

ANNUAL REPORT

2021



Samira

Species: Lion (*Panthera leo*)

Sex: Female

Born July 22, 2008

Rescued: May 17, 2021



AFFILIATES



As we begin our 30th Year of Nationwide Rescue at Turpentine Creek, I want to thank each of you for having made possible everything we have achieved over the past three decades. Your support, and passion for our mission have allowed us to rescue and offer lifelong care to over 450 big cats and bears since 1992. Your willingness to spread awareness of the Big Cat Crisis has brought us closer than ever to realizing our Vision to End the Big Cat Trade!

Along the way, we have accomplished many milestones: from “crashing the compound” and building our large grass habitats, to earning “accredited” status by the Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries. In recent years, your contributions have allowed TCWR to create an on-site state-of-the-art veterinary hospital and add heat to the majority of our animal dens; we constructed a public human service water well and storm shelters for our team, and built two all-natural bear habitats. This past spring, we broke ground on a project that will eventually put an in-ground pool in every habitat, to enrich animals’ lives. Along the way, our organization has evolved and come out stronger than ever before, because of your support and belief in our team.

We’ve watched miraculous things unfold this past year, as awareness of the plight of exploited big cats became a national sensation and a ‘hot button’ topic for many people. Several well-known animal abusers have been held accountable for their crimes, and the Big Cat Public Safety Act is now positioned better than ever to pass into law. Much credit is due to all of you who have taken our “Small Steps for Big Cats.”

Rescuing animals during this pandemic and ensuring them lifelong care would have been impossible without the support of each and every one of you. Thanks to YOU, we were able to rescue and transform the lives of 18 animals in 2021. I especially want to extend heartfelt thanks to all of you who’ve answered our call for recurring donations! You are providing our mission with a strong foundation.

This year we made great strides forward in virtual education and advocacy networking, while improving the care we give to all our animal residents. Also, in 2021, we found ourselves named a “Top 3 Arkansas Family Attraction” by AY Magazine. TCWR has earned the GuideStar Platinum status, and is a Top-Rated charity with Great Nonprofits. Thanks to you, Don and Hilda Jackson’s legacy is able to live on in the work we do, day in and day out.

It has been a year of growth, but only with your help can we make a better future for our animal residents and all survivors of the Exotic Wildlife Trade across our country. Together, we will make our future plans for the nation’s premier Big Cat Educational Center and Museum a reality.

Here are just a few things we accomplished in 2021 . . .



Mission Statement: To provide lifetime refuge for abused and neglected “Big Cats” with emphasis on tigers, lions, leopards, and cougars.

Vision Statement: Through public education we work to end the Big Cat Trade. Together, we can preserve and protect these magnificent predators in the wild for our children’s future.

To Fulfill this Mission and Vision our Goals are:

EDUCATION, PRESERVATION AND COMPASSION

Education:

TCWR is evolving how we educate today’s youth, in classroom visits, onsite programming, and around the world through our new partnership with Skype in the Classroom.

Our Certified Wildlife Interpreters introduce students to our animal residents and their stories along with the workings of a true sanctuary to teach why predators should never be made pets or exploited for entertainment. Through awareness we can foster advocacy and environmental stewardship to end the Big Cat Trade in our lifetime.

Preservation:

Turpentine Creek is a United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) licensed facility for exotic and native wildlife, accredited by the Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries (GFAS) and a member of the Big Cat Sanctuary Alliance (BSCA), and the American Association of Zoo Keepers (AAZK). We rescue Big Cats and Bear from exploitation, neglect and abuse, providing them a safe lifelong home with exceptional care, while working to preserve endangered species in the wild through public education and advocacy.

