was sick and had planned on sedating him the next day for a more thorough examination. Dr. Duerr, the wolves veterinarian, came out on Tuesday, August 16 in the evening. We had a number of volunteers present. On entering the enclosure, we allowed Ingo to approach us—seeing his breathing was more labored, Dr. Duerr decided to hold off on anesthetizing him until he felt he had all the necessary equipment to breath for Ingo if that became necessary. This was then planned for Friday, August 19. Ingo never embraced the idea of being restrained, going on walks with a chain around his neck was not Ingo’s way of enjoying himself and you would have better luck bear hugging an elephant than trying to pick up Ingo. Ingo beat the odds again by passing on before he could be chemically restrained.

Each one of the wolves have a favorite or a few favorite amongst us humans. Ingo’s favorite “girls” were Nic and Beth. Beth has retired from Wolf Timbers a number of years ago. I called Nic, she came out, we put Nira and Keeley in the holding pen. This was to prevent them from guarding Ingo. Nic and I then just sat with Ingo for an hour or so. We then removed Ingo and allowed Nira and Keeley back into the main enclosure.

We had placed Ingo outside the airlock gates so that Nira and Keeley could again see Ingo. They both stood in the airlock for five minutes, looking at Ingo and sniffing the air. Nira then just trotted away. Keeley remained and after a few more minutes, she started to do her “dance” as only those close enough to her

witnessed. She then began to whimper slightly. Allowing her a few more minutes, we then exited the enclosure.

We then called Wolf Park and told them of Ingo’s passing. Dr. Duerr then called and I informed him of Ingo’s passing and I asked if we could perform a necropsy. He agreed saying that the sooner, the better. In the meantime, we were wondering where to place Ingo for his final resting spot. At that time, we then called Ingo’s other “favorite” girl, Teresa. Teresa suggested cremation. After conferring with Nic, Wolf Park and Doctor Duerr, it was decided this would honor Ingo more than being placed in a box. We met Dr. Duerr at his Bolivar office and performed the necropsy. In times



of great sorrow, there are little rays of light—this being evidenced by that fact that Ingo had no internal parasites—no heartworm. We also could not find any ticks or fleas on him. Ingo’s cause of death was lung cancer. The smallest parts of his lungs were consumed by the cancer. The amazing thing is that he survived as long as he did without giving as much as a clue, except in the last week or so, of how sick he was. Ingo’s passing was as dignified as his life.

I helped with Ingo's socialization here at Wolf Park along with his two sisters, Julia and Jessica. He was always my favorite of the 3. I remember the day you, Marty, picked him up to take him to Ohio. It's always bitter sweet when our pups leave for another facility but knowing that Ingo was going to Ohio, my "other" home, made it much easier. I didn't see Ingo again until I visited Wolf Timbers when he was a little over 1 year old. As I approached the enclosure with Marty, Ingo looked at me without recognition but as soon as he picked up my "scent" he began submissively urinating when he realized it was someone he knew. We shared a wonderful visit with lots of kisses. He turned into a beautiful adult and enjoyed a good life with Nira, Keeley, you Marty and all of the humans who met him over the years. Thank you Marty for providing a wonderful place for Ingo and loving him every day of his life with you. - Peggy Klinghammer

“Ingo” that name alone brings back my fondest memories of Wolf Timbers. I started as a volunteer in May of 2000 and was introduced to the pack after four visits. Not having worked with wild animals before, I was nervous and not wanting to show it, I just kind of ignored Ingo when I was in with the wolves. Why I did this, I don’t remember. It may have been because of his size. He was a big wolf. Or, his attitude, you have to remember that he was a little over a year old and acting like a teenager. For whatever the real reason, I played it safe.

So I had thought. Ingo had other plans. I do not know how it started but Marty, Beth Tedrow and myself went into the enclosure. The morning was cool, so I put on a baggie purple sweatshirt. I knew as soon as we were in the enclosure that things were going to be different that day. Ingo was going to show me what testing meant. It started out with lunging and more lunging and me pushing him down. Marty and Beth were keeping the other two wolves busy. Ingo grabbed the sleeves of my sweatshirt which caused a small rip in the fabric. So, I thought, this is what “testing” is. The fact that Ingo caused a rip was a reward for him. As I took a breath, I looked over to Marty and he asked me how I was doing. Well, I wanted get out of there but you can't do that, it’s like telling the wolves they won. I had to stay in enclosure or lose my chance to be part of the pack. Yes, I was scared but that

day I learned what I wanted— to be a part of Wolf Timbers. Ingo taught me how to act in a pack. As the years went by, Ingo and myself had respect for each other. I learned the ways of Ingo to help others get to know him and work with him. I will always remember Ingo and he will always have special place in my heart and remind me why I will never give up the fight saving wolves. Wolf Timbers will continue without Ingo, his body may not be here but his soul will always be present.



