



Turpentine Creek Foundation, Inc.
 239 Turpentine Creek Lane
 Eureka Springs, AR. 72632

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Spring 2018

BIG CAT CHRONICLES

A USDA Licensed Facility for "The Vanishing Breeds of Big Cats"



Spyke, "I am not a pet, I am not a prop."



Kenny, the true face
 of white tiger breeding.

tigers@turpentinecreek.org ||| 479.253.5841 ||| www.turpentinecreek.org
 youtube.com/TurpentineCreek ||| Find us on Facebook!

A Letter from the President

Tanya Smith, President & Co-Founder

Spring Greetings to all of our friends! What a relief it is to see warmer weather coming our way after such a cold snap. We had our work cut out for us this winter as we fought to keep all of the residents of Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge nice and warm. Some days were harder than others, but we did it!

This past winter I reflected on my experience as the director of a sanctuary. In this role I witness many aspects of a rescued animal's life – I see them before being rescued, during the rescue process, and after, and I mourn as their lives come to an end. Because big cats live as long as house cats and often longer, we are so touched to be with them as they cross the Rainbow Bridge. The hardest job we have is letting go, because the bond we form is so strong. I am both humbled and grateful to see how compassionate the TCWR team is in caring for these beautiful animals, and am excited about initiatives taking place.

Lately we see more organizations working to close breeders, sellers, roadside zoos, and performing-animal circuses. While rescues differ in the work they do, at their cores they all exist because of problems human errors create. People try to make a lion a pet or a movie star, but of course, a lion is not a pet and it is not a movie star, it is a wild animal; an apex predator. It is reassuring to see so many organizations fighting for these animals. Our goal is to do everything we can to support these efforts by taking in every animal we can without stretching our resources to the point that we too, need to be rescued. It can be a delicate balance; when we do say yes to a new rescue, we must be able to provide for all their needs for the rest of their lives.

TCWR will be 26-years-old on May 1, 2018. Many of you have been supporting our mission since the early days, and your dedication is truly appreciated. When I think about how far we have come since the beginning it amazes me. Even as I am frustrated and that the Exotic Pet Trade is still an issue, those in the field, our supporters, and all of you who are fighting to put an end to this problem encourage me. The fact is - **Change is on the horizon.**

Please support H.R. 1818, The Big Cat Public Safety Act. Let's stop the illegal and unethical trade of these magnificent creatures!

Thank you for your continued support. Until next time...



Save the date!

April 21, at 6:30pm

Our 7th annual Cats at the Castle is only a month away! Join us on April 21, at 6:30pm for a night of glitz, glamor, and fundraising. Spend the evening at the beautiful Castle Rogue's Manor in Beaver, Arkansas, with TCWR team members and like-minded big cat loving TCWR supporters. Tickets will be available to the public soon. We will see you there!

In Memory of Thor

2001-2018

The hardest thing we have to do at the Refuge is bid farewell to the animals we love. Each of them is an individual who has carved a permanent place in our hearts; having to say a final goodbye brings an incredible sense of grief. What brings us solace is the knowledge that we and our supporters have worked tirelessly to ensure that their remaining years were full of joy, good food, play, and an abundance of love. With this thought we look back on how our lion Thor, despite having a very difficult start to life, came to live his remaining years to the very fullest at TCWR- bringing joy and a sense of belonging to those around him.

Purchased from a small zoo in New Hampshire when he was only three weeks old, according to his former owner, Thor spent most of his life on movie and television sets. He had spent years in a 7x12 traveling trailer with a cougar and two bears, and was taken all over the country for "entertainment." By the time his owner changed career direction and no longer needed these animals, Thor was reduced to a final appearance at a gun show, emaciated and in dire need of medical attention. Luckily, it was then that Turpentine Creek was asked to step in. Thor was transported from that gun show to the Refuge, where he received de-worming treatments and a nutrient rich diet to address his severe malnourishment. Sadly, confinement for most of his early life in a small cage had resulted in muscle atrophy in his legs. While the care he received here rid him of parasites and restored his health, even with therapy the mobility gained in his legs would never allow him to move as easily as other lions.

Regardless, this lion came to have a full and happy life with us at TCWR. Thor spent his remaining days enjoying the company of other lions at the Refuge, chatting with lion Lucci on Rescue Ridge, and basking in the limelight he was meant to be in - the sun. Thank you all who adopted Thor, and a special thank you to Mark and Nancy Hanneman, who sponsored him; your support has meant so much to us and to him - you made it possible for him to live his best life here at TCWR, and for that we will always be grateful.



Before being rescued by Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge, Thor spent his days sharing a 14 foot horse trailer with two black bears, one cougar, a wolf, and a wallaby! Once at the "show" a small, unsecured, dog kennel was erected for Thor to stretch his legs. Upon arrival, Thor was found to have worms and was suffering from malnutrition.

It took a lot of effort from our team and donations from you to get Thor to look like the king he turned out to be. This is what you do...facilitate miracles. Please continue giving.

Advocacy

Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge has been open for over 25 years, saving lives and providing the best quality care for captive big cats. Over the years, we have seen minimal changes in the laws protecting dangerous big cats and other exotic animals. All over the United States, people are still allowed to use these animals for “entertainment,” keep them as pets, and exploit them for money with little to no recourse if they are not cared for properly.