Compassion:

We believe Big Cats and Bear are predators, not pets or entertainment for the masses. They and other exotic and native wildlife deserve to live out their lives with dignity, allowed to be the wild animals they instinctively are. We will continue to be their voice, both for those forced to live in captivity and those struggling for survival in the wild.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

OFFICERS:

Tanya Smith:
Founder, President and Chairperson

Scott Smith
Vice President

Amanda Smith
Secretary/Treasurer

BOARD MEMBERS:

Virginia Rankin, Secretary (Event Planning and Fundraising)

Patricia Quin (Corporate Administration)

Randy Risor (Restaurateur - Cici’s Pizza)

Dr. Heather Kimberly Klatt (DO)

Tracy Garry (Retirement Administration)

J.R. Shaw (Veteran Tourism Professional)

Amanda Rials (Engineer - Food Safety with the Alabama Technology Network)

WITH YOUR HELP: 2021 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

ADVOCACY:

Last year, many of you participated in our pledge to take 10 simple steps to help end the Big Cat Trade and protect vulnerable animals. Many of our rescues came from significant criminals working within the Big Cat Trade, and the Big Cat Public Safety Act caught the attention of politicians unlike ever before. On April 20th, the bill was reintroduced to the Senate as Senate Bill 1210 with bi-partisan support, and will likely be voted on in 2022, if we all continue to reach out to our Representatives. Now is the time to really 'put on the gas' and see this bill through into law! Please continue to visit our Advocacy Page!

1,339 Advocacy Page Visits | 64% of visitors acted, with 1,625 messages sent to Congress



EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH:

In January of 2018 we established a formal Education Department. In 2021, the program continued to expand virtually to a worldwide audience while resuming in-person learning both onsite and in classrooms, although class sizes were limited for social distancing.

- **Virtual Classes: Spoke to 1,142 students in 10 different states and Canada.**
- **44,425 People of All Ages Educated Onsite**
- **1,528 Students Educated Offsite**
- **259 School Groups Educated Onsite**
- **3,971 Participated in Special Onsite Educational Talks & Programs**

With no return to 'normal' anytime soon, the need for improved indoor facilities to conduct educational programming year-round has become more pressing than ever. In the new Big Cat Education Center & Museum, our future classroom space will be divisible for smaller groups vs our antiquated and poorly ventilated conference room. The Center will also house a designated broadcast office for our virtual offerings, allowing us to expand our virtual tours and classes. For more information, email sandy@tcwr.org.



INTERNSHIP PROGRAM:

Begun in 1996, this 6-month program is designated for college graduates who have obtained a degree in zoology, biology or any other animal related discipline. Many of our interns reapply and continue their dedication for 2, 3 & 4 internships, gaining incredible experience and building their resumes. Over 80% of TCWR internship graduates stay in the animal care field, working for reputable zoos, sanctuaries, or field studies, along with several who have become amazing veterinarians, including our Staff Veterinarian, Dr. Kellyn Sweeley! Interested in learning more?

- **SPRING '21: 15 Animal Care Interns & 1 Education Intern graduated; 9 were re-applies.**
- **FALL '21: 15 Animal Care interns & 2 Education Interns graduated; 9 were re-applies.**



Scan for video.



ADVISORY COMMITTEE:

In January 2021, the TCWR Advisory Committee was formed. Their first project was to help grow our TCWR Alumni Association, keeping them involved with our mission as well as continuing their support. Throughout the year, our Alumni membership raised over \$5,644 and attracted 86 members!



RESCUES/ANIMAL CARE:

- 5 rescues, 18 animals lives transformed
- Performed 28 complete wellness exams, for individually tailored health plans.
- Performed 5 dental exams with cleaning and treatment
- Performed 7 minor surgeries and 1 major surgery
- Used small animal anesthesia machine 18 times
- Ran blood work using our in-house blood work machines 52 times.
- Took 201 radiographs (x-rays)
- Fed our residents 202,466.25 lbs. of meat (avg. 554.7 lbs. per day!), including Nebraska specialty diet.



INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS:

- Began a new enrichment project of inground pools with graduated depth for our water loving animals with the goal of providing one in all 58 habitats eventually; 5 pools were completed in 2021!
- Reopened our Discovery Area and Bear Tunnel with additional barriers and mask requirements to protect our animal residents from COVID-19.
- Processed over 1,000 pounds of meat, fruits and veggies daily in our commissary.
- Began Phase I-B of our Campaign to Create a New Generation of Wildlife Advocates.
- Created a strategic plan to accommodate future rescues through habitat expansion and property improvements.



EVENT AND ONLINE FUNDRAISING:

- Northwest Arkansas Gives - \$35,000
- Online Auctions – \$33,253
- Giving Tuesday – \$33,900
- People donated via Facebook – \$62,289



VOLUNTEERING:

- 2019 – 190 volunteers
- 2020 – 47 volunteers
- 2021 – 13 Volunteers for a total of 1036 hours
- Virtually hosted winter break group from Kansas State University to aid our Education Dept.
- We have 1 Spring Break 2022 signed up; there is still availability - please contact us!

2021 FINANCIAL TOTALS

MAJOR EXPENSES:

\$10,117	Habitat Construction/Repairs
\$6,513	Pool Construction
\$3,603	Other Expenses
\$44,107	Buildings/Grounds Maintenance
\$26,000	Paving of Tour Loop Inclines
\$43,935	Enrichment & Veterinary Care
\$69,992	Animal Food purchased by TCWR
\$91,083	Intern Program
\$15,022	Rescue



FINANCIAL TOTALS:

Dedicated funds donated/pledged:	
\$355,000	Big Cat Educational Center & Museum
\$86,380	In-ground pool enrichment project
General funds donated/pledged:	
\$258,100	Foundation support
\$994,630	Private donations
\$339,731	Revenue from lodging
\$788,858	Admissions Revenue
<hr/>	
\$3,110,371	Total Expenses
\$760,351	Net Income



2021 INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS

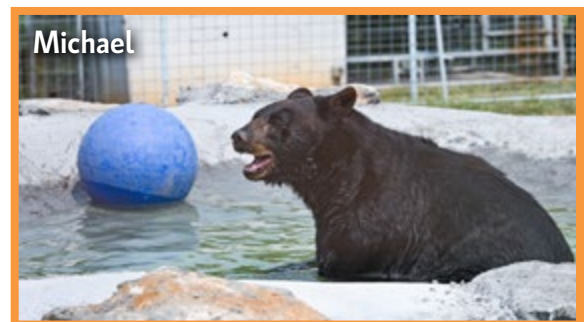


Mack



Peyton

This spring we launched a very special enrichment program to encourage natural behaviors among our water-loving residents! Our plan is to provide **in-ground pools** to replace the stock tanks we normally haul out each spring and put away in fall over the next three years, in all 58 habitats. These natural looking pools, bordered with native rock, allow our animals easier entry and exit with graduated depth. At \$5,000 per sponsorship it is a great way to leave a lasting memorial at the Refuge for family or friends.