I will miss him. He was a beautiful wolf who kept the humans in line. He reminded them that the Wolves are Wild animals that need to be respected even though they are in captivity—Karen Davis, PhD.

So we are sitting down to eat dinner and Nicholas (Nicolette’s nephew) out of the blue says "Mom, I think they should change the movie to "all wolves go to heaven", because Ingo is in Heaven and I like him." - Christina

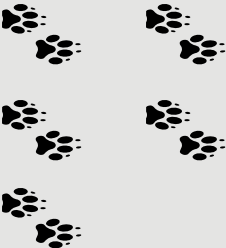


Ingo has always had a special place in my heart. I was blessed to have had many amazing interactions with him—Megan

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MORE THOUGHTS ON INGO...

When thinking of Ingo, three instant memories come to mind. It was an early spring evening, when some of us were spending time with the wolves. I was sitting on the platform near the shelter when Ingo came up and licked my right hand, then trotted away. Apparently he thought it was time to greet me.

The second memory is when I sprayed the ground with perfume to demonstrate scent-rolling. If Ingo was somewhere in the back of the up to the area to get in on the action.

The third and most vivid program. When it came time to try to and members of the viewing public Ingo came up and stood near me and howl. As he continued to howl, I and saw eyes wide open and even heard this magnificent wolf howl

Whether he was running highest of the platforms near the front the respect and awe of all who saw



Ingo had a magnificent , majestic



winter evenings at Wolf Timbers and many times as we left to climb that snowy lane, we heard Ingo begin to howl and that howl echoed throughout the many hills. That howl went right into one's very being, commanding respect and awe for the majestic wolf that was INGO. Jean Knoch

enclosure, he would come thundering

memory was an October howl get the wolves to howl, volunteers went back on the nature trail to howl. lifted his head upward and began to glanced at the nearly full bleachers some jaws drop as they saw and heavenward. This I will never forget. through the enclosure or lying on the of the viewing area, he commanded him.—Don Knoch.

presence that captivated our attention from the first day we met him five years ago. He knew his position as alpha and was ever vigilant and protected his pack to the end. We spent many evenings watching him as he attended Keeley during the mating season. He seldom left her side, allowing her to eat first, watching her every move and protecting her: a true alpha.

Ingo also had a sneaky streak, especially when ice-treats were being thrown in the enclosure. He always grabbed the first one and ran to hide it, then came bounding back to grab either Keeley’s or Nira’s treat, The staff soon learned to always have four available so no one was left out.

We were privileged to spend so many late

A SHORT SNAPSHOT INTO INGO’S LIFE (excerpts published with the permission of Wolf Park, Battle Ground, Indiana)

Ingo was born on April 22, 1999 at Wolf Park, Battle Gound Indiana (www.wolfpark.org). His parents were Seneca, father and Karin, mother. Ingo was removed from the den on April 30th, 1999. He weighed 1150 grams. May 4, his eyes open. July 12, first leash lesson. July 15, growled when picked up for weighing. Weight was 27.5 pounds. Ingo arrived at Wolf Timbers August 8, 1999. October 2, 1999 Ingo weighed 65 pounds. November 6, 1999—Ingo received a lesson in wolf law by Nira and Keeley by having the adults reprimand him. Ingo weighed 85 pounds on February 25, 2000. My notes indicate on September 2, 2000, Ingo’s “puppy status” is now a thing of the past. In the fall of 2000, Ingo again displays a dislike for being picked up for weighing. Fall of 2001 Ingo’s weight is estimated to be 100 to 110 pounds. Ingo assumes alpha status summer of 2002. Fall 2002, Ingo howls after I ride the ATV into the woods, as if saying “you forgot me.” Fall 2004 came about with a characterization of Ingo as being “mischievous and entertaining” as ever. October 15, 2009—attempted to sedate Ingo for a medical exam, he received the maximum sedative and was still too awake to do a thorough exam. We were able to draw blood and do a quick physical exam.