In 2005, Turpentine Creek set out to change Arkansas laws to protect big cats, and with the help of a past intern, we accomplished that goal. We helped to make it illegal to keep non-native big cats as pets. We believe it is now time to move forward and begin working with other groups throughout the country to change the laws nation-wide. We need to protect these big cats in captivity and stop their abuse at the source, by putting an end to unregulated breeding and handling of the animals.

Over the next few months, we will be implementing an advocacy program that will allow our supporters to join our efforts to change the laws in the United States so that we can stop the exploitation of big cats and eventually put ourselves out of business. We will be working to bring awareness to the public about animal safety bills such as H.R. 1818 – The Big Cat Public Safety Act. With your help, we can put an end to the exotic animal trade in the United States and help save not only captive big cats but wild big cats as well.

We still get calls often from people who have purchased big cats from exotic animal auctions as pets or purchased them from a facility after they were too large to participate in cub petting to then only discover that big cats do not make good pets and are very dangerous. Big cats deserve to be wild, and we hope that eventually, we will close our doors because the exploitation of big cats and the exotic animal trade is no longer an issue in the United States. Until that day comes, we will continue to fight for the protection of big cats, educate the public about their plight, and rescue as many as we can so that they can enjoy a small taste of freedom at our Refuge.

Join us in our fight to protect big cats, follow our social media sites, donate, visit our website, and sign up for our weekly e-newsletter for updates on our new advocacy program. It is only with your help that we can continue to care for the many animals that call our Refuge home.

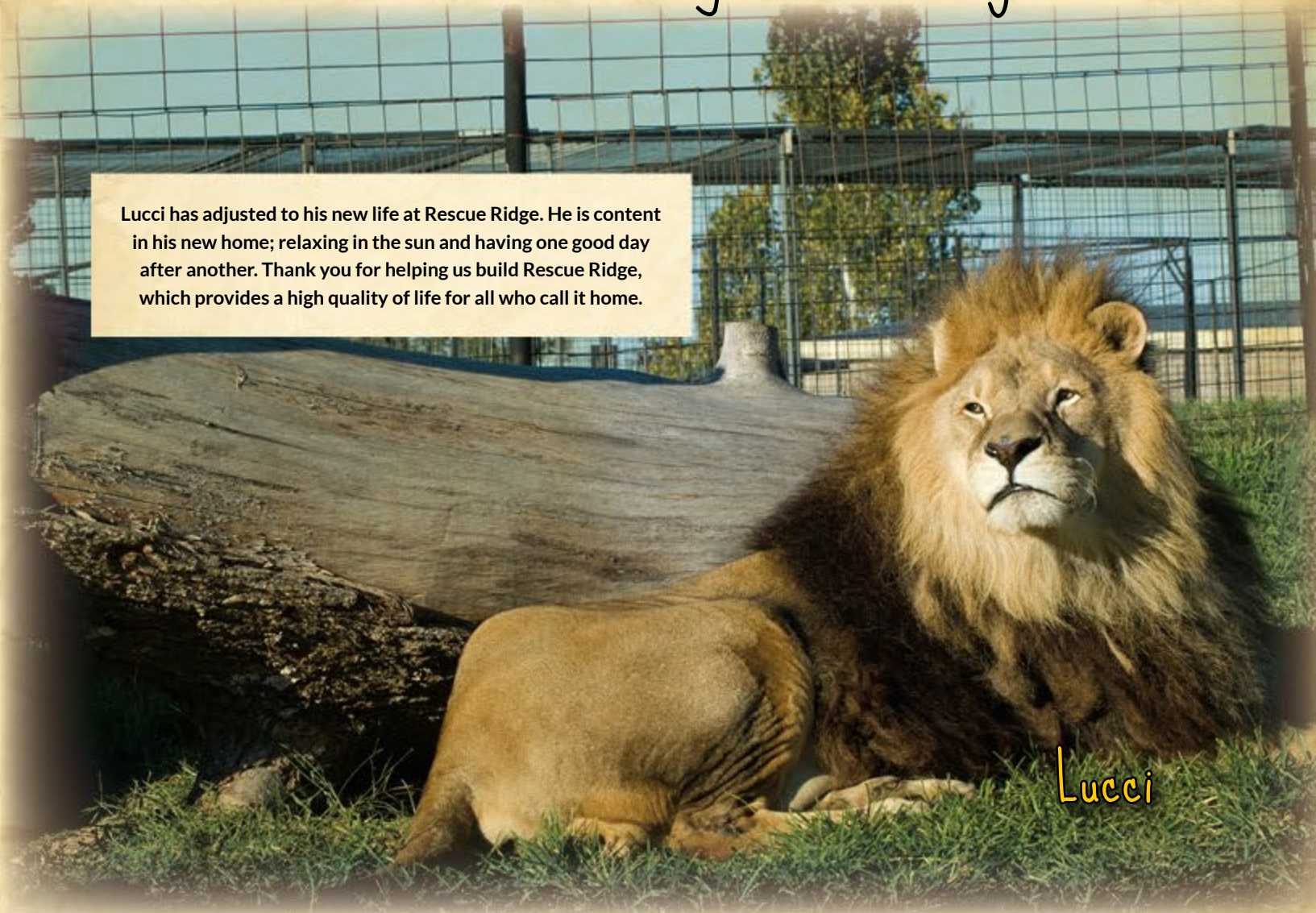
Big cats do not make good pets! Help us help all big cats in the United States. Join Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge in the fight to get H.R. 1818 passed. Go to turpentinecreek.org to find out how you can become involved today!



