

Tanglewood Farms September 29 2006
By Adlen W. Robinson

When Michelle Bolt moved to Georgia from her native Nebraska, she felt homesick for the quaint western town of Nebraska City where she grew up. Instead of just pining for the town of her childhood, Bolt decided to do an extreme makeover on her ten acre tract of land and recreate her hometown. "I grew up with animals and always knew I wanted to work with animals," explained Bolt. "I also love children--so I decided to build a replica of the town I grew up in and fill it with miniature animals." After years of hard work, Bolt's dream became a reality and Tanglewood Farms, was born. The "town" in Tanglewood Farms allows visitors to step back in time and see what life was like back in a western town in the 1800's. The pioneer village includes a Bank, a Saloon, a Jail and a Trading Post, complete with authentic supplies to show visitors what kinds of goods were available to folks. There are also a variety of "interactive" rooms in which people can truly experience what a typical pioneer home was like.

While the town is both adorable as well as educational, the real attraction in at Tanglewood Farms are the miniature animals. Close to 150 animals roam in their spacious pens for visitors to see, pet and feed. Because all of the animals are bred and raised at Tanglewood Farms, they are all quite friendly and comfortable with humans. In fact, most are incredibly curious and not at all shy about visiting with the onlookers. The farm has a wide range of tiny animals, including miniature horses, miniature pot-bellied pigs, miniature donkeys, miniature sheep, miniature goats, miniature chickens, miniature alpacas, miniature Jersey cows, and even a miniature buffalo. There is one regular sized animal at Tanglewood and that is a huge and loveable rabbit who is affectionately called "Tiny."

"We offer families a wholesome and clean environment where people can come and enjoy the animals, bring a picnic, as well as learn about what life was like in a western town in the 1800's." Bolt went on to say that one of the most rewarding things for her is when she sees a grandparent explaining to a grandchild about "how things used to be." "We wanted to create a place that was relaxed and slow paced," said Bolt. Visitors are encouraged to learn about the animals as well as learn about the pioneer days.

"We offer lots of different experiences for people," said Bolt. "For example in May we have a big sheep shearing event so people can see what that was

like for pioneers to shear their sheep and then make clothes for themselves.” The Miniature Babydoll sheep are the perfect candidates for the sheep shearing. Onlookers can watch wool go from being a fur coat to an animal, to felt, then roving, and then yarn after it is placed on an authentic spinning wheel.

Running a farm of miniature animals takes a special team of workers, and Bolt feels blessed to have a dedicated crew. Tiffany Meyers, a full time college student, has worked at Tanglewood Farms for the last two years. “I wanted to work with animals, and I like working with children as well,” said Meyers. Her friend, Tim Carter, a senior at Cherokee High School began working at Tanglewood Farms six months ago and said the job is both fun and rewarding. “The animals are very friendly and love to be petted and played with,” said Carter as he held a baby Alpaca comfortably in his arms.

Today marks the beginning of the month long delightful, not frightful fall and Halloween events at the farm. “We decorate with tons of pumpkins and corn husks,” said Bolt. “And we have hayrides, a fun and not scary barn for the children to tour---this is a very fun time of year at Tanglewood.” Numerous special events are offered year round. The price of admission includes a bucket of food to feed the animals, and a pony ride!

For more information, check out the web site at www.tanglewoodfarmminiatures.com

Tour Times

October 1-31
Wednesdays,
Thursdays and
Fridays 10AM to
2PM
Last tickets sold at
1PM;
Saturdays and
Sundays 10am to
5pm
Last tickets sold at
4PM;
Closed Mondays
and Tuesdays
No reservations



required for individuals and families. Reservations preferred for groups of 20 or more.

We are open year around (except holidays) Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays 10 AM to 2PM. Our last tickets are sold at 1 PM. We are open Saturdays and Sundays from 10 AM to 5 PM. Our last tickets are sold on the weekends at 4 PM. We are closed on Mondays and Tuesdays. We do not require reservations for individuals or families to visit. We prefer reservations for groups of 20 or more. [Check our calendar](#) for the latest events at Tanglewood.

Tour Tickets

Tickets for admission are \$8 plus tax per person. Babies under one are free. Admission includes a self guided tour of the Wild West Town, food to feed the Miniature Farm Animals, and a Pony Ride for the kids.

When:

Where:

Tanglewood Farm,
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Drive, North
Alpharetta/Canton,
GA 30115

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