On August 8th, 1999 I sat in a truck on my way from Battleground, Indiana to Bolivar, Ohio.

Beside me was a wolf pup; Ingo.

On August 18th, 2011 I again sat in a truck, this time to say goodbye to this pup.

by
Nicolette Popa

It's the twelve years in between that was the true ride. Everything that Marty, Wolf Park, Keeley and Nira taught me was put to the test with this goofy, sneaky and dominant wolf. Ingo and I both grew to know each other together. Along the way we met new volunteers and it was a pleasure teaching them the ways of wolfdom at Wolf Timbers. We educated thousands of visitors on wolf behavior. Ingo never disappointed the guests when it came to scent rolling, scent marking, apple tossing or pumpkin grabbing. He was not the most affectionate wolf, but if he flung his rump in front of me



to be scratched, it meant as much as a face greet. If he were lying down, I would often walk over to him in

hopes he would want a pet, or even a belly rub from me. He would either growl to let me know that he did

not want company, or he would put his ears back and slightly roll back, inviting me in to pet him. Other than his rump, he liked his ears, chin and top of his head rubbed the best. Who was I to deny him?

Ingo and I shared many adventures at Wolf Timbers, from heart racing to heart pulling. There were a few occasions in which I had feared that I had ruined my relationship with him, only, thankfully, to be proven wrong upon our next interaction. If a wolf can be a friend, Ingo was my buddy boy.

I was honored to have brought Ingo home to Wolf Timbers. Never would I have guessed how honored I would

be twelve years later that Ingo had let me be in his life the way that I was.

HELP SUPPORT NIRA AND KEELEY

Membership fees provide Wolf Timbers with the financial means to care for the wolves and to provide educational programs to the public. All memberships are considered non-voting and hold no authority over day-to-day operations. Members receive special price reductions and first notice of upcoming lectures and seminars. Please consult the specific membership plan for additional benefits. All memberships and programs are effective for one year and require annual renewal. It is the member’s responsibility to notify Wolf Timbers of an address change. All donations are tax-deductible.

SINGLE MEMBERSHIP

The \$20.00 single membership includes complimentary newsletter as well as free admission to Wolf Timbers.

FAMILY MEMBERSHIPS

The \$35.00 family membership includes complimentary newsletter and free admission to Wolf Timbers for immediate family members.

ADOPT-A-WOLF

The Adopt a Wolf Program includes a one year membership to Wolf Timbers and entitles participants to an educational packet on their sponsored wolf which includes a photograph and a sample of under fur. Complimentary newsletters are also included. Along with the educational packet, participants will also receive updates throughout the year on their sponsored wolf. All wolf sponsor candidates must attend an education talk prior to entering the enclosure. Wolf Timbers reserves the right to not accept an individual as a sponsor. The fee to participate in the Adopt a Wolf Program is \$125.00.



Ingo—pumpkin party
October 2010



VOLUNTEERS ARE ALWAYS NEEDED

Volunteers are essential to the overall success of Wolf Timbers. We have many fine and dedicated volunteers but we are always looking for more. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact us or visit our web site. Volunteering requires dedication and a committment. Please make sure that you have the available time. We also have a junior volunteer program for those between the ages of 12 and 17.

WOLF TIMBERS WOLF SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM

First Name_____Last Name_____Address_____
City_____State_____Zip_____Phone (____)_____e-mail:_____

Please choose from the following list of wolves to sponsor: NIRA() KEELEY()

Unless you schedule a visit with us, we will mail all sponsorship packets to you. We are unable to divide the sponsorship packets into equal parts. Therefore, if there is more than one person contributing to the sponsorship, we will mail all sponsorship packets to the person listed on the check.

WOLF TIMBERS MEMBERSHIP FORM

First Name_____Last name_____Address_____
City_____State_____Zip_____Phone (____)_____e-mail_____

Please select your membership preference: Single () Family ()

If you wish to make a donation valued at \$50.00 or \$100.00 or more, and would like a plaque to be placed around Wolf Timbers, please indicate how you would like for your plaque to read (please attach an additional sheet of paper if needed to describe your message).

Name:_____In honor/memory of:_____