Michael

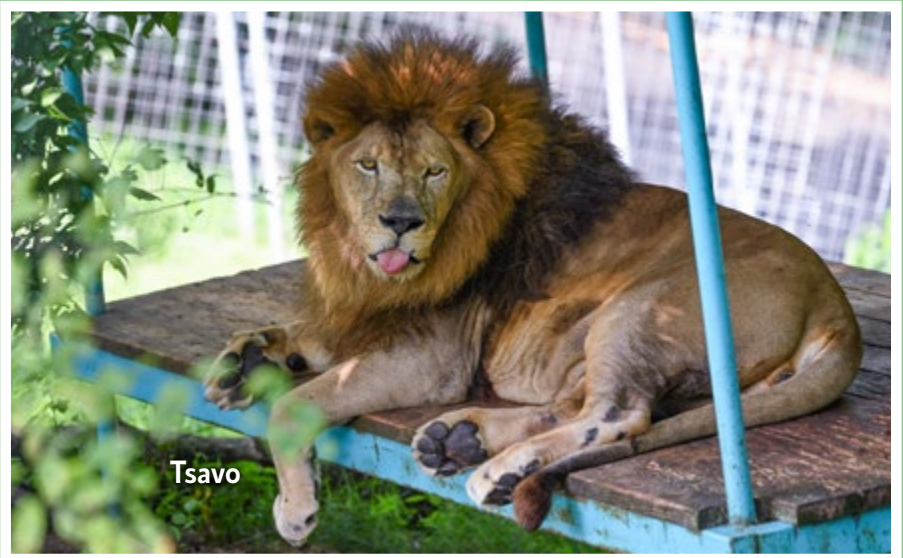


Since we introduced the open-air tram tour in summer of 2020, it has been a big success with guests. The downside was that it kicked up quite a bit of dust, which was not so good for our animal residents. This past spring, we took steps to eliminate this issue, **paving** both inclines at the start and end of the tour loop. The paved surface is much smoother, resulting in a quieter ride for our guests and a significant reduction in dust for the animals.



When Dr. Kellyn examined a 12-yr-old tiger, BB King, last summer due to a sore mouth, she found a growth on his tongue that was diagnosed as an aggressive cancer that can spread quickly. Due to the tumor's size, Kansas State veterinary oncologists recommended chemotherapy. To our knowledge, this is the first time that intravenous chemotherapy has been used to treat cancer in a tiger and BB sailed through them with ease. This July, Dr. Kellyn discovered the growth had begun to reappear. This time, by catching it so early, she was able to remove the tumor and all margins, according to his lab results. We performed another exam this winter to ensure it hadn't metastasized, and BB was clear! Your support has given BB King a new lease on life, and he's enjoying every moment of it with his brother, Mack.

This summer, 16-yr-old lion, Tsavo, developed a lesion on his tongue that looked suspiciously like the one BB King had suffered. Because it grew on top of an inflammatory polyp we had been monitoring and treating since 2014, Dr. Kellyn performed surgery. Since it wasn't possible to remove all the inflammation, Tsavo will continue to receive treatment for the inflammatory condition, along with an oral anti-tumor medication. This handsome old boy has healed well and is enjoying his new home at Rescue Ridge, where we knew he'd appreciate the flat ground!



There are still many unknowns about COVID-19. One thing we do know, is that big cats are susceptible and have contracted the virus all over the world. Most infections thus far have been in tigers and lions, with over 50 cases confirmed and countless no doubt unreported in roadside zoos. While there is a vaccine for animals, it is in short supply. Meanwhile, there are too many unknowns for us to take risks, so we continue to follow our protocols to protect the animals in our care at TCWR, most of whom have underlying health issues from their past lives. Thank you for considering the safety of our animal residents by continuing to properly wear your masks in our Discovery Area, bear tunnel and gift shop – of course once you board our open-air tram masks are optional!

RESCUES

2021

Rambo

This February, hyena Rambo was rescued from southern Arkansas after the sudden death of his primary caregiver. Rambo was well-cared-for by his prior owner, so he was trusting of our team from day one. To allow Rambo a quiet space to adjust to sanctuary life, he was given a new home at Rescue Ridge. There, he loves uttering high-pitched “whoops” to start the lion’s caroling, and requires an ever-changing cycle of sturdy enrichment to stay entertained!



CeCe & JJ

Also, in February, African servals CeCe and JJ were relinquished from their former owner due to COVID-19 related life changes. Upon exam, the siblings exhibited signs of degenerative bone disease, common in cubs that are prematurely separated from their mother and also in declawed animals, as these two unfortunately were. Both servals have blossomed over the past year, with proper diet, nutritional supplements and room to run and play in the spacious habitat they share with Hunter serval.