Athena

Life on Rescue Ridge: Lucci's Story

Lucci has adjusted to his new life at Rescue Ridge. He is content in his new home; relaxing in the sun and having one good day after another. Thank you for helping us build Rescue Ridge, which provides a high quality of life for all who call it home.



Lucci

There is no doubt in the mind of anyone who has been to the Refuge that these animals have the capacity to love one another and form the deepest of bonds - especially the lions. Lions, are truly the only big cats who live in communities. These prides can amount to up to 40 different members, generally consisting of 3 males, 12 females, and their young. When lions, Lucci and his brother, Wyoming, came to us from a defunct breeding facility with 19 other big cats in 2002, it was clear that the brothers had a close relationship.

Lucci, blind and pigeon-toed from inbreeding, relied on his brother as a kind of seeing-eye-lion. You can imagine then, that the passing of Wyoming in 2016, was devastating to us all, but most especially to Lucci. He remained in the same spot for several days. It was decided that moving him down to the peace and quiet of Rescue Ridge would be in his best interest.

Rescue Ridge is a secondary part of the Refuge that, with the exception of private tours, is closed to the general public. It was built as a result of the Mountainburg Rescue, in which the TCWR team helped orchestrate the removal of 34 big cats. Today, it is a space for older cats who need a calmer and less active area to relax.

We were unsure of how Lucci would transition into this new life. His habitat is flatter, which makes it easier for the blind lion to get around, but we were concerned that without his brother, he may not want to get around. Our fears were alleviated, however, when we noticed a bond forming between Lucci and another lion, Thor, who had been previously moved down to Rescue Ridge.

Suddenly, Lucci began to become more active - it was as if chatty Thor was encouraging his friend to start participating once more in the TCWR Pride. Today, Lucci is often found caroling around with the other lions of the Refuge and sunbathing on his habitat bench. A good way to help our animals transition into new habitats, or living situations is to help provide them with new enrichment: boxes, bowling balls, spices, and perfume are all ways to get them up and exploring - check out our website to find out other ways to donate as well!

Messi the "Pet" Puma



The video of a cougar cub named Messi has recently gone viral on social media. His owner justifies keeping Messi a pet because he is 30% smaller than other male cougars, but we at Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge want to clarify that no health issue or size difference would make a private home better than a sanctuary for a cougar cub. In fact, his argument is groundless; almost all the animals that come to TCWR have medical issues that must be addressed - issues that are often the result of being kept as a pet lacking proper diet or suitable living environment coupled with problems from being inbred. If we could not take in sick animals, we wouldn't have any animals! Keeping Messi as a pet is a grave mistake.

Messi's story is much like Kitty's, one of TCWR's cougars. She is roughly 50% smaller than the average female cougar. Regardless of her small size, Kitty, like Messi, is wild, and a dangerous apex predator. After an attack that led to severe facial wounds to her owner's young son, Kitty was rescued and brought to Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge to live out the rest of her life, but not after a close call with the Department of Health in Kansas: They wanted to remove her head, to test for rabies. Fortunately for Kitty, the injured boy and his parents agreed to the expensive and painful process of rabies shots, sparing Kitty a premature death.

Before sharing videos of animals on social media with incredible captions, we encourage you to pause and think, and ask yourself what the rest of this wild animal's life is like. A short video showing a moment of happiness does not tell us whether this animal has space to roam on real grass, nor if it receives veterinary care or even a proper diet. If it seems **too good to be true, it probably is!** Do your research by checking out the BigCatAlliance.org and our website, then share our link in your replies to these kinds of posts. Please, join us in our efforts to help them by supporting our work, and become an animal advocate!

Make no mistake, Kitty is a wild animal! The fact that she is vertically challenged does not mean she is suddenly capable of being a "pet." Be wary of videos online and don't perpetrate idiotic behaviors by humans. Sharing videos like these hurt animals in the long run.

Letter from the Curator

Emily McCormack

The goal of our team at Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge has always been to provide the highest standards of animal husbandry and care. This level of care and treatment start from the moment we rescue each animal to their first pawsteps into their new home, and continue the rest of their life here at the Refuge. Our large natural habitats are designed to not only provide proper living standards but also give the animals a sense of freedom. Each day team members and interns work endless hours cleaning enclosures, providing enrichment activities, delivering substrate for bedding, and preparing and administering medications along with nutritious diets for the animals. These are only some of things we do daily to give these animals the best quality of life; there are always new challenges, along with innovative ideas on how to improve and continue our advocacy for them.

Due to our hard work, high animal care standards, and dedication, on December 26, 2017, the Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries (GFAS) awarded us their Accredited status. While there are other accrediting organizations for sanctuaries in the United States and abroad, GFAS is the only globally recognized organization providing standards for identifying legitimate animal sanctuaries. To be awarded Accreditation status, an organization must fulfill GFAS's rigorous and peer-reviewed animal care standards and adhere to a demanding set of ethical and operational principles. Being recognized by GFAS as an Accredited facility means that Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge meets their exacting criteria for a true sanctuary, and that we are providing the utmost humane and responsible care for our animals.

Recognition as one of the premier big cat and bear facilities in the U.S. is more than just a pat on the back, it motivates us to continually become better at what we do by validating all the hard work necessary for these animals. However, none of this is possible without donations, and a GFAS Accreditation is a trusted tool that new supporters can use to gauge the quality of our organization. Each animal habitat, the construction of our magnificent veterinary hospital, even our boomer ball enrichment toys are possible because of the generous contributions provided by donors like yourself. Some of our donors come back to stay in our lodging, or contribute through Amazon donation packages; every donation helps us care for these animals in some way, and helps us continue to better our efforts. Please know that without your help we could not do what we do.

I would like to congratulate each of you and thank you for your continued support - it is because of your support that we have come as far as we have. Together, we can make a difference in the lives of these magnificent animals.

Sincerely,



Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge sincerely thanks our supporters for continuing to help our team reach higher goals. Without you, we could not have met the rigorous standards GFAS requires to become Accredited! We are the third facility to reach this status in the United States.

Please Welcome Your Spring 2018 Interns!

Back Row

Sierra Daniels Arkansas Tech U. BS Animal Science & Ag Business May 2016	Hannah Wherry Colorado State U. BS Fish, Wildlife & Conserv. Biology December 2016 (Education Intern)	Megan Keller U. of Hawaii Manoa BS Zoology December 2016	Morgan Lazar U. of New Hampshire BS Biomedical Sciences/Pre-Vet May 2016	Anne Heck U. of Kentucky BS Animal Science May 2017	Sarah Vowell U. of Arkansas BS Biology December 2016	Caitlin Barney U. of California, Davis BS Animal Science June 2017	Lindsay Waugh Delaware University BS Zoo Science May 2016	Geena Darnell Purdue University BS Ecology, Evolution, & Enviro. Biology December 2017	Lauren Cass Texas A&M U. BS Wildlife & Fisheries December 2017
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Front Row

Becca Curtiss Southern Illinois U. BS Zoology December 2017	Elyse Rybka University of Portland BS Biology/BA Sociology May 2017	Chloe Johnson Liberty University BS Zoo & Wildlife Biology December 2017	Diana Vincent Rhodes College BS Biology December 2017	Astrid Reyes Lock Haven U. BS Biology December 2017	Mary Arnold Miami University BA Zoology May 2015	Petra Zuniga Cal. State U., San Francisco BA Humanities May 2012
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Our Newest Furry Family Member

In February, Turpentine Creek welcomed our newest furry family member, Payson. This beautiful 13-year-old female, white tiger, came to us from Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo and Aquarium. The zoo, which has been Payson's home for more than 11 years, had decided to rehome this sweet girl. They made this difficult choice due to a recommendation from the Felid Taxon Advisory Group (TAG) so that they can focus on their current species survival program to help strengthen the population and genetic diversity of the Amur tiger subspecies.

After much debate and searching, they reached out to Turpentine Creek, knowing that our refuge would be able to give her the same level of care, medical attention, and love that they had been giving her for years. Their animal care team brought Payson here where she was immediately moved into her own habitat on our guided-tour path. Our team had been preparing for her arrival for weeks, making sure her den was filled with warm bedding, enrichment, and plenty of toys to play with.

Payson, who will turn 14 on November 6, has begun to settle into Turpentine Creek. It might take her some time to get used to the routine at the refuge, but we are confident that with a bit of time she will be happily chuffing at the team and destroying enrichment in her habitat.

Our team is very excited to welcome Payson to the family and cannot wait to see how she settles into the daily life at Turpentine Creek. Come out to visit Payson and all the other animals that call Turpentine Creek home this summer and get the chance to meet this beautiful girl.



Payson spent most of her life at the Henry Doorly Zoo, in Omaha, Nebraska. To focus on their species survival program for Amur tigers, they had to find a home for Payson.

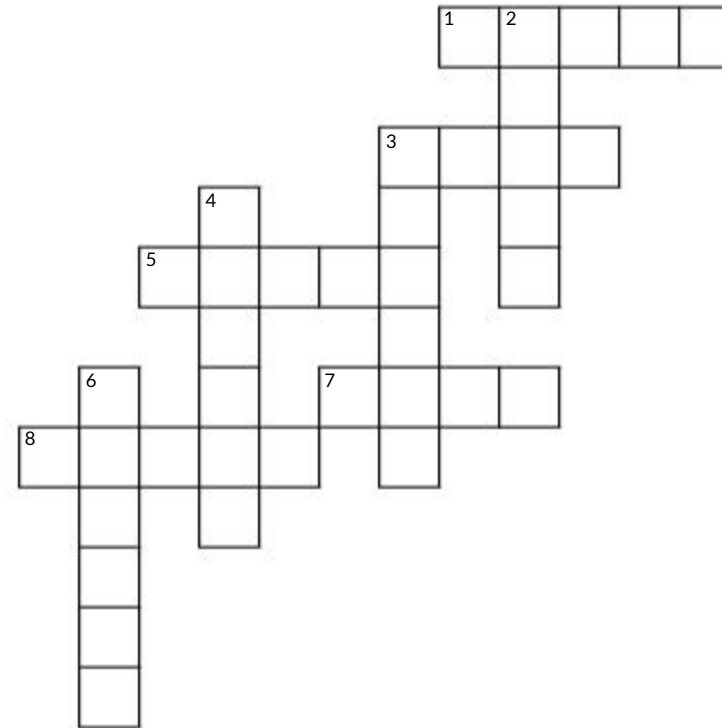
Experience Africa in the Ozarks



UNIQUE LODGING JUST FOR YOU.

The Cub Club Presents: T.C.'s Crossword Challenge!

See if you can use the clues below to fill in the squares!



Across

- 1. Leopards are covered in them.
- 3. Tigers love to do this.
- 5. A lion and tiger mix.
- 7. A male lion's hair.
- 8. A sweet treat for bears.

Down

- 2. A group of lions.
- 3. This cat has very large ears.
- 4. A baby bobcat.
- 6. Another name for a Mountain Lion.