Oklahoma Rescue

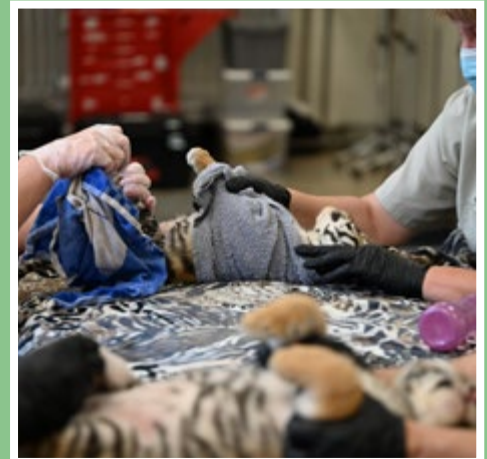
This May, Turpentine Creek assisted the Federal Government in their seizure of sixty-eight big cats in from Jeff and Lauren Lowe's Tiger King Park in Oklahoma after a federal judge ordered their surrender for violations of the Endangered Species Act and the Animal Welfare Act by failing to provide safe conditions, shelter from the elements, proper diet, or veterinary care.

Our team executed a two-stage rescue, each time traveling to Oklahoma. First, on May 6th we brought back four females suspected of pregnancy, along with a health-compromised male. Then ten days later we brought another five cats to TCWR and transported eight animals to other GFAS-accredited sanctuaries.

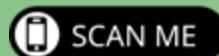


Priscilla's Cubs

One week after her rescue from the Tiger King Park, female tiger Priscilla gave birth to three cubs. Their miraculous journey of rehabilitation from the potentially life-ending condition of flexural tendon contracture can be viewed in our new documentary video, "Uncharted." Their arduous recovery took weeks of intensive therapy at our Jackson Memorial Veterinary Hospital, many emotionally exhausting hours from TCWR team members, a cooperative and trusting mother tiger, and three very brave cubs!



Watch the trailer
"Uncharted"



Sasha

In August, 11-month-old cougar Sasha made international headlines when she traded life in a Bronx apartment, with only the occasional outdoor walk on a leash, for freedom to run and climb at TCWR. Sasha's previous owner contacted us, and with the help of the Humane Society of the United States and the Bronx Zoo, Sasha now explores and plays with enrichment in the cougar-designed habitat she timeshares with cougar sisters Marissa and Louisa. "Sasha is one of the lucky ones," Tanya Smith, TCWR Co-Founder and President, emphasized. "Even still, her owners are left to face the sad realization that they were tricked into thinking Sasha could be tamed. As for Sasha, she will have a long, happy life at the Refuge, though it's sad for her that she missed out on this type of freedom the first 11 months of her life."



Jake

On December 3, Tanya Smith received a call for help in her capacity as Big Cat Sanctuary Alliance (BCSA) Rescue Committee Chair. Wildcare Oklahoma, needed to find placement the young intact male serval they'd cared for since April, along with 81 other animals that had suffered varying levels of neglect, until the court case was concluded. Tanya and Scott Smith drove to meet the Wildcare Oklahoma team near Tulsa to transport the young serval to his new home, where he quarantined in Flip's old habitat, and is currently enjoying the heated nighthouse. Lifelong supporters, James (Jake) and Linda Jacobson, stepped up and committed to sponsor the new addition for life, while generously allowing others to sponsor Jake as well to help offset costs for his care.





Sadie (bobcat), age 19



Tommie (tiger), age 6



Sadie (tiger), age 17



Bowden (serval), age 20

In Memoriam

In 2021 we sadly bid farewell to some of our beloved animal residents. Thank you for giving them many years of happy and full lives! Thank you for giving us the privilege of caring for them. Rest in peace...