And remember, you are never too small to make a BIG difference!

See the tear out on page 11 to sign up for Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge's Kid's Membership, The Cub Club, and help your cub become involved in solving the BIG problems facing BIG cats in the world today.



Choose Your Giving Level Today!

Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge is thrilled to announce our new Wild About Wildlife Membership Tier Program! The program consists of four levels: the Friends of India, the Bam Bam Benefactors, the Kenny Fellowship, and the president's club - the Hilda Jackson Society. Each tier is its own exclusive community that allows for donors to engage with one another, take home fantastic sign-up gifts, and support the Refuge in the most effective way possible. This new program will allow for TCWR to respond more quickly to the needs of the survivors of the exotic pet trade, and enable us to budget for larger projects, and projects that will have the greatest impact in the years to come. By using a tier model, the program will not only allow for donors of all levels to become involved, but also, the membership donations themselves are funneled directly into our General Fund - allowing us to use funds where they are needed the most and when they are needed the most. Find out more about your tier options below!

1 The Friends of India annual donation of \$300 - \$1,249*

Members of the Friends of India will receive the following sign-up gifts:

- Friends of India Membership Card
- Entrance into the Refuge
- Trolley Tickets
- 15% off in the Gift Shop
- Big Cat Chronicles
- A Photograph of India
- Recognition on our Website
- Exclusive Member E-mails
- Member Only Events
- 10% off Lodging**
- Calendar
- Decals
- TCWR Species Fact Sheet

2 Bam Bam Benefactor annual donation of \$1,250 - \$2,999*

Members of the Bam Bam Benefactors will receive:

- Bam Bam Benefactor Membership Card
- Entrance into the Refuge
- Trolley Tickets
- 15% off in Gift Shop
- Big Cat Chronicles
- A Photo of Bam Bam
- Recognition on our Website
- Exclusive Member E-mails
- Member Only Events
- 25% off Lodging**
- Calendar
- Decals
- TCWR Species Fact Sheet
- Travel Mug

3 The Kenny Fellowship annual donation of \$3,000 - \$9,999*

Members of the Kenny Fellowship will receive:

- The Kenny Fellowship Membership Card
- Entrance into the Refuge
- Trolley Tickets
- 20% off in Gift Shop
- Big Cat Chronicles
- A Framed Photo of Kenny
- Recognition on our Website
- Exclusive Member E-mails
- Member Only Events
- 50% off Lodging**
- Calendar
- Decals
- TCWR Species Fact Sheet
- Travel Mug
- Private Tours with Senior Staff
- The Kenny Fellowship Shirt
- Recognition in and access to the Annual Report

4 The Hilda Jackson Society annual donation of \$10,000+*

Society Members will receive:

- The Hilda Jackson Society Membership Card
- Entrance into the Refuge
- Trolley Tickets
- 20% off in Gift Shop
- Big Cat Chronicles
- A Framed Photo of a Favorite Cat
- Recognition on our Website
- Exclusive Member E-mails
- Member Only Events
- 50% off Lodging**
- Calendar
- Decals
- TCWR Species Fact Sheet
- Travel Mug
- Private Tours with Senior Staff
- The Hilda Jackson Society Shirt
- Recognition in and access to the Annual Report
- A Staff Liaison

Please fill out this donation form, detach, fold as needed, and mail with included envelope. Thank You!

Yes, I will help the animals!
Enclosed is my tax deductible contribution of:

YES, I would like to renew my free newsletter subscription
(check here)

Donations: \$25 \$35 \$50 \$100 Other \$_____ Repeat monthly.
2018 Calendars: \$10 each X ___ calendars + \$5 S/H = \$_____
First Edition Coloring Book: \$5 each X ___ calendars + \$5 S/H = \$_____

Wild About Wildlife Membership Tier

A membership with TCWR is the perfect opportunity to help support the amazing work that the Refuge does every single day and also gives the opportunity to visit multiple times a year!

- \$45 The Cub Club, Kid's Membership** - You are never too small to make a BIG difference in the Cub Club. A membership with the Cub Club includes entry into the park, a membership card and certificate, a coloring book, plush cat of your choice, sticker, and big cat photo.
 Name of child: _____
 Please circle the plush cat you would like: **LION TIGER LEOPARD**
- \$50 TCWR's Single Membership** - For a full year have access to the Refuge, including free trolley tickets and 10% off in the Gift Shop.
- \$90 TCWR's Family Membership** - For a full year have access to the Refuge for two adults and all your children 19 years old and younger, including free trolley tickets, and 10% off in the Gift Shop.
- \$300+ Friends of India** **\$3,000+ Kenny Fellowship**
 \$1,250+ Bam Bam Benefactors **\$10,000+ Hilda Jackson Society**

Adoptions and Sponsorships

- Animal Adoption:** \$100/yr - Small Mammal/Bird \$700/yr - Small Mammal/Bird
 \$100/yr - Small Cat/Monkey \$1,000/yr - Small Cat/Monkey
 \$125/yr - Cougar/Leopard \$2,200/yr - Cougar/Leopard
 \$150/yr - Lion/Tiger/Bear \$2,500/yr - Lion/Tiger/Bear

Monthly Payments Available For Sponsorships, See Website: www.turpentinecreek.org

Adoption / Sponsorship includes membership. Membership Opt Out
 Opt out to make donation 100% tax deductible.

Adopted/Sponsored Animal's Name(s): _____

Total Contribution: \$_____

Name: _____ Phone #: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Input Credit Card below or make checks payable to TCWR.

Credit Card #: _____

Exp. Date: ____/____/____ CVC Code: _____

*To be part of a membership tier you must donate the amount required to be part of that specific tier level.

**Limitations may apply.

Huggy's Caption Contest

What do you think Huggy is thinking? Caption this photo and be entered for a chance to win a prize! We will be posting the first place winning caption on our social media sites!

- 1st Place - Framed photo of your favorite animal
- 2nd Place - 5x7 photo of your favorite animal
- 3rd Place - Magnet of your favorite animal



Your
Caption
Here

My favorite animal is _____
 The first time I heard about the Refuge was from _____
 The last time I visited the Refuge was _____
 Next time I visit the Refuge I would like to _____
 If I win, contact me at: _____

I get my info about the Refuge through:
 Social Media Newsletter Visiting Email

Please
fill out

Featured Animal: Kenny

Kenny was born at a white-tiger breeding facility in Bentonville, AR. As you can see above, Kenny spent the first 17 months of his life in an 8'x12' breeder lockdown. After being rescued, Kenny became the poster child for inbred white tigers. Go ahead, google "white tiger" and you will see our beloved Kenny.



Most of you know Kenny, who lived at Turpentine Creek for all but 18 months of his life. Kenny, along with his brother Willy, his mom, Loretta, and his dad, Conway, were prisoners at a filthy breeding facility in Bentonville, AR. Below are a few statements from the breeder on the day Kenny and his brother Willy were rescued:

1. "Usually, I snap the necks of the funny looking ones".
2. "Kenny's bull dog face was so cute, my son (who was 8) just had to keep him".
3. "I sold white tigers for \$40,000 and now I cannot get \$5,000. I'm done!"

The breeders and facilities selectively breeding white tigers and hybrid big cats must be stopped! These animals most certainly will suffer from problems associated with breeding for recessive traits. Some of the deformities frequently encountered are cleft palates, vision problems, immune deficiencies, mental impairments, spinal problems, and cancer, just to name a few.

Selective breeding to produce white tigers and lions along with ligers, tigons, ti-ligers, and li-ligers, is solely driven for monetary gain. Help us put an end to this devastating practice by becoming an advocate for H.R. 1818 - the big cat public safety act. Go to turpentinecreek.org or see page 4 For more information.

TCWR's New Education Department and Wildlife Interpreter

—Beckie Moore—

One of the goals at Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge is to educate visitors about the negative impacts inflicted on big cats and bears due to the Exotic Pet Trade. Through our guided tours and keeper talks, visitors discover the truth behind things such as cub petting, breeding, and declawing. However, there is more that can be learned that will add to the educational aspect of our tours, which is what brings me to TCWR. My name is Beckie Moore, and I am excited to get started on creating the new educational program as the Refuge's Wildlife Interpreter. I graduated from the University of Arkansas with my Bachelor's of Science in Education where I focused on wildlife and natural resource interpretation. After school, I began working for the Arkansas State Parks as a Park Interpreter for almost 6 years before returning home to pursue my Masters in Biology. My goal with the new education department is to help visitors discover the important role they play in helping to protect these wonderful creatures. Through hands-on learning activities, visitors of all ages will discover more about these majestic animals and the problems that they face.

The new Education Department is devoted to creating more programming and learning activities for all ages; thus enriching your next visitor experience! Through this department we will offer programming throughout the day as you visit the Refuge. We will discover more about each species of animal that call TCWR home, biodiversity, conservation efforts, adaptations, and much more. Included in our new program we will be offering summer day camps for various ages and other special events that will add to our visitor's experience. In addition, we will also be adding new programs for the many school groups that come out to the Refuge and the schools we visit - enabling more learning opportunities.

Education is such an important tool that we all need, and it is through education that we can help protect the future of all animals impacted by the Exotic Pet Trade. Once you've had a chance to experience this new program, share what you've learned online and with friends and family! The more people learn, the more we can protect the animals!



Beckie

Beckie Moore is our first certified educator and wildlife interpreter. Her efforts will enrich your experience during future visits to the Refuge. Plans for our Education Department include daily age specific programs and summer day camps! Watch our website for upcoming educational opportunities.

Your New Lodging Coordinator!



Erin

Please join us in welcoming Erin Taylor as our new Lodging Coordinator. In this role, Erin assists with making reservations for guests, greeting guests at check-in, creating room packages, and overseeing the housekeeping department to ensure that room cleaning is held to the utmost standard of excellence. She moved to Eureka Springs from Little Rock, Arkansas in March of 2017, and has been helping out at the Refuge since July of 2017. Her favorite aspect of working at the Refuge is having guests that have never stayed here be blown away by the work that all of our staff and interns do, and having them come back to continue to support the Refuge. Her favorite animal is Poncho the Tiger, because he is very playful and she loves to catch him stalking her. Having graduated from Henderson State University in May of 2014, Erin has been working in hospitality since June of 2013. She has worked in large and small hotels doing everything from Front Desk to Front Office Management. Hospitality is a field that she enjoys working in, because she loves making people happy and enjoys the variety of learning opportunities that this field has brought her. We feel very lucky to have her on our team!

Saving Your Green by Going Green

Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge is making some exciting changes to help the environment! We have recently implemented what we hope will be the first steps to making our Refuge a "green" non-profit. Some changes our visitors might be able to observe, but others will be happening behind the scenes. On your next visit, keep an eye out for these new initiatives taking place within TCWR:

Our gift shop has taken the first step by removing plastic gift bags and replacing them with bags made of 100% recycled materials. Purchase more than \$30 in merchandise and you will receive the reusable bag for free, or pay \$2 to cover its cost; remember, all proceeds from our shop go to the care and housing of our animals!

In addition, we will install a greenhouse to grow our own plants for use throughout the property. This will enable us to not only make the Refuge more beautiful but also to grow plants that will help local bugs, like butterflies and bees, to thrive, creating a more diverse ecosystem here for our animals and guests.

Lastly, we are working behind the scenes on a compost pile to help reduce our trash and waste. With 100 animals we generate a large amount of organic waste, which up to now we buried or disposed of as trash. Our compost pile will not only drastically reduce the amount of waste we produce, but provide a rich soil conditioner, which will be used to help our new plant life grow.

We are very excited to be making these first small steps to becoming an environmentally sustainable facility. Instead of a linear system producing waste we are striving to adopt a circular system, as in nature. This is only the beginning; we hope to continue to make changes to improve our environmental impact and improve the world around us. We must protect not only big cats but also our planet; all life is interdependent. We get only one planet Earth, and there is no "reset" button for us to push.

Each day we are making strides in setting the standard on how all rescue facilities should be run. Please join us in our efforts by making a donation today – with your help, we can continue to grow and improve.



Haleigh

Haleigh Smith, our resident horticulturist, is shown here helping us initiate a more aggressive "green" program for the future of Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge. The greenhouse will be used to start different plants used for ground cover to stop erosion, spices for our big cat enrichment garden, and will save us money for our flower gardens as well. This is also a great avenue for volunteers!



Enjoy free high flying fun for the whole family. Bring a kite, make one, or buy one! It's a bird, it's a plane, it's Kite Festival!



The Problem of Breeding White Tigers



Shakira II

Shakira II, nicknamed Mama, started life at a pseudo sanctuary and was bred repetitively for 20 months, having four litters in that short time. It is typical for money hungry operators for cub petting/pay for play schemes to breed the "golden goose" without concern of her health. Help TCWR Stop This Abuse. Put an end to this injustice!

Spring brings thoughts of beautiful flowers, mild and sunny weather, and of course - babies! When we think about spring, we think about a time of renewal, and our instinct when we see a baby animal tells us how good they make us feel; they are so young and sweet, and have a full life ahead of them. However, it's time for all of us to start using some sound analytic thinking, specifically when we talk about cubs.

All cubs are adorable, and Refuge tigers Tanya and Kizmin were no exception when they were small. What isn't cute, or humane in any sense, is the inbreeding used to produce them and so many others, resulting in lifelong disabilities and suffering. Their mother, Shakira II, was rescued from a pseudo sanctuary in Colorado where she had already had four litters of cubs despite being just over three years old. Female tigers do not reach sexual maturity until the age of four to five, and mothers normally stay with their cubs until they themselves reach that age. Sadly, Shakira II was forced to have so many litters of cubs in that short time for the sake of human greed. The pseudo-sanctuary took her cubs away soon after birth to use in cub-petting and pay-for-play schemes, ending proper food, love and care; only a heart of stone could withstand their cries for each other, as they make in the wild when separated. Shakira II was put through this at least four times in her short life at the breeding facility, so that she could again be impregnated. Inbreeding, repetitive impregnation, cub-petting, drugged cubs, malnutrition, stress, and premature death are all realities of captive breeding within pseudo-sanctuaries and roadside zoos. Luckily for this family, Shakira II was brought to TCWR with Tanya and Kizmin to live out their lives in safety, feel grass on their paws, and receive proper nutrition and medical care.

Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge prohibits breeding of any kind at the Sanctuary, and is actively working to change the laws which allow pay-to-play cub petting schemes while continuing to rescue victims of these breeding facilities. **You can help us continue this fight by becoming a member today - please, help us, help them.**

Springing into Action: Ways to Volunteer During Your Spring Break

Warmer weather is on the way, bringing with it the exciting time of Spring Break! Two groups have already signed up to spend their Spring Break helping the animals at Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge - this is great news, as there is a lot to do!

The new three-acre bear habitats we have been working tirelessly on are almost complete, which means it will soon be time to paint them. Painting is one of our major maintenance projects here at the Refuge, given the size of our animal habitats coupled with the fact each enclosure requires repainting every 2 years. We always need extra hands on deck! If you have volunteered here in the past you were probably one of the people who have helped us paint a fence or two, and we thank you and welcome you to join us again this spring.

We have hosted many groups over the years during Spring Break; this year we are going to be hosting a youth group from Arkansas, and an Alternative Spring Break group from Texas. If you would like to join us over Spring Break and donate your time to the animals, we still have spaces available!

Please contact me through email, ivy@turpentinecreek.org, to schedule your volunteer time. I will do my best to accommodate as many people as we can.

Ivy Doss
ivy@turpentinecreek.org
Staff Biologist/Volunteer Coordinator
Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge



Volunteering at Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge is always an exciting time. Groups help big cats enjoy their lives better by helping with enrichment for the animals and upkeep on their enclosures. Please, grab your group/friends and come out for Spring Break 2018!

Create Your Legacy Today

As a supporter of Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge, you can continue your legacy by including the Refuge in your estate plan. In doing this, you can help to ensure that all of the present and future animals rescued will be well cared for and live out their lives in peace.

It's as simple as speaking with your attorney today to include a few additional words to your will and by providing them with the following information:

Turpentine Creek Foundation, Inc. DBA Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge
FEIN #: 71-0721742
Address: 239 Turpentine Creek Lane, Eureka Springs, AR 72632
Phone #: 479-253-5841
Fax #: 479-253-5059

Website: www.turpentinecreek.org
Officers: President: Tanya Smith, Vice President: Scott Smith,
and Secretary/Treasurer: Amanda Smith.

Please help us, help them, in the years to come. Thank you.

Creating New Ways to Improve The Lives Of Our Cougars

Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge has been working diligently since 2015, to update and improve our existing habitats. This has been an ongoing project since we've had a few delays, including - rescues, rehomes, and of course building the bear habitats. We are down to our final few habitat update projects, which include a complete rebuild of our oldest cougar habitat that was built in 2002.

Rick and Cindy Roop, a couple who loves Turpentine Creek and our mission, donated the funds to rebuild this habitat in 2016, shortly before we took on the Colorado Project. They were more than understanding that their habitat rebuild project needed to be put on hold for a while, but we are glad to finally let them, and you, know that we have demolished the old cougar habitat and have begun the rebuild.

"Cindy and I really admire and respect what you guys do at Turpentine. The habitat will help animals for years and years to come; we just wanted to help however we could."

Our senior cougars have been relocated to Rescue Ridge since we had to completely tear down their old habitat to build a new one. We will be removing the old night houses, expanding the habitat space, making it wider and slightly longer, and finding a way to integrate more vertical areas for the cougars to enjoy.



Nala

Nala has spent the majority of her life with the freedom to run, play, and enjoy life to its fullest at TCWR.

Social Media - Your Daily Big Cat Fix

Turpentine Creek has spent the last few years cultivating an online following through social media sites, such as Facebook. We work diligently to make sure that we are utilizing these digital communication pathways to get information to our supporters in a timely manner. Sadly, over the past few years, Facebook has made it more and more difficult to reach our supporters.

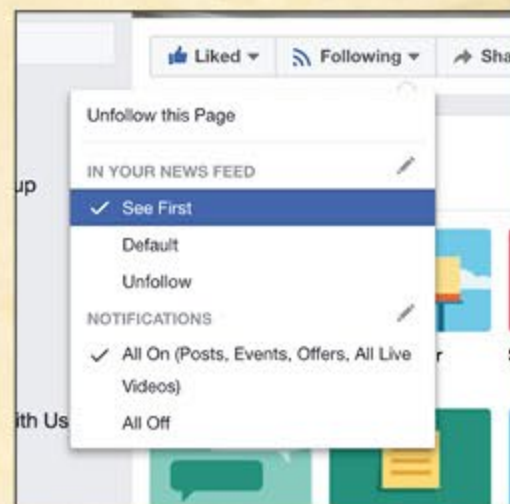
In 2015, Facebook began limiting the reach of Facebook posts to only 5% of our audience. Recently, they announced that they would yet again be reducing the reach for businesses, including non-profits. The predicted new reach would be less than 1% of our current Facebook audience. This means that 99% of our followers will not get updates about what is happening at the Refuge.

There are a few actions you can take to make sure you are still getting TCWR updates:

1. Change your Facebook Following option from "Default" to "See First."
2. Make a point to go to Turpentine Creek's Facebook page frequently.
3. Sign up for our weekly e-newsletter to get vital information like rescues and event information.

You can also follow us on Twitter, Google+, and YouTube. At this point, these social media sites have not announced a change to their post reach.

We will continue to send information about the Refuge out to our supporters online through weekly e-newsletter emails, our website blog posts, online quarterly newsletters, Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, and many other upcoming digital means. We will be making some significant changes at TCWR over the next few years, and the fastest way to find out about exciting new news is online. We will see you there!



To make sure you are getting our fun, educational information on Facebook, go to our page, click on "Following," then click on "See First." After doing this you won't miss any post. Also, if you want more updates you can go to our website and sign up for our weekly newsletter. See you online!

The Mystery Behind the Black Panther

Education Intern Hannah Wherry



Vada

This image of Vada shows his leopard spots as well as his black coat. Often we overhear our guests saying, "awe, look at the black panther." This presents the opportunity to educate them on black panthers and leopards. Go ahead, read the article...then you can educate as the Refuge does.

What is a black panther? Where do they live? North America, South America, Africa, or Asia? What does the cat look like? While many people use this name for a variety of big cats and call TCWR's lovely black leopard Spyke a "black panther," this species of cat, simply does not exist.

While the "black panther" is not a species of cat, it is an umbrella term for a group of cats that produce a melanistic, or black pigmentation of the fur. Melanism coloration is associated with a specific allele (genetic mutation) that favors a black coat. Melanin is the same pigment that gives a human their dark skin, eyes, and hair.

This gene is most common in leopards (*Panthera pardus*) found in Africa and Asia, as well as jaguars (*Panthera onca*) found in South America. They do not lose their spots or rosettes, as the melanistic trait exists only at the end of their fur. For example, when the sun shines over Spyke's coat, it is easy to see his beautiful leopard spots.

A mountain lion (*Puma concolor*) is also commonly called a panther, and is well distributed throughout North and South America. Although there have been thousands of sightings of "black panthers" in the U.S., there have been no confirmed scientific reports of the existence of melanistic mountain lions, and only a single reporting of a jaguar in Arizona in recent times.

Many other species of cat such as servals, bobcats, and jungle cats also have melanistic tendencies - so, next time someone says a "black panther" is their favorite animal, be sure to ask which kind!