Crysta (tiger), age 19



Little Tony (tiger), age 20



Flip (coatiundi), age 17



Thunder II, age 17



Wanoka (bobcat), age 17

ANIMAL HIGHLIGHTS

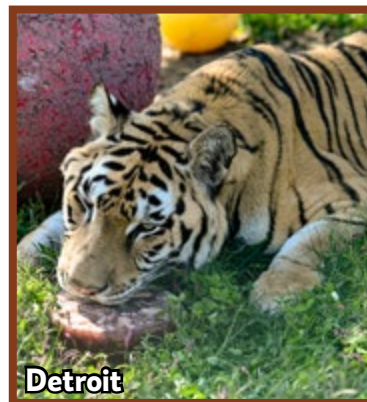
2021



Huggy, our resident Russian brown bear, was rescued in 2017 along with black bear sisters Holli and Lolli. Since 2018 these three have enjoyed living as close as possible to how nature intended, in one of our two natural bear habitats. With almost two acres of wooded terrain to explore, these bears forage native fauna to supplement the daily meals still provided by their animal care team. Meanwhile, the girls have even learned to climb trees - something they would have learned from their mothers in the wild! During the winter, all three nap in heated dens, likely dreaming of next summer's hijinks in their in-ground pool. You may catch them splashing together on a warm day, by taking one of our specialty tours!



On World Lion Day August 10th, Chief was enjoying his total transformation from the near-death condition we'd rescued him from in September of 2020. At the time, the weakened and dispirited lion had completely shut down at the Indiana facility run by notorious wildlife abuser Tim Stark; severely dehydrated and underweight, Chief had ceased eating or drinking for five days prior to our arrival. Now 15 years-young, this boy has regained lost muscle along with his love of life - which he vocalizes in regal caroling - all due to the care and freedom he receives at TCWR because of your support.



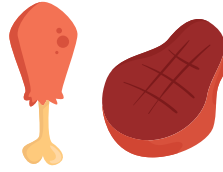
Detroit, Thurston and Willy enjoyed turning 16, 14 and 20 in 2021! Our Animal Care Team makes sure that every TCWR animal resident is cared for and treated as an individual year-round, but birthdays are made extra special with all their favorite treats, scents, and lots of enrichment boxes to destroy!

MAJOR IN-KIND DONATIONS

2021



J.R. Carlson Laboratories
donated vitamins for
our animals valued at
\$19,840.32



NW Arkansas Meat Suppliers
donated 241,000 lbs of meat



Google donated
Google Advertising
valued at
\$78,241.64

Thank You!

From the bottom of our hearts, we want to say, “THANK YOU,” to everyone who supported us on NWA Gives Day April 9th! Because of your generous donations, personal fundraisers, and the amount of time you spent sharing our posts and spreading the word, we were able to raise \$35,000 for our animal residents! Thank you for helping us continue to give them the care they need, and deserve throughout another challenging year!



You showed up Tuesday, December 2, to #GiveJustice during Giving Tuesday, donating over \$33,900 to get us through the end of the year that seemed to go on forever. Despite the continued hardships of 2021, you came through for big cats!

*We would like to extend a special
Thank You to all our Membership Level Donors*

The members of the Hilda Jackson Society, the Kenny Fellowship, the Bam Bam Benefactors, and the Friends of India include Turpentine Creek's most committed members who support TCWR's rescue and education initiatives. By becoming a member and pledging to give again, these dedicated stewards enable us to budget for bigger projects and projects with further impact in the years to come. Our humble thanks also go to all of you who declined benefits but still chose to give at a membership level.

Without all of your amazing support we could not have survived this past year. Thank you.



The Hilda Jackson Society

Annual Donation of \$10,000+

** Founding members*

Heather Klatt*

Nancy (Amy) Patterson*

James & Linda Jacobson*

Vicki & Scott James*

Fred & Sherry Sieber*

Julie & Jady Howard



The Kenny Fellowship

Annual Donation of \$3,000 – \$9,999

** Founding members*

Patricia Stevens

Cynthia Fudoli

Tom & Rebecca Faichney

Linda Davis Gary Parsons

Valerie Biendara

Herbert & Jeanne Hogue

Dolores Proubasta & Chris Liner



Bam Bam Benefactors

Annual Donation of \$1,250 – \$2,999

** Founding members*

Michelle & Paul Sommers*

Tracy & Craig Garry*

Leon & Joan Thomas

Scott & Christi Ellis

Rob & Connie Waldrop

John & Colleen Irlam

Richard & Tonya Braughton

Johnna Tatge

Friends of India

Annual Donation of \$300 – \$1,249

*Founding members.

Paul Cardali, MD*
James & Barbara Goldsmith*
Kevin & Renee Kyzer*
Cheryl Nickell*
Carol Miller*
Shawn & Julie Schrader*
Jerome & Elizabeth Borgert*
Anabelle Steelman & Ron Berry*
Diane Whitley*
Marney & Brenda Gillmore*
Richard Bereman*
Lois Young*
Scott & Tanya Smith*
Judy Unrath*
Jeanine & EJ Binder*
Dave & Mildred Schoonover*
Gina M Briley*
Steve & Kathy Anderson
Susan Keeton
Daniel Manning
Bob & Nancy Yuhasz
Debbie Boyers
John & Sharon Halstead

Jim Wimberly
Marshall Foo
Brian & Kathryn Candelaria
Angela Diggs
Tracy Fleming
Mary Hall
Sharon Harrold
Jeffrey O'Neill
David Hecht
Carolyn Kent
RE & Charlotte Collins
Robin Kent
Jean Eubanks
Philip & Joanne Hall
Ken & Sharon Dickman
Cheryl Niblo
Alynne Maclean
Angela Hodges
Emric Roll
Patricia Lubas
Zorah Peters
Douglas & Garnet Quimby
Mondeen Snyder

John & Lavonne Bennett
Randy & Diane Wells
Joy Wyler
Kim Fowler
Connor Probst
Mark & Judith Stillwell
Randa Caja
Patricia Walz & Wayne Fiser
Steve Towner
Judy Story
Judy Spear
Monica Brinker
Tammy Beasley
WB & Debbie Hocott
Jackie Redfearn
Mary Perrin
Terry Webber
Jeannette Slatky
Susan & James Keeton
Deborah Hackler
Brooke Plack
Kathleen Grace
Dana Fronckewicz



Jan Stanley
Susan Waxter
Alex Blair
Michelle Lee Baker
Mary Wright
Brad & Tambria Hill
Bret Pierson
Steve & Kathy Anderson
Jeanine & EJ Binder
Cathy Cranor
James Peterson
Susan Pyle

If you'd like to do more, please consider joining our recurring donors! The COVID-19 Relief Bill has extended up to \$300 in charitable donations through 2022. This is the perfect opportunity to set up a recurring \$25 per month gift. Breaking the \$300 into smaller monthly donations doesn't just help you, it helps us by assuring us of a solid monthly financial foundation. While donating, please check out the easy employer match tool on our website, to see if your place-of-work will double or even triple your donation.

I look forward to seeing what 2022 will hold for our mission. We have exciting plans for Turpentine Creek over the next three years. It is our goal to Create a New Generation of Wildlife Advocates with the new Big Cat Educational Center and Museum, while we also work to expand and improve our habitat space for our existing animals and to provide space for future rescues. The aim of our plan is to uphold our Mission goal of continually improving the quality of lifetime care for animals we rescue, while taking the steps to make our Vision a reality.

We are grateful that you have chosen to continue this fight with us!

Here we go! Welcome to 2022. **Together we WILL end the Big Cat Trade!**

With gratitude,

Tanya Smith, President/Founder
Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge





TCWR.org • 479-253-5841
239 Turpentine Creek Lane, Eureka Springs, AR 72632

Turpentine Creek Foundation, Inc.
Federal Tax/EIN: 71-0